





THE DROUGHT IS ADVANCING ACROSS THE VINEYARDS IN CHILE, AND IT'S A MAJOR ISSUE. "IF THE VINES MANAGE TO TOLERATE THE LACK OF WATER TO THE END OF THE SEASON, 2022 WILL BE A VERY GOOD VINTAGE," SAYS SANTA RITA WINEMAKER SEBASTIÁN LABBÉ. AND AS YOU CAN SEE, THE LACK OF RAIN THROUGHOUT NEARLY THE ENTIRE TERRITORY IS ONE MORE FACTOR TO CONSIDER EACH YEAR IN THE QUALITY OF CHILEAN WINE. WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT IT? WHAT'S AT HAND, SUCH AS EXPERIMENTING WITH MORE RESISTANT GRAPE VARIETIES, STUDYING DRY-FARMING, LOOKING FOR AREAS FARTHER SOUTH, AND RATIONING WATER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THE DROUGHT IS HERE TO STAY.

The vines that have never been particularly concerned about drought are the old dry-farmed país vines in Maule. They have yielded their fruits without irrigation for centuries, and today they have reached their moment of recognition with the recently created associative brand **Almaule**, the first effort to attribute value to the país variety, a grape that we at *Descorchados* have been talking about for a decade.

"Almaule is another opportunity to get to know país, but with very clear and simple rules. The idea is to restore dignity to this grape in a collaborative manner through a cheerful and unpretentious wine with the soul of the summer," says Gillmore winemaker Andrés Sánchez, one of the creators of Almaule.

Fresh and juicy wines are already well established along the coast of Colchagua, an area that has been rediscovered for Chilean wine and that has been offering wines for a decade. Today it has two key epicenters, Litueche and Paredones, and they don't produce those generous reds we usually associate with Colchagua, but rather fresh and crunchy whites and delicious pinot noirs. A new Colchagua to quench your thirst.

All this and much more in this **2022 Descorchados Chile Report**, along with (of course), the winners from this year, which was very generous in awards and scores.

Cheers!

Patricio Tapia







## THE NEW PAÍS from Almaule

THIS YEAR, VIGNO, THE ASSOCIATION OF CARIGNAN PRODUCERS, CELE-BRATES ITS TENTH VINTAGE ON THE MARKET SINCE IT DEBUTED IN 2010 WITH THE IDEA OF RECOVERING AND PROMOTING THE WINE FROM THOSE OLD CARIGNAN VINES THAT HAD BEEN NEARLY FORGOTTEN IN THE OLD DRY-FARMED VINEYARDS IN THE MAULE VALUE VIS SECANO.

Although not governed by laws, Vigno is something along the lines of Chile's first appellation with clear rules in both the delimitation of its origin and the process of making its wines. And now, after a decade, the idea has proven to be a success. Carignan grapes, which were practically given away in the past, now bring very good prices, and the variety, which was essentially unknown, is now part of Chile's panorama of varieties. This year, we at *Descorchados* have tasted 45 wines made from this grape—a record for us.

Inspired by Vigno, **Almaule** makes its debut this year, the first effort to restore value to the pais variety, which, as many of you know, was one of the grapes that arrived with the first Spanish Conquistadors (they called it listán prieto, and, in fact, still do). It was the most important red variety for producing wines in Chile well into the 19th century. After

French varieties were imported around 1850, país was slowly relegated to a common wine of little interest and far less quality than that of modern European grapes.

When Vigno began in 2010, carignan was just an exotic grape in the portfolio of a very small handful of Chilean wineries. Today, **Almaule** begins in very different times. Since the Frenchman Louis Antoine Luyt began his careful work with país in 2007, the variety has received a significant increase in attention, although that interest may still be reserved solely for indie circles and wine connoisseurs. But the concrete fact is that, between the time that Luyt began making país in 2007 (and suffered the ridicule of his Chilean colleagues) and today, the variety's situation has changed entirely. Large wineries have taken a chance on it, and it has become the battle flag of many small producers in Chile. This year at *Descorchados*, for example, we have tasted 37 red wines made from país—another record around here.

But back to **Almaule.** With a grape that's firmly established in the Chilean varietal panorama, the members of this group seek even greater appreciation for it. "**Almaule** is another opportunity to bring attention to







país, but with very clear and simple rules. The idea is to collaboratively restore dignity to this grape through a cheerful and unpretentious wine with the soul of summer," says Gillmore winemaker Andrés Sánchez, one of the creators of **Almaule.** 

And speaking of rules, **Almaule's** self-imposed restrictions are first and foremost related to the origin and age of the vineyard. The vines must be at least 35 years old and located in the dry-farmed *secano* sector of the Maule Valley and head-or bush-trained, in accordance with the traditional method inherited from the Spanish.

The wine itself must be between 12° and 13° of alcohol with less than five grams of residual sugar per liter (in other words, "dry") and must contain at least 90% of país in the final blend. Like Vigno, **Almaule** will also present the collective brand on its front labels and use Burgundy-style bottles with sloping shoulders.

Sánchez adds that the idea of the **Almaule** wines is that they be fresh reds: "the wine to open when the barbecue begins and the one to end it with." At the close of this edition, the wineries that have joined this new **Almaule** project are Gillmore, Garage Wine & Co., La Cooperativa

Loncomilla, Las Veletas, Erasmo, and J. Bouchon, although several more will likely follow suit in this new way of appreciating pais from the Maule Valley.

