



MENDOZA

REGION OF CUYO | CENTRAL-WESTERN PART OF ARGENTINA |

Known worldwide as the top quality region of Argentina for Malbec, the Mendoza is located on the Eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains, close to the border with Chile. It produces over 70% of the country's wines and nearly all of the Malbec production.

HISTORY

MAIN BLACK GRAPES (~90%)

Malbec, Bonarda, Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo, Merlot...

MAIN WHITE GRAPES (~10%)

Pedro Giménez (decreasing), Chardonnay, Torrontés Riojano, Chenin Blanc...

VINE TRAINING

Espaldera or "espalier" for quality wines (triple wire, close to the ground)

Parral Cuyano for bulk wines (trained high up for high yields)

NAMED AFTER DON GARCIA HURTADO DE MENDOZA • 16TH CENTURY CHILEAN GOVERNOR
Was a Chilean colony from the 16th to the late 18th century.

17TH - 18TH CENTURY • SMALL PRODUCTION • UNDER SPANISH COLONIES
Peru, Chile & Paraguay were the 3 biggest producers then, with the Cuyo region ranking 4th. In the 18th century, Paraguay focused on sugar cane, tobacco, maté & cotton while most viticulture in Peru was being replaced by cotton (grapes were then reserved to the production of Pisco).

LATE 19TH CENTURY • DEVELOPMENT IN CUYO • EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION
By then, Cuyo produced as much wine as Chile. This rapid rise was due to a great immigration from Europe (especially Italy) from 1880 to the 20th Century. Traditional Mediterranean crops (grapevines, olives, fruits...) are brought by the migrants and adapted to the hostile area. By the 20th century, Cuyo produces twice more wine than Chile.

TERROIR

MAX T°: 26°C (JANUARY) • MIN T°: 9°C (JULY) • MEAN RAINFALL: 18 MM • ARID CONTINENTAL
Arid continental climate. The wettest month is also the hottest (January) with only 50mm rainfall on average. Only 10mm per month on average from May to November

HIGH ALTITUDE • SLOW RIPENING PROCESS • HOURS OF SUNLIGHT/COOLER T°C
Altitudes vary between 600 & 1400m above sea level in the region, allowing for a high amount of sunlight with cooler temperatures, great for slowing down the ripening period of the grapes.

157,000 HA UNDER VINES • 10+ MILLION HL/YEAR • 70% OF THE COUNTRY'S PROD.
The province of Mendoza covers 14.6+ million Ha (36 Million acres), and only 5% is under vines. It is the core of Argentina's wine production with over 70% of the National 15.4 Million hectoliters per annum being produced here.

5 SUB-REGIONS • (SEE PAGE 2)
Valle de Uco, Northern Mendoza, Central Mendoza, Eastern Mendoza & Southern Mendoza.

THE WINES

MALBEC • BIG, FRUITY & SPICY • FRUITY: BLACK CHERRY, BLACKCURRANT & PLUM • SPICY: PEPPERCORN, EARTHY, NUTMEG • HIGH ACID & SOFT TANNINS • HIGH ALCOHOL
With its high altitude, the Mendoza allows for the natural acidity of Malbec to be preserved. Tannins however, thanks to the large amount of sunlight, tend to be soft & velvety. Sometimes a touch of orange peel on the nose, Malbec is full of dark berries & spiciness (cracked peppercorn), with a hint of earthiness on the background.





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BONARDA • FRUITY (RED BERRIES) & FRESH • SOFT & “SWEET” TANNINS (RIPE) • CAN HAVE A TOUCH OF CLOVE, SOMETIMES MINTY FINISH • MEDIUM ALCOHOL (BELOW 13.5%)
 Native to Argentina, Bonarda makes deep and dark reds with soft tannins, full of fresh fruity notes. It is best enjoyed young and can be blended with Malbec. Its main area of production is Eastern Mendoza. It has no relation with the Bonarda varietal in the Piemonte region.

TORRONTES RIOJANO • AROMATIC • CITRUS FRUIT & ORANGE BLOSSOM • WHITE FLOWERS & ROSE • HIGH ACIDITY (FRESHNESS) • OFTEN DRY TO OFF-DRY
 A crossing of Criolla Chica & Muscat of Alexandria. The aromas on the nose are often reminiscent of sweetness, even though the wine is usually dry to off-dry. It is a perfect pairing for Asian food. 3 different grapes can be sold as “Torrontes”: T.Riojano (the best one), T.Sanjuanino & T.Mendocino (cheaper, simpler & often made in sweet styles).

THE GOOD OLD YEARS

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
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VALLE DE UCO

- 900 – 1400m above sea level
- One of the top quality regions of Argentina
- Annual avg T°C: 14°C with low rainfall
- Alluvial soils with good irrigation (Andes Mountains)
- Traditionnally grow Sémillon & Malbec (with Bonarda & Barbera)

OFFICIAL IG* AREAS
 - IG San Carlos (w/ IG La Consulta & IG Paraje Altamira)
 - IG Tunuyán
 - IG Tupungato / Valle de Tupungato

NORTHERN & CENTRAL MENDOZA

- 650 to 1100m above sea level (foothill of the Andes)
- Great diurnal temperature variation
- Alluvial soils (with pebbles, sand, lime & clay)
- Continental Climate
- Semi-arid weather (cold winters, warm summers (29°C))
- The Andes block the humid winds from the Pacific Ocean
- Top terroir for deep violet Malbec & Cabernet Sauvignon
- Produces light coloured whites with fruity aromas & a greenish hint

OFFICIAL IG* AREAS
 - DOC** Lujan de Cuyo (1st DOC in Argentina)
 - IG Godoy Cruz - IG Maipu
 - IG Lavalle - IG Guaymallén
 - IG Las Heras
 Other smaller IGs can be found within these regions



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EASTERN MENDOZA

- Argentina's largest wine producing region (70,000Ha)
- 650 to 750m above sea level
- Annual rainfall is only 200mm (arid with severe draughts)
- 2 main rivers: Mendoza & Tunuyán
- Over 2220 hours of sunlight within a period of 210 days
- Best terroir for Bonarda (with Malbec, Syrah, Chardonnay & Sauv.Blanc)

OFFICIAL IG* AREAS

- IG Junin
- IG Rivadavia
- IG San Martin
- IG La Paz
- IG Santa Rosa

SOUTHERN MENDOZA

TIP:
GOOD
WHITE
WINES

- 500 to 800m above sea level
- Semi-arid (annual rainfall: 360mm)
- Cold winters & hot summers (31°C)
- Soils are rocky & loose
- Rivers: Diamante, Atuel & Grande (great irrigation systems)
- Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Chardonnay & Sauv. Blanc
- Long winemaking tradition (with high quality wines)

OFFICIAL IG* AREAS

- DOC** San Rafael
- IG General Alvear