

Recommended Wines From Argentina

More than 700 wines were reviewed for this report, including 375 Malbecs and Malbec-based blends, the majority of them from the very good 2009 vintage. An alphabetical list of scores and prices for all wines tasted begins on page 67.

TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
BODEGA NOEMÍA DE PATAGONIA Río Negro Valley 2009 This gorgeous Malbec delivers mulled spice, mocha, blueberry, black tea, plum sauce and currant confiture flavors. A beauty.	96	\$105
VIÑA COBOS Corte u Nico Mendoza 2008 Muscular yet well-integrated, with layers of plum sauce, fig paste and black currant preserves. Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec.	94	\$200
ALTA VISTA Alto Mendoza 2009 A dark, ambitious red, displaying flavors of crushed plum, cassis and boysenberry. Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon.	93	\$80
BODEGA CATENA ZAPATA Malbec Mendoza Argentino 2008 Very pure for the vintage, offering a core of racy blackberry, raspberry ganache and spicy fig paste notes.	93	\$135
VIÑA COBOS Malbec Mendoza Marchiori Vineyard 2008 Dense and concentrated, exhibiting blackberry liqueur, plum skin and cassis notes tightly framed by silky tannins.	93	\$175
LUCA Malbec Mendoza Nico 2007 A dense wine that remains fresh, driving its dark blackberry and boysenberry fruit through spice, mocha and espresso flavors.	93	\$125
ACHÁVAL-FERRER Finca Altamira Mendoza 2009 A dark, powerful Malbec that has cut and grace to its core of vibrant boysenberry, raspberry and blackberry notes.	92	\$120
ALTA VISTA Malbec Luján de Cuyo Alizarine 2009 Dark yet direct, offering aromas of mesquite and baking spices that lead to boysenberry, blackberry and raspberry flavors.	92	\$45
ALTA VISTA Malbec Uco Valley Temis 2009 A rich yet creamy red, with jammy cassis, blueberry compote and fig paste flavors woven with licorice and smoke notes.	92	\$45
ALTOCEDRO Malbec La Consulta Reserva 2009 Dark and racy, sporting a creamy mix of blackberry, cassis and dark plum fruit wrapped in silky tannins.	92	\$29
BODEGA CATENA ZAPATA Nicolás Catena Zapata Mendoza 2007 Dense yet supple, offering gorgeous blackberry, raspberry and plum skin notes. Harmonious. Cabernet Sauvignon blend.	92	\$120
VIÑA COBOS Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Bramare Marchiori Vineyard 2008 Dark, loamy and ambitious for the vintage, but pulls it off with ripe black currant paste, fig sauce and mulled plum flavors.	92	\$60
VIÑA COBOS Malbec Mendoza Bramare Marchiori Vineyard 2008 Creamy boysenberry, plum skin and cassis flavors give way to hints of mesquite and grilled herbs in this ripe, toasty red.	92	\$80
BODEGA NORTON Privada Mendoza 2008 Rich and dense, with beautifully detailed mocha, boysenberry, fig and black currant notes. A large-scaled style. Malbec blend.	92	\$25

TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
CRUZ Malbec Mendoza Andina 2008 Rich, with ripe, spicy blackberry, currant and boysenberry fruit layered with enticing black licorice and vibrant spice notes.	91	\$20

TOP VALUES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
MAPEMA Malbec Mendoza 2009 A superflashy style, boasting melted licorice, fruitcake, fig paste and black currant preserves. A hedonist's delight.	91	\$19
VIÑA DOÑA PAULA Malbec Mendoza 2009 Ripe and flashy, but pulls it off, with gorgeous mouthfeel and loads of lush raspberry ganache, boysenberry and plum sauce notes.	90	\$17
PROVIVA Malbec Mendoza Maipe Reserve 2009 Delivers ripe, full-bodied layers of plum, raspberry and boysenberry fruit, framed by anise, fruitcake and espresso notes.	90	\$16
TRIVENTO Amado Sur Red Mendoza 2009 Dark, with a core of ripe black currant, raspberry ganache and black licorice notes. Very solid. Malbec blend.	90	\$15
AMALAYA Calchaquí Valley 2009 This enticing red displays a wide range of mint, damson plum, crushed blackberry and mesquite notes. Malbec blend.	89	\$17
BODEGAS ESCORIHUELA Malbec Mendoza Don Miguel Gascón 2009 A juicy, rounded style, offering a core of plum and currant fruit carried by lots of sweet spice notes, with a lingering ganache hint.	89	\$14
LAMADRID Malbec Agrelo 2010 A tangy red, with dark layers of blackberry, raspberry ganache and cassis supported by a mineral spine and bright acidity.	89	\$15
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS LA ESPERANZA Cabernet Sauvignon Uco Valley Finca El Origen Reserva 2010 Tangy and distinct, with spicy black currant and cherry notes that are framed by hints of graphite and wild herbs.	88	\$12
BODEGAS NIETO SENETINER Bonarda Mendoza Reserva 2010 Dense notes of plum skin, black currant and grilled herb lead to flavors of mesquite and bittersweet chocolate. Dark and smoky.	88	\$11
ALTOS LAS HORMIGAS Bonarda Mendoza Colonia Las Liebres 2009 Soft, ripe and friendly, with tasty plum and blackberry fruit melded with sweet, dark toast.	87	\$10
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS LA ESPERANZA Cabernet Sauvignon Uco Valley Finca El Origen 2010 Quite fresh and bright, offering a solid mix of boysenberry and currant flavors that lead to a note of hot stone on the finish.	87	\$10
NAVARRO CORREAS Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Colección Privada 2008 Vibrant red currant and damson plum flavors are framed by dusty tannins, as herbaceous and sanguine notes grace the finish.	87	\$11
TRIVENTO Malbec Mendoza Reserve 2010 Ripe yet fresh, offering vibrant boysenberry and blueberry notes, with a pleasant hint of herbs on the juicy finish.	87	\$11
BODEGAS ESMERALDA Chardonnay Mendoza Tilia 2009 Spicy pineapple and tangerine flavors are backed by vibrant acidity.	86	\$9
BODEGA JOSÉ A. E RAMÓN HINOJOSA Torrontés Mendoza Barricas 2009 This spicy wine has tangerine, peach skin and pink grapefruit notes.	86	\$9
LA RIOJANA COOP. Malbec Famatina Valley Raza Reserva 2009 An honest, forward red, with bright raspberry and blackberry fruit.	86	\$8