## BEST **país** DESCORCHADOS 2022

- 94 | PINO ROMÁN Pino Román País 2020 | Itata
- 94 | ROBERTO HENRÍQUEZ Santa Cruz de Coya País 2021 | Biobío
- 94 | ROBERTO HENRÍQUEZ Cerro La Trinchera País 2021 | Biobío
- 93 | A LOS VIÑATEROS BRAVOS Granítico País 2021 | Itata
- 93 | ANA MARÍA CUMSILLE Águila Vino de Parcela País 2020 | Itata
- 93 | BOUCHON País Salvaje Blanco País 2021 | Maule Secano Interior 93 | BOUCHON País Salvaje País 2020 | Maule Secano Interior
- 93 | ESTACIÓN YUMBEL Copia de Pipeño País 2021 | Secano Interior de Yumbel
- 93 | ESTACIÓN YUMBEL Estación Yumbel Juana Rosa País 2021 | Biobío
- 93 | LAS VELETAS Las Veletas País 2020 | Maule
- 93 | LONGAVÍ Glup País 2020 | Biobío
- 93 | MORANDÉ País de Ránquil País 2020 | Valle del Itata
- 93 | RIBERA HUENCHULLAMÍ Morros Costinos País 2020 | Maule
- 93 | SANTA CRUZ Santa Cruz País 2020 | Lolol
- 93 | TINTO DE RULO Pipeño País 2020 | Biobío
- 93 | VILLALOBOS Nativa País 2020 | Maule
- 93 | VIÑA PRADO País Single Vineyard País 2021 | Itata
- 93 | VIÑA UMPEL Del Peregrino País 2020 | Secano Interior de Yumbel





## THE COLCHAGUA COAST

NO MATTER HOW TRADITIONAL THE COLCHAGUA VALLEY MAY BE, AND NO MATTER HOW MANY STORIES IT HAS TO OFFER, IT'S STILL IN SEARCH OF ITS IDENTITY. THE CENTER OF THE VALLEY, WHERE WINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN MADE AND WHERE ITS GREATEST PRODUCTION IS CONCENTRATED, IS FOND OF CARMENERE. AND THAT'S LOGICAL—IT'S HOT THERE, AND THE LATE-RIPENING CARMENERE JUST LOVES THAT HEAT AND SUN. BUT AS WE HAVE ALSO MENTIONED HERE, THAT VERY CLIMATE IN THE CENTER OF THE VALLEY MAKES IT A SUITABLE PLACE FOR MEDITERRANEAN-STYLE VARIETIES SUCH AS SYRAH, OF COURSE, BUT ALSO GARNACHA (GRENACHE), CARIGNAN (CARIÑENA), OR MOURVÈDRE (MONASTRELL), ALL GRAPES THAT ARE GIVING VERY GOOD RESULTS UNDER COLCHAGUA'S INTENSE SUN.

But we have to add another detail to that. Colchagua is more than just the center of the valley, the vineyards that surround the city of Santa Cruz, or even San Fernando. We're also talking about some radically different areas, such as the foot of the Andes, summarized in Los Lingues, or areas more than 1,000 meters high in the Sierras de Bellavista, both to the east.

And to the west, the valley expands across the Coastal Mountains in two zones that have been emerging strongly for some time—Paredones and Litueche. Both places benefit from the cool breezes that come off the Pacific Ocean, creating a climate that makes it very difficult for carmenere growing on those clay and granite hillside to produce anything that's not extremely lacking in ripeness. It's ideal, however, for other varieties, such as sauvignon blanc, chardonnay, and pinot noir. The fact is that these places only began being exploited only about 15 years ago. There are records of historical vineyards, of course, but more extensive plantations only began in the mid-2000s, with wineries such as Santa Helena and Casa Silva that showed whites that were previously unthinkable.

Paredones is similar to Casablanca or Leyda, the other two coastal areas of modern Chilean wine. They extend over the hills of the Coastal Mountains, and the sea breezes in Paredones, as well as Litueche further north, that make such good results with sauvignon, chardonnay, pinot noir possible. In Litueche, wineries such as Concha y Toro have opted for vineyards in Ucúquer, on the southern bank of the Rapel River,





about 20 kilometers from the sea, for the chardonnay and sauvignon that they currently use for their **Casillero del Diablo** and **Gran Reserva** (formerly the Riberas Series) lines. Meanwhile, other wineries, such as Bisquertt, Viu Manent and Sutil, buy grapes from new growers in the area. Paredones, the territory of Casa Silva and Estampa, among others, is about 12 kilometers from the sea and is a kind of mini Leyda, facing the Pacific.

This is a new Colchagua, a Colchagua we are only now beginning to appreciate, and one that also summarizes a new way of understanding the Chilean terroir that, once again, shows that everything makes more sense if we look at it from east to west rather than from north to south.

#### THE BEST WINES OF **Paredones** DESCORCHADOS 2022

- 94 | ESTAMPA Inspiración Mezcla Italiana 2021 | Paredones
- 94 | KOYLE Costa Sauvignon Blanc 2020 | Paredones
- 93 | KOYLE Koyle Costa Cuarzo Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Paredones
- 93 | MATURANA WINERY Parellon Semillón 2021 | Paredones
- 92 | CASA SILVA Casa Silva Cool Coast Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Paredones
- 92 | CASA SILVA Casa Silva Cool Coast Sauvignon Gris 2021 | Paredones
- 92 | CASA SILVA Casa Silva Fervor de la Costa Fría 2016 | Paredones
- 92 | CASA SILVA Casa Silva Terroir de Familia Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Paredones
- 92 | CASAS DEL TOQUI Terroir Selection Coastal Mist S. Blanc 2021 | Paredones
- 92 | ESTAMPA Inspiración Blend Aromático 2021 | Paredones
- **92** | **HUGO CASANOVA** Reserve Collection Sauvignon Blanc 2020 | Paredones

## THE BEST WINES OF **Litueche** DESCORCHADOS 2022

- 93 | VIU MANENT Tiny Trails Chardonnay 2020 | Litueche
- 92 | CONCHA Y TORO Casillero del Diablo Reserva Especial Sauvignon Blanc 2021 Litueche
- 90 | BISQUERTT La Joya Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Litueche
- 90 | LA PLAYA WINES La Playa Gran Reserva Syrah 2020 | Litueche
- 90 | LA PLAYA WINES La Playa Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Litueche
- 90 | VIU MANENT Gran Reserva Chardonnay 2020 | Litueche





