

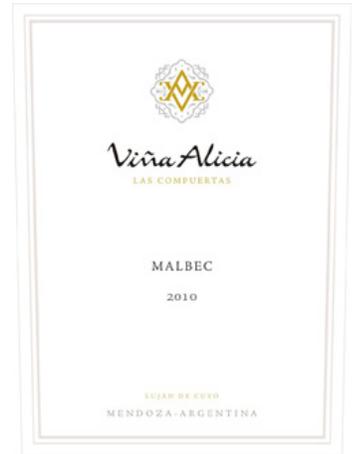


Viña Alicia

Las Compuertas Malbec 2010

Wine Maker: Arizu Family
Appellation: Las Compuertas, Luján de Cuyo
Varietal: Malbec
Yields per Acre: 2.5 tons/acre
Cases Produced: 920 cases
Filtration and fining: None
Wood treatment: French oak barrels
Length of barrel maturation: 12 months

Alcohol %: 14.5
Total Acid: 4.76
Free/Total Sulfur: 25 mg
pH: 3.5
Residual Sugar: 1.25



UPC #:752183280785

Viticultural Practices: Harvest - This is manually performed, using 12 to 14 kilo plastic cages, to ward against berry damage and protect from contamination. At this stage, two bunch selections have been practiced: the first after flowering and the second when the fruit colored, to discard misshapen, imperfect or insufficiently colored bunches. Only the better exposed, fully ripe and sunkissed berries are harvested. Winery Arrival - Upon arrival at the winery, the third selection of fruit bunches is carried out manually over special tables to separate immature grapes, dry or withered, before proceeding to remove stems. This operation is performed by a machine placed across the opening of the fermentation vessel. Winery Method - A cold maceration is allowed for two days before the onset of fermentation. Only then does alcoholic fermentation begin, thanks to the region's natural yeasts that bestow terroir character. An extensive maceration follows to enable thorough tannin and polyphenol extraction, crucial for wine longevity. During fermentation 2 to 3 daily mixings are made, with squeezing, to favor transference of these elements to the wine. All these operations are done in a very careful, gentle way. Casking - Once alcoholic fermentation ends, the wine is set in new French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. When this stage concludes, casks are cleaned and wine is kept in the same ones for 12 more months. Bottling - The wine is kept 60 days in a "cold chamber" at very low temperature for stabilization. Then is bottled without filtering, and remains at less 12 months in bottle before being released to the market.

Wine Makers Notes: These are purple colored wines that are alcoholic, capable of aging very well, possessing a hint of sweetness and spices. Given time, they open up to complexity and depth of aromas. A combination of fresh fruit, sugar and subtlety, and even some touch of stone and minerals can be found. Mocha, fig, honey and sour cherries. The taste is precise and forceful, filling the mouth with elegance.

Score(s): 91 pts Stephen Tanzer's IWC - Scents of smoke, earthy minerals, lavender, leather, and wild black fruits point to a sweetly-fruited, savory, nicely proportioned, lengthy wine that in the glass reveals enough structure to evolve for another 1-2 years. It has a drinking window extending from 2012 to 2021.