



Viña Alicia

WINES



'BROTE NEGRO' MALBEC 2019

*Las Compuertas, Lujan de Cuyo,
Mendoza, Argentina*

Technical Notes

Hand harvested in 25lb buckets to prevent berry damage. In the vineyard - first, after flowering, all poorly set (or formed) bunches are discarded. Then, after veraison, bunches that have not colored up sufficiently, are cut loose. The theory is that the plants should channel available energy into the best bunches only. What ultimately arrives at the winery, then goes through berry sorting. A cold maceration for 2 days takes place before fermentation begins. Post ferment maceration follows, and is maintained for roughly a week, to enable thorough tannin and polyphenol extraction, crucial for wine longevity. Once alcoholic fermentation ends, the wine is settled in new French oak barrels for malolactic fermentation. When this stage concludes, barrels are emptied and cleaned and then the wine is kept in these same ones for 12 months. Before bottling, the wine is kept for 60-90 days in a "cold chamber" at very low temps for stabilization. It is then is bottled without filtering or fining. Finished wines remain in bottle for at least 36 more months, before being released to the market.

UPC CODE: 858441006507

About this Wine

The Arizu family have been grape growers and viticultural pioneers in Argentina for 5 generations. Think of them as the 'Mondavis of Mendoza.' They own the oldest producing Malbec vineyard in Mendoza.

- Planted over 150 years ago.
- The Las Compuertas vineyard. About 15 years ago, random plants in this vineyard underwent a spontaneous transformation and came out of the dormant season as a new species of DNA seen nowhere else on earth. DNA analysis confirmed the uniqueness of the rogue, mutant vines which other than being different, were perfectly healthy. Each year since then, more random vines throughout the vineyard have made the transformation.
- Just less than 2% of the total vineyard has transformed. The remaining 98% of the Las Compuertas vineyard is managed and harvested in 2 main sections. One part for Las Compuertas Malbec and the other for Paso de Piedra Malbec. The rogue vines are kept separate and used to create roughly 150cs of a wine called Brote Negro.
- The Black Shoots. Matt Kramer (Wine Spectator Magazine) called this "the benchmark for Argentina". This is a tiny piece of wine history.
- Drinking it is a rare privilege.

Wine Analysis

Alcohol: 14.9%
Total Acid: 5,7g/l
Free/Total Sulfur: 21 mg
pH: 3.57
Residual Sugar: 1.8

✓ VEGAN FRIENDLY
✓ SUSTAINABLE
✗ ORGANIC
✗ BIODYNAMIC

Wine Maker: Arizu Family
Appellation: Las Compuertas, Luján de Cuyo
Varietal: Malbec
Yields per Acre: 2.5 t/acre
Cases Produced: 1,380 bottles
Filtration and fining: Cold Stabilization
Wood treatment: French oak barrels
Length of barrel maturation: 16 months

Scores/Reviews

94 pts Robert Parker Jr.'s
The Wine Advocate (LG)

"The Malbec 2019 Brote Negro has intense fruit and a lot of structure because of the small berries used. 2019 was a traditional Mendoza vintage of good quality, and these grapes ripened thoroughly to 14.9% alcohol. It fermented after a 48-hour cold soak, and the wine matured in oak barrels for 16 months. It's ripe, fruit-driven and peachy. They now have a small plot they have propagated from these original plants and are slowly growing here. It has note of pit fruit, aromatic plants and spice with a creamy palate, juicy and tender. 2,500 bottles were filled in October 2020."