## BATTLING THE HEAT

TIMES HAVE CHANGED. WHEN WE FIRST STARTED DESCORCHADOS BACK IN THE LATE 1990S, WHAT WE WERE CELEBRATING WERE THE WARM YEARS, VINTAGES CONSIDERED MEMORABLE AT THE TIME, SUCH AS 1993 OR 1999, WHICH WERE VERY DRY AND WARM SEASONS THAT PRODUCED WINES WITH TREMENDOUS ALCOHOLIC POWER IN TIMES WHEN THERE WAS STILL NO TALK OF CLIMATE CHANGE. AT THE OTHER EXTREME, THE COOLER YEARS, SUCH AS 1996, WERE CONSIDERED MINOR VINTAGES THAT GAVE WINES THAT WERE OVERLY ACIDIC AND THAT HAD TOO LITTLE BODY AND CONCENTRATION.

Things are taking a different direction these days. Recent vintages from very cold years have been applauded by Chilean winemakers because it gives them the opportunity to express greater freshness in their wines and thereby provide a much clearer interpretation of their origin. Times change.

This new 2021 vintage (see the list) is also starting to receive applause. It was a cool year, and what we have been able to taste so far has shown some crunchy and refreshing sauvignons, as well as glimpses of young reds that show something of what's to come, perhaps in the style of the 2016 wines, when red fruits, freshness, and acidity was what predominated.

And then there's the 2019 vintage. It has to be hard to be a 2019 wine, especially when we consider that there was a consensus among experts and producers that 2018 was the best year of the decade. And while we at *Descorchados* think that it's the 2016 vintage that deserves the title, when talking about averages, 2018 wins. We have to admit that it's a vintage that

has been the source of great wines, especially when talking about overall quality, something that we can't say about the much less consistent 2016.

The 2019 season got off to a bad start with tremendous heat in January and February, heat that made thermometers rise to 40°C in the central zone, which is high by Chilean standards. Things later settled down around April, although things did get quite complicated for many growers looking for fresher styles and who often see March as the key month for harvesting. Let's see what Lapostolle winemaker Andrea León, whose **Collection** line cultivates this crisper style, has to say: "In addition to harvesting early, what we did to maintain balance and acidity and counteract that intense solar radiation, was to protect the bunches from the sun, and we barely pulled leaves. Irrigation was also essential. But most importantly, the key was to harvest quickly, because in hot years like that, the harvest window is very narrow."

Andrea relates the reaction shared by many producers who were concerned about style and balance in their wines during the warm 2019 season. And that's something new, a new and more agile kind of footwork that's quicker to react to the conditions that were considered excellent in the past and that are now seen as a challenge. This year at *Descorchados* we selected a total of 448 red wines from the 2019 vintage for this edition, many of them fresh and vibrant. The average alcohol content reached 13.9°, which is very low considering what it might have been in other times not so long ago.





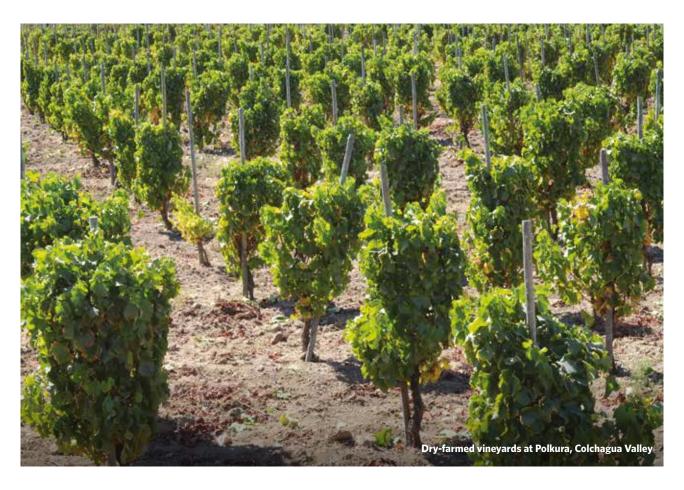
#### BEST **sauvignon blancs** DESCORCHADOS 2022

- 96 | CONCHA Y TORO Terrunyo Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Casablanca
- 96 | TABALÍ Talinay Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Limarí
- 95 | GARCÉS SILVA Amayna Cordón Huinca Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 95 | KALFU Sumpai Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Huasco-Atacama
- 95 | LABERINTO Cenizas Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Maule
- 95 | LEYDA Lot 4 Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 94 | ARESTI Trisquel Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 94 | CONO SUR 20 Barrels El Centinela Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Casablanca
- 94 | COUSIÑO MACUL Gota de Luna Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Malleco
- 94 | GARCÉS SILVA Amayna Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 94 | KINGSTON Cariblanco Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Casablanca
- 94 | LUIS FELIPE EDWARDS Marea Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 94 | MARTY Goutte d'Argent Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 94 | MATETIC VINEYARDS EQ Coastal Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Casablanca
- 94 | MATETIC VINEYARDS EQ Limited Edition Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Casablanca
- 94 | MONTES Montes Outer Limits Zapallar Sauvignon Blanc 2021 Aconcagua Costa
- 94 | SAN PEDRO 1865 Selected Vineyard SB Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 94 | TRAPI DEL BUENO Handmade Sauvignon Blanc 2021 | Osorno
- 94 | VIÑA CASABLANCA Nimbus Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc 2021

