



2012 CHILENSIS RESERVA MERLOT

WINEMAKER:	Claudio Villouta
REGION:	Maule Valley, Chile
VARIETALS:	97% Merlot, 3% Carmenère
MATURATION:	30% aged for 6 months in oak (50% French, 50% American)
ANALYSIS:	13.5% alc/vol TA: 3.88 g/L pH: 3.50

VINEYARD:

The Reserva Merlot grapes come from fourteen and twelve-year-old vines from Chilensis' La Esperanza and Río Bonito blocks located on its estate San Rafael vineyard in the Maule Valley (162 miles south of Santiago and 12.5 miles from the Andes Mountains range). The valley is geographically diverse, with a Mediterranean climate. Summers are warm and dry with a significant day-night temperature variation. Winters are cold and rainy. The vineyard's alluvial soils are loam and clay in texture with moderate fertility. Vigilant canopy management and cluster thinning during the growing season led to a yield of just over three tons per acre.

WINEMAKING:

The grapes were hand-picked the third week of March. The fruit was sorted and then gently destemmed to ensure only minimal breakage of the berries. The grapes were cold macerated for three days followed by a warm ferment for 24 days and punch downs took place three times daily. 30% of the wine was then aged for six months in French and American oak barrels.

TASTING NOTES:

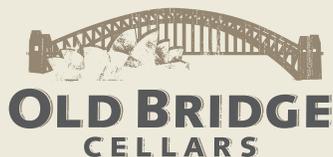
The 2012 Reserva Merlot is ruby red in color with bright violet hues. Aromas of ