

DON MELCHOR 2011: A NEW VINTAGE OF CHILE'S ICON CABERNET SAUVIGNON

DON MELCHOR IS CELEBRATING A QUARTER CENTURY BY LAUNCHING ITS 2011 VINTAGE AND CONTINUING TO ESTABLISH ITSELF AS CHILE'S GREAT ICON WINE FROM THE FAMOUS PUENTE ALTO TERROIR.



Yet another vintage is added to Don Melchor's rich history. The 2011 vintage—the 25th for the Chilean wine industry's premier icon wine. According to winemaker Enrique Tirado, "The 2011 Don Melchor is a very complex and elegant wine. The nose offers notes of graphite, black fruits, and chocolate. The palate presents a silky texture and good balance leading to layers of aromas and flavors that lend the wine great concentration and depth with a complex finish."

2011 was a cold year with an average temperature of 13.9°C (57°F). The growing season—especially from flowering through ripening—was marked by colder temperatures that led to a later harvest than usual. "The annual rainfall for 2011 was 239.7 mm (9.4 in), which is lower than normal, although the Andes Mountains provides enough water for irrigation. At harvest the bunches showed tremendous fresh fruit expression full of aromas and flavors with a high concentration of very fine tannins," explains winemaker Enrique Tirado.

Don Melchor's outstanding quality begins in the celebrated Puente Alto Vineyard in the Alto Maipo Valley at the foot of the Andes Mountains, where

the soil and climate conditions are ideal for growing Cabernet Sauvignon. The vineyard consists of 127 hectares of vines that average 30 years in age and that correspond to a massal selection of pre-phylloxera vines brought from Bordeaux in the late 19th century.

Over the years certain differences have been identified in the vineyard, which has been divided into six blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon and one of Cabernet Franc. The vines are managed row by row, observing the needs of each plant in order to achieve the perfect balance of climate characteristics every year. In some years a small percentage of Cabernet Franc is added to the final wine, and the 2011 vintage includes 1%.

The 2011 Don Melchor spent 15 months in French oak barrels, 70% new and 30% second use.

"Don Melchor's style, complexity, and elegance come from the perfect balance of the rocky soils in Puente Alto, the cold winds from the Andes Mountains, the generous climate of the Alto Maipo Valley, the years that the vines have taken to produce their finest grapes, and careful human tending."

Enrique Tirado, Winemaker.