#### BEST reds 2019 DESCORCHADOS 2022

- 98 | MORANDÉ House of Morandé 2019 | Maipo Andes
- 97 | ALMAVIVA Almaviva 2019 | Puente Alto
- 97 | SAN PEDRO Altaïr 2019 | Cachapoal Andes
- 97 | SEÑA Seña 2019 | Aconcagua
- 97 | VIÑEDO CHADWICK Viñedo Chadwick 2019 | Puente Alto
- **96** | **ANDES PLATEAU** 700 2019 | Maipo
- 96 | ANDES PLATEAU AP 2019 | Maipo
- 96 | CARMEN Carmen Gold Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 | Maipo
- 96 | CONCHA Y TORO Carmín de Peumo Carménère 2019 | Peumo
- 96 | CONCHA Y TORO Gravas del Maipo Syrah 2019 | Buin
- 96 | DAGAZ Tierras de Pumanque 2019 | Colchagua Costa
- 96 | DE MARTINO Old Vine Series Las Cruces 2019 | Cachapoal
- 96 | DON MELCHOR Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 | Puente Alto
- 96 | ERRÁZURIZ Don Maximiano Founder's Reseve 2019 | Aconcagua
- 96 | LABERINTO Trumao Norte 2019 | Maule
- 96 | PEDRO PARRA Miles Cinsault 2019 | Itata 96 | POLKURA Secano Syrah 2019 | Colchagua
- 96 | SAN PEDRO Cabo de Hornos Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 | Cachapoal Andes
- 96 | SANTA RITA Casa Real Reserva Especial Cabernet Sauvignon 2019 | Maipo
- 96 | VIU MANENT Viu 1 Malbec 2019 | Colchagua





## THE GHOST of Drought

THERE'S A GHOST LURKING ABOUT, A SHADOW THAT HAS BEEN PRESENT FOR YEARS, THREATENING AGRICULTURE AND ESPECIALLY HUMAN SETTLE-MENTS. NORTHERN CHILE IS ALREADY SEEING ITS FIRST MIGRATIONS DUE TO LACK OF WATER, WITH PEOPLE ON THE MOVE, FLEEING THE DROUGHT.

It's a dire problem that's seriously affecting viticulture in Chile. One of the first examples was the Limarí Valley, which suffered the devastating effects of the lack of rain until 2015, when many of the vineyards planted in the mid-1990s succumbed, and even modern irrigation systems were not enough. "There were even people who, in desperation, irrigated with water with a high salt content," says Concha y Toro technical director and winemaker Marcelo Papa, who has focused his attention on Limarí wines for a couple of decades now.

There were significant reductions in emblematic vineyards such as Quebrada Seca, which lost a large part of its chardonnay. The plants simply dried up. The most famous wine in this sector, the **De Martino Single Vineyard Quebrada Seca**, produced its last version in 2014. "The situation was dramatic. One of our producers once had

a 75-hectare vineyard, but the drought reduced it to 25. The small producers without sufficient resources to dig wells were the most affected," Papa explains.

Limarí's crisis in 2015 was an alert, mitigated by the rains that fell the following year and that calmed the situation somewhat. The ghost has since returned, however, because there is so little rain, there is simply not enough. And not only in Limarí, but also further south, in Maipo and Colchagua and even in Maule, where the old dry-farmed (rainfed) vines, accustomed to burying their roots very deep in search of moisture, are also having a rough time.

"The question here is how I manage to adapt to climate change, how I can grow grapes under the current conditions," says Sven Bruchfeld, winemaker at the Polkura winery in Marchigüe, one of the areas most affected by the drought in the Colchagua Valley. In fact, he had to pull up five hectares of his property, not because the vines had dried up, but because the yields were simply so low that it was no longer viable to maintain them.





The idea of adapting is something that Bruchfeld has taken seriously, and the proof is his **Secano**, a 100% syrah made from a dry-farmed vineyard that only receives rain water, something that seems impossible in these times. The yields are minimal, of course—75% less, he calculates. "One of the first measures is that the irrigation systems have to be converted. Surface irrigation can no longer be used—not for vineyards or for any other crop," he adds.

And that's just to start. But there's also the fact that there are varieties that can adapt more easily to dry and sunny conditions, such as the so-called "Mediterranean grapes," which have increased significantly in the Central Valley—they barely even existed 10 years ago, to the

point of being considered part of the varietal panorama today. Some 120 hectares of mourvèdre, for example, and 220 of grenache.

But, of course, without rain, there's no Mediterranean variety that can resist, which is why spaces are slowly opening up for viticulture in the south, beyond the banks of the Biobío, Malleco, and Osorno; places that we have already told you about and where wine production seemed unthinkable until recently. But of course, there's still a long way to go before the viticultural center shifts some 1,000 kilometers south of the Maipo Valley. Although at the rate things are going, time frames can no longer be calculated.



