



Grape Varieties	<b>40% Tannat</b> <b>34% Cabernet Franc</b> <b>18% Petit Verdot</b> <b>5% Merlot</b> <b>3% Marselan</b>
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Winemaker	<b>Germán Bruzzone and Alberto Antonini</b>
Closure	<b>Natural Cork</b>
ABV	<b>13.5%</b>
Residual Sugar	<b>2.6g/L</b>
Acidity	<b>5.4g/L</b>
Wine pH	<b>3.65</b>
Bottle Sizes	<b>75cl</b>
Notes	<b>Sustainable, Vegetarian, Vegan</b>

## PRODUCER

Bodega Garzón is a family owned winery in Maldonado on the Atlantic coast in southern Uruguay. They pioneered viticulture in this area over 10 years ago, and have since become the standard-bearer for premium wines from Uruguay. In November 2018, their pioneering status was recognised by Wine Enthusiast with the 'New World Winery of the Year' award. The vineyards at Bodega Garzón are a patchwork quilt of 1,150 individual plots of around 0.2 hectares in size, each plot carefully chosen for a specific variety according to its soil and microclimate. The winery is specially designed to operate as sustainably as possible, and is the first winery outside North America to pursue LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Built on natural terraces, the winery uses cutting-edge technology and operates using a gravity system to ensure quality and energy efficiency at every stage of production.

## VINEYARDS

Located 11 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, the estate has more than 1,000 small vineyard blocks covering hillside slopes, which benefit from varying microclimates, different levels of humidity and an intense canopy management. Well-draining granitic soils and cooling Atlantic breezes allow the grapes to ripen steadily. The vineyards are surrounded by lush forests, palm trees, rocky soils and granite boulders. Grapes for Balasto are grown on soils made up of decomposed granite rock, which provides excellent drainage and minerality. This is the key to giving this iconic Uruguayan wine its complexity, energy and vibrancy.

## VINTAGE

2018 experienced a relatively mild winter which brought forward bud break by about two weeks. Spring saw average levels of rainfall, however a drought in January caused a severe water shortage. Careful vineyard management was needed and drip irrigation was implemented to ensure the perfect maturation of the grapes. Despite these difficulties veraison was uniform, aided by cooler nights across the region. The wines from this vintage, with its early start and generally favourable climatic conditions, are elegant and fruit forward.

## VINIFICATION

The grapes were hand-harvested before undergoing fermentation in 80 hectolitre cement tanks. The wine was then aged for 20 months in a combination of 25 & 50 hectolitre untoasted French oak barrels.

## TASTING NOTES

On the nose this elegantly spiced wine displays fresh red and black fruit notes with a hint of tobacco. Textural, full bodied and very elegant, the fruit is framed by juicy, vibrant tannins resulting in a wine of real vitality and expression.