



2011 CHILCAS RESERVA MERLOT

WINEMAKER: Camilo Viani
REGION: Colchagua Valley, Chile
VARIETALS: 90% Merlot, 6% Carmenère, 4% Petit Verdot
MATURATION: 60% aged for 10 months in oak (70% French, 30% American)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 3.50 g/L | pH: 3.60

VINEYARD:

The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes come from twelve-year-old vines from Chilensis' Nilahue vineyard in the Colchagua Valley (81 miles south of Santiago). The valley sits between two spurs of the Andes Mountains, which form the basin's natural boundaries and produce a corridor that runs from the mountains to the sea, a feature unique among the valleys of Central Chile. In the summer months (November–April), the average day/night temperature oscillation reaches 71°F on average, which allows the grapes to ripen slowly, concentrating and preserving their flavors, aromas, and color. Yield was four tons per acre.

WINEMAKING:

The grapes were hand-picked during the second week of April and immediately transported to the winery for sorting and gentle de-stemming. Next, the fruit was cold macerated for four days followed by a warm ferment lasting three to four weeks and punch downs took place three to four times daily. 60% of the wine was then aged for ten months in French and American oak barrels.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2011 Reserva Merlot displays a bright, intense cherry-red color. Aromas of blackberry, and cherry are accompanied by spicy notes of black pepper and bay leaf. Barrel aging lends notes of vanilla and subtle toasty oak. The big-bodied palate shows good concentration of fruit with velvety, well-rounded tannins and a persistent finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

Not yet reviewed.

ABOUT CHILCAS:

Nestled in the foothills of the Andes Mountains, in the shadow of the Descabezado Volcano, lies the Chilcas flagship Maule Valley San Rafael Vineyard. Named for a native Chilean bush with fine pigment that grows in the region, Chilcas wines exude a sense of place and strong varietal expression. With an emphasis on the Maule Valley, Winemaker Camilo Viani aims to produce the finest wines from more than 2,500 acres of estate vineyards in the Maule, Curico, Colchagua and Casablanca Valleys and across three tiers of wines - Reservas, Icons and Single Vineyards. A true steward to the land, Chilcas is intensely committed to sustainability and, as part of the VIA Wines family, has been certified sustainable under Wines of Chile's Sustainability program.



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