98 MORANDÉ House of Morandé 2019 MAIPO ANDES



97
ALMAVIVA
2019
PUENTE ALTO



AQUITANIA
Lazuli
Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

MAIPO ANDES



97 COÑO SUR Silencio Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 MAIPO



97 SAN PEDRO Altair C. Sauvignon, C. Franc, Syrah, Carménère 2019



CACHAPOAL ANDES



**97** SEÑA Seña C. Sauvignon, Malbec, Carménère, P. Verdot 2019 ACONCAGUA



97 SANTA RITA Floresta Carménère 2020



97
VENTISQUERO
Tara Red Wine 2
Syrah 2020
ATACAMA



VIÑEDO CHADWICK Viñedo Chadwick C. Sauvignon 2019 PUENTE ALTO



96 LEYDA Lot 21 Pinot Noir 2020 LEYDA



RETA
Quebrada Seca
Chardonnay 2019



TABALÍ
Talinay
Chardonnay 2021



BAETTIG
Selección de Parcelas Los Primos
Chardonnay 2019
TRAIGUÉN



96
CONCHA Y TORO
Amelia
Chardonnay 2020



TERRUNYO

96 CONCHA Y TORO Terrunyo Sauvignon Blanc 2021 CASABLANCA



96 TABALÍ Talinay Sauvignon Blanc 2021



CASA SILVA
Casa Silva Lago Ranco
Sauvignon Blanc 2020
OSORNO



COUSIÑO MACUL
Finis Terrae White Blend
Chardonnay, Riesling,
Viognier 2019

MAIPO



95
LABERINTO
Trumao Sur
Sauvignon Blanc 2020
MAULE



VENTISQUERO
Tara White Wine 2
Edición 5 Solera
Viognier N/V
ATACAMA



# 98



## BEST red

## MORANDÉ HOUSE OF MORANDÉ

C. Sauvignon, C. Franc, Carignan, Syrah 2019 | MAIPO

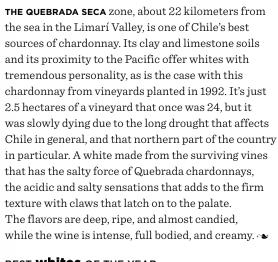
HOUSE OF MORANDÉ is Morandé's emblematic wine. It has been produced since 1997 and originates in the winery's vineyard in San Bernardo, in the Maipo Valley, in what could be considered as the intermediate sector or Entre Cordilleras (between mountain ranges). This year it's 79% cabernet sauvignon and 16% cabernet franc, both from San Bernardo and planted in 1997 (they were first included in the **House** blend in 2001), plus 3% carignan and 2% syrah from the Loncomilla zone in the south, in the Maule Valley. Like the previous vintage, this one follows the same path of freshness and red fruits despite the warmer year, and add to that a creamier body and a more succulent sensation. We have tasted it immediately after decanting and were amazed by its fruit and strength, but we have set it aside and gone back to it the next day, and that's when it really shows itself. It's a party—that's what it is. 🖜

## BEST **reds** OF THE YEAR

- 97 | ALMAVIVA Almaviva 2019 | Puente Alto
- 97 | AQUITANIA Lazuli C. Sauvignon 2018 | Maipo Andes
- 97 | CONO SUR Silencio C. Sauvignon 2017 | Maipo
- 97 | SAN PEDRO Altair 2019 | Cachapoal Andes
- 97 | SANTA RITA Floresta Carménère 2020 | Apalta
- 97 | SEÑA Seña C. Sauvignon, Malbec, Carménère, P. Verdot 2019 Aconcagua
- **97** | **VENTISQUERO** Tara Red Wine 2 Syrah 2020 | Atacama
- 97 | VIÑEDO CHADWICK Viñedo Chadwick C. Sauvignon 2019 Puente Alto

## **BEST White**

QUEBRADA SECA Chardonnay 2019 | LIMARÍ



#### BEST **whites** OF THE YEAR

- 96 | BAETTIG Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay 2019 Traiguén
- 96 | CONCHA Y TORO Terrunyo S. Blanc 2021 | Casablanca
- 96 | CONCHA Y TORO Amelia Chardonnay 2020 | Limarí
- 96 | TABALÍ Talinay S. Blanc 2021 | Limarí
- 95 | AQUITANIA Sol de Sol Chardonnay 2020 | Malleco
- 95 | CASA MARÍN Viñedos Lo Abarca Nº 2 S. Blanc 2020 | Lo Abarca
- 95 | CASA SILVA Casa Silva Lago Ranco S. Blanc 2020 | Osorno
- 95 | ERRÁZURIZ Las Pizarras Chardonnay 2020 | Aconcagua Costa
- 95 | GARCÉS SILVA Amayna Cordón Huinca S. Blanc 2021 | Leyda 95 | KALFU Sumpai S. Blanc 2021 | Huasco-Atacama
- 95 | KINGSTON CJ's Barrel S. Blanc 2020 | Casablanca
- 95 | LABERINTO Cenizas S. Blanc 2021 | Maule
- 95 | LABERINTO Arcillas Riesling 2020 | Maule
- 95 | LABERINTO Trumao Sur S. Blanc 2020 | Maule
- 95 | **LEYDA** Lot 4 S. Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 95 | VENTISQUERO Tara White Wine 2 Edición 5 Solera Viognier N/V
- 95 | VENTISQUERO Tara White Wine 3 S. Blanc 2020 | Atacama



97

## **BEST White**

TIED

TABALÍ

TALINAY Chardonnay 2021 | LIMARÍ

THE TALINAY Vineyard is located about 12 kilometers from the sea, on the calcareous hills near the Fray Jorge National Park. From there, Tabalí produces wines with tremendous character tempered by the Pacific breezes and calcareous soils that offer mineral notes and pronounced acidity. From a cold year, that freshness seems to underscore all of that mineral character and all of that powerful acidity as well as that saline side that's clearly shown here but that we also see in the **Talinay** sauvignon. This is a case of the place putting its stamp on a wine that's like an arrow.

## BEST Whites OF THE YEAR

- 96 | BAETTIG Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay 2019 Traiguén
- 96 | CONCHA Y TORO Terrunyo S. Blanc 2021 | Casablanca
- 96 | CONCHA Y TORO Amelia Chardonnay 2020 | Limarí
- 96 | TABALÍ Talinay S. Blanc 2021 | Limarí
- 95 | AQUITANIA Sol de Sol Chardonnay 2020 | Malleco
- 95 | CASA MARÍN Viñedos Lo Abarca Nº 2 S. Blanc 2020 | Lo Abarca
- 95 | CASA SILVA Casa Silva Lago Ranco S. Blanc 2020 | Osorno
- 95 | ERRÁZURIZ Las Pizarras Chardonnay 2020 | Aconcagua Costa
- 95 | GARCÉS SILVA Amayna Cordón Huinca S. Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 95 | KALFU Sumpai S. Blanc 2021 | Huasco-Atacama 95 | KINGSTON CJ's Barrel S. Blanc 2020 | Casablanca
- 95 | LABERINTO Cenizas S. Blanc 2021 | Maule
- 95 | LABERINTO Arcillas Riesling 2020 | Maule
- 95 | LABERINTO Trumao Sur S. Blanc 2020 | Maule
- 95 | **LEYDA** Lot 4 S. Blanc 2021 | Leyda
- 95 | VENTISQUERO Tara White Wine 2 Edición 5 Solera Viognier N/V
- 95 | **VENTISQUERO** Tara White Wine 3 S. Blanc 2020 | Atacama









