

Kaiken Ultra,
Mendoza Merlot 2020
Luján de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina



Grape Varieties	100% Merlot
Winemaker	Gustavo Hörmann
Closure	Stelvin Lux
ABV	14.5%
Residual Sugar	3.06g/L
Acidity	3.81g/L
Wine pH	3.64
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Kaikenes are wild geese, native to Patagonia, that fly across the Andes between Chile and Argentina. In the same way, Montes, the Chilean winery, crossed the Andes to set up in Mendoza. Their vineyards are situated in the heart of Mendoza and further to the south in Valle de Uco, where many of the premium producers are now sourcing their fruit. The focus is primarily on Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, a variety that has been somewhat forgotten as Malbec has surfed one wave of success after another in the past decade. As a result, there are many old vineyards in Mendoza that produce excellent fruit. Kaiken's own vineyards supply 70% of their production requirements and 30% is from vineyards that they control.

VINEYARDS

Fruit for the Kaiken Ultra Merlot is sourced from a single vineyard in Vistalba, Luján de Cuyo, lying 20km south of Mendoza at an altitude of 1,050 metres above sea level. The vineyard encounters a broad diurnal range with long daylight hours and low humidity, which enables the grapes to retain good levels of acidity while developing excellent phenolic ripeness. The alluvial soils are derived from water erosion from the Andes mountains. They are extremely permeable and loamy sand in texture, becoming more stony in composition one metre under the surface. This allows for excellent drainage and creates the ideal conditions for concentrated grapes.

VINTAGE

The summer of the 2020 vintage was mostly warm, but the hotter days were quickly followed by much colder days. The yields were relatively normal, producing healthy grapes with medium to high levels of alcohol and slightly above average acidity levels. There was very little rainfall throughout the year, just 200 millimetres, which meant that the harvest was extremely dry, producing a fresh and elegant wine.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were hand harvested and transported to the winery, where they underwent a scrupulous sorting and selecting. A pre-fermentation maceration took place before alcoholic fermentation took place in concrete tanks at controlled temperatures. After fermentation, the wine macerated on the skins to extract additional tannins and flavour. It was then aged in French oak barrels with further time in bottle before release.

TASTING NOTES

Intense and brilliant ruby red in colour, this Merlot delights with pronounced aromas of cassis and red berry jam, accompanied by some spicy notes. Well-structured with grippy tannins, the finish is long and invites a second glass.