## **BEST sparkling wine**

MORANDÉ

BLANC DE NOIR Pinot Noir 2013 | CASABLANCA

PABLO MORANDÉ is responsible for some of the best sparkling wines made in South America today, and this is his new creation, a 100% pinot noir from 30-year-old vineyards in Casablanca, (the old El Ensueño Vineyard). The base wine spent 18 months in barrels, and then the sparkling wine was aged on its lees for an average of 54 months before being released to market. They made 4,000 bottles of this wine, and you need to get one. Morandé likes the oxidative (also known as "vinous") style in his sparkling wines, and this is a tremendous example. The notes of candied oranges, flowers, and nuts meld with notes of ripe white fruits. The body is impressive and fills the mouth with flavors accompanied by sharp acidity. The bubbles, already completely creamy after years of aging, barely plays a supporting role in this wine that, even more than being a great sparkling wine, is a great wine. Do the test-decant it to eliminate the bubbles, and you'll see the wine behind the foam. ->

## BEST **sparkling wines** of the YEAR

- 95 | VALDIVIESO Valdivieso Centenario Blanc de Blancs N/V | Biobío
- AQUITANIA Sol de Sol Brut Nature Chardonnay, P. Noir 2019 | Malleco 94 | CASA SILVA Casa Silva Fervor del Lago Ranco Extra Brut 2016 | Osorno
- 94 | MORANDÉ Brut Nature Chardonnay, Pinot Noir N/V | Casablanca
- 94 OC WINES Inicio Private Collection Chardonnay 2013 | Casablanca
- 94 | UNDURRAGA Titillum Millesime Aniversary Edition P. Noir 2015 | Leyda
- VALDIVIESO Caballo Loco Grand Cru Brut Nature N/V | Bíobío
- CASA MARÍN Viñedo Lo Abarca No. 5 Pet-Nat Pinot Noir 2021 | Lo Abarca
- OC WINES Inicio Blanc de Noir Pinot Noir N/V | Casablanca
- REQUINGUA | SUR VALLES Potro de Piedra Brut Nature N/V | Maule
- TABALÍ Tatié Brut Chardonnay, Pinot Noir N/V | Limarí
- | TABALÍ Tatié Rosé Extra Brut Pinot Noir, Chardonnay N/V | Limarí UNDURRAGA Titillum Original Chardonnay, Pinot Noir N/V | Leyda
- VALDIVIESO Caballo Loco Grand Cru Blanc de Noir Pinot Noir N/V | Biobío
- ALTACIMA Katharina Nature 2019 | Lontué
- CASA SILVA Casa Silva Fervor de la Costa Fría 2016 | Colchagua HACIENDA ARAUCANO L'Atelier de UNE -Pet Nat 2021 | Lolol
- 92 | L'ENTREMETTEUSE L'Epine de la Rose Rosé País, Torontel 2021 | Colchagua
- 92 | LAS CINCO HERMANAS Ensenada Chardonnay 2020 | Casablanca
- 92 | LEYDA Método Tradicional Extra Brut Chardonnay 2019 | Leyda OC WINES Inicio Rosé Pinot Noir N/V | Casablanca
- SANTA CRUZ Kultrun País 2020 | Lolol
- SANTA EMA Ema Chardonnay, Pinot Noir 2020 | Leyda
- 92 | UNDURRAGA Suprême Extra Brut Chardonnay, Pinot Noir N/V | Leyda
- **VALDIVIESO** Valdivieso Brut Nature Chardonnay, P. Noir N/V | Casablanca
- 92 | VINOS PEROLI Chasconas Torontel, M. de Aleiandría, Cinsault 2017 | Itata
- 92 | VIÑAMAR Viñamar Método Tradicional Extra Brut 2019 | Casablanca



# 95



## BEST rosé

CARMEN

**050** 

D. O. ROSADO DE COMÁVIDA

Carignan, Cinsault 2019 | MAULE

THIS IS a little eccentricity from Carmen—and an eccentricity not only in the context of Chile, but of South America. It's a rosé whose grapes were whole-cluster pressed and that is based on 90% very old-vine carignan planted more than 60 years ago in Melozal, in the Maule Valley, plus 10% young cinsault from Carmen's property in Alto Maipo in 2015. It was aged for a year in barrels, and 40% of the wine was under the veil of flor for eight months. The nose is completely inundated by the salty, damp, and earthy aromas of biological aging, of that veil of flor of wines from Jerez—a delicious, intense aroma. The palate is marked by acidity and by that salinity that envelops the palate and makes your mouth water thinking of seafood sautéed in olive oil and garlic or of slices of Serrano ham or fried fish. This wine has very few peers in the world, but we are sure that those who love old-school sherry, the kind with noses marked by the aromas of the flor smelled in the wineries of the area, will love this wine. ->

## BEST **rosés** of the year

- 94 | A LOS VIÑATEROS BRAVOS Rey Perico Rosado Cinsault 2021 | Itata
- 94 | CASA MARÍN Rosé Miramar Norte 2021 | Lo Abarca
- 94 | GARAGE WINE CO. Old Vine Pale Rosé V. Lot 103 2020 | Empedrado
- 94 | KINGSTON Rosillo Syrah 2021 | Casablanca
- 94 | VINÍCOLA ATACALCO Cárabe de Casablanca Pinot Gris 2020 | Casablanca
- 93 | LONGAVÍ Glup Rosado Garnacha, Monastrell, País 2020 | Maule
- 93 | MATURANA WINERY Rosado 2021 | Colchagua Andes
- 93 | MUJER ANDINA WINES Levita Rosé Syrah 2017 | Maipo
- 93 | RIVERAS DEL CHILLÁN Extinto 2021 | Itata
- 93 | VENTISQUERO Grey GCM Rosé Garnacha, Cariñena, Mataró 2021 Apalta
- 92 | AGRÍCOLA EL BAGUAL Javier Rousseau Rose de País 2020 Secano Interior
- 92 | CONCHA Y TORO Marques de Casa Concha Rose Cinsault 2021 | Itata
- 92 | LOMA LARGA Lomas del Valle Rosé C. Franc 2021 | Casablanca
- 92 | ROBERTO HENRÍQUEZ Rosado Super Estrella Moscatel Rosado 2021
- 92 | VINOS PEROLI Umara Rosé Carignan, Cinsault 2021 | Itata

TIED



# 95



## BEST rosé

TIED

LONGAVÍ

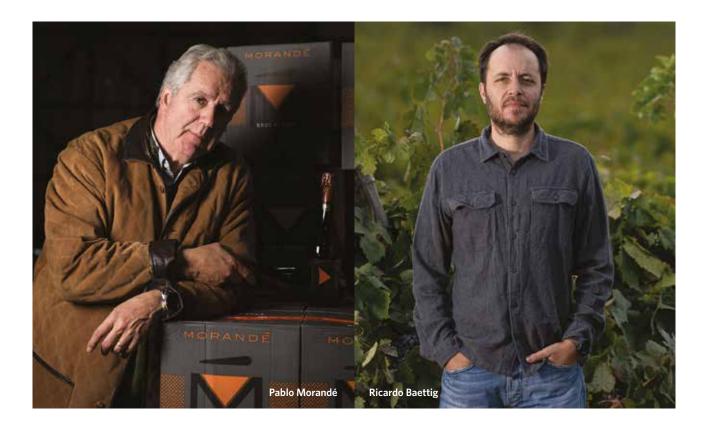
**REFORMA** Garnacha 2017 | MAULE SECANO INTERIOR

INSPIRED BY the great rosés from López de Heredia in Rioja, Spain, this example comes from garnacha grafted onto old país plants in the Mingre zone, near the coast of the Maule Valley. Direct pressed, fermented in cement, and then aged in barrels for no less than four years (something totally unusual in the world's rosé scene), and with 25% of the total volume under a veil of flor, "something we weren't looking for, but that just happened," as Julio Bouchon, a partner at Longaví, says. The result is as unusual as its production technique. To begin with, the structure is firm and made of solid, very tight tannins surrounded by red fruits and lactic notes amid tongue-biting acidity that refreshes everything in its path. An exclamation point in the development of rosé in South America. ❖

#### BEST **rosés** of the Year

- 94 | A LOS VIÑATEROS BRAVOS Rey Perico Rosado Cinsault 2021 | Itata
- 94 | CASA MARÍN Rosé Miramar Norte 2021 | Lo Abarca
- 94 | GARAGE WINE CO. Old Vine Pale Rosé V. Lot 103 2020 | Empedrado
- 94 KINGSTON Rosillo Syrah 2021 | Casablanca
- 94 | VINÍCOLA ATACALCO Cárabe de Casablanca Pinot Gris 2020 | Casablanca
- 93 | LONGAVÍ Glup Rosado Garnacha, Monastrell, País 2020 | Maule
- 93 | MATURANA WINERY Rosado 2021 | Colchagua Andes
- 93 | MUJER ANDINA WINES Levita Rosé Syrah 2017 | Maipo
- 93 | RIVERAS DEL CHILLÁN Extinto 2021 | Itata
- 93 | VENTISQUERO Grey GCM Rosé Garnacha, Cariñena, Mataró 2021 Apalta
- 92 | AGRÍCOLA EL BAGUAL Javier Rousseau Rose de País 2020 Secano Interior
- 92 | CONCHA Y TORO Marques de Casa Concha Rose Cinsault 2021 | Itata
- 92 | LOMA LARGA Lomas del Valle Rosé C. Franc 2021 | Casablanca
- 92 | ROBERTO HENRÍQUEZ Rosado Super Estrella Moscatel Rosado 2021
- 92 | VINOS PEROLI Umara Rosé Carignan, Cinsault 2021 | Itata





## winery of the YEAR

MORANDÉ

LEGENDARY WINEMAKER Pablo Morandé's original idea was to create a restaurant. But, little by little, the idea mutated until it became one of Chile's most dynamic wineries in the 1990s. Much of Morandé's adventurous and rather radical spirit from that time has lasted until today in a series of lines of wine that show the diversity of Chile's terroir and its wealth of varieties, especially in the Morandé Adventure Collection, a flavor journey similar to the sensation of a roller coaster. This year, as usual, we have highlighted this line as well as most of the wines with the Morandé hallmark, which jointly have one of the highest average scores in Descorchados 2022. Two labels, however, have blown our minds. The first is a classic—House of Morandé, whose 2019 vintage shows all of the development of Morandé's head winemaker, Ricardo Baettig, and his team toward fresher and better-balanced wines but that in this case don't sacrifice any of its depth or complexity. And the new Blanc de Noir sparkling wine, the work of Pablo Morandé, takes the style to a level that we, at least, have never seen in Chile. A key winery in the recent history of Chilean wine.





## winemaker of the YEAR

VIVIANA NAVARRETE | LEYDA

**PERHAPS THE** word "obsession" is a bit exaggerated to define winemaker Viviana Navarrete's relationship with pinot noir. Rather, it's a challenge she has taken upon herself since she became Viña Leyda's head winemaker in 2007 after having been Ignacio Icabarren's right hand at Concha y Toro and learning from one of the great talents of Chilean winemaking. From the granitic and clay hillsides of the Coastal Mountains, near the coast of the San Antonio Valley, Viviana now obtains some of the best raw material for pinot noir in South America. The pinot grapes ripen slowly there, swaying in the cool Pacific breezes, and what Viviana does is seek that point of ripeness that allows her to obtain fresh and nervy reds full of vitality. But the road has been neither easy nor short. We at Descorchados have been tasting her work with pinot since the beginning, and we've been impressed at how it has evolved from examples that had little to do with the variety to fine examples of reds, intimately related to their origin. And that work as also served for **Tayú**, the pinot she makes with the Mapuche community of Buchahueico in the Purén zone of the Malleco Valley. A pinot that's completely different from those made in Leyda, although it does have a deep sense of origin. We chose both this year as the best pinots in Descorchados. But take note-Viviana's work offers much more. Taste everything she makes. There are many good wines there. 🖜



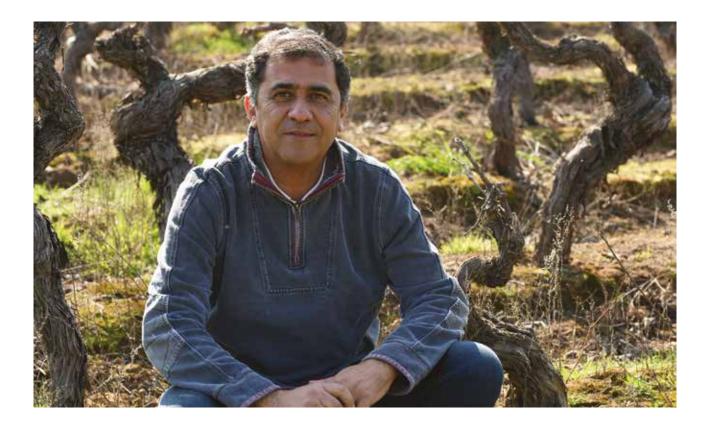


## winemaker revelation OF THE YEAR

IGNACIO PINO ROMÁN

**THERE'S NO** doubt about it. The place where most of the action in the Chilean wine scene is concentrated is Itata. We have Malleco, sure, and there's also Maule and Osorno as sources of news, but where we see the most energy and diversity of viewpoints, where more producers are emerging all the time, is in Itata, a historic, traditional wine-producing zone in southern Chile that has just in the past decade begun attracting interest again, after being overlooked for centuries. But as we said, there are many producers trying to capture the flavors of those old vineyards, and there are so many different visions it can make your head spin. The one that has most caught our attention this year, however, is the work of Ignacio Pino, of the Pino Román winery. Ignacio studied enology in Temuco and decided to start this project in 2018, sourcing fruit from small producers in Itata. One of them, the Los Pellines Vineyard in Trehuaco, is the source of his 2020 Pino Román País, a red that comes from the steep slopes with granitic soils in the Coastal Mountains. This pais hides a purity rarely found in this variety in Itata. It was carefully made—pure and without interventions. For us, this is a demonstration of the potential of this young artisanal producer in southern Chile. 🖜





# winery revelation OF THE YEAR

RETA

was in charge of the wines at De Martino for no less than 25 years. And during that time, he not only helped position the winery as one of the most important and innovative on the Chilean wine scene, but he also collaborated with the revolution that Chilean wine has undergone in the past decade, placing very important topics on the table, such as excesses of ripeness, oak, and extraction and the need to offer fresher wines with a greater sense of place. That was his battle flag in recent years at De Martino and is the same one he now flies with his own personal project simply called Reta. He has three wines, two (a chardonnay and a pinot noir) are from the calcareous soils along the coast of the Limarí Valley, and the third (malbec plus other varieties) is from a very old vineyard in the Maule Valley. And it's a great debut—a trio of delicious wines with great character. The chardonnay particularly stands out, and we've chosen it as one of the best whites in *Descorchados Chile* this year. Remarkable work by one of South America's most influential winemakers.





# **line revelation**OF THE YEAR

HANDCRAFTED RARE | VIÑA MONTGRAS

SINCE WINEMAKER Adolfo Hurtado arrived to take on the technical management of MontGras in 2020, this winery has been experiencing an upheaval of sorts, a pretty major adjustment of all its pieces in a renovation of all its lines in a winery that was founded in 1993 by brothers Hernán and Eduardo Gras on the outskirts of Santa Cruz in the Colchagua Valley. And a clear example of that renovation of the **Handcrafted Rare** line. "This line began as a challenge for the winemakers to produce a wine that was different from what they were used to making—something with less common varieties," Hurtado says. And the line is an amazing journey, beginning with the **Rare Cinsault**, made by MontGras consultant Alberto Antonini, a juice of fruits with earthy aromas that were among the best of Itata as well as the best of its variety this year in *Descorchados*. In the same direction, the **Rare Cabernet Franc**—a 100% carbonic maceration with fruity and earthy aromas in equal proportion. Two examples of a line of five delicious and crazy wines that add an exclamation point in the new life of MontGras.





## best value for money OF THE YEAR

CASILLERO DEL DIABLO | CONCHA Y TORO

"A LAKE OF WINE" is the best way to describe the Casillero del Diablo line. And no-it's not a metaphor. More than five million 12-bottle cases, more or less half of which corresponds to the Casillero Cabernet Sauvignon. Twelve labels of the base wines plus those of higher categories, make up an overwhelming collection of reds, whites, sparkling wines, and rosés at true bargain prices. And they truly are, because unlike many other reds and whites in these price ranges, what Casillero is doing is privileging the fruit, the freshness, and the varietal character over old habits—oak of questionable quality, sweetness, lack of balance-that continue, supposedly, because "consumers like them." Casillero proposes none of that, but rather a much more modern approach, one that's more centered on the character of the grape that appears on the label. Apart from Reserva Especial and the top-of-the-line Leyenda (at higher prices), our favorites are the refreshing and juicy pinot noir (a pinot that's hard to believe at this price), the ever-reliable cabernet sauvignon, a fruity rosé, and a crunchy chardonnay. But in general, the line is consistent and reliable. And that is no small feat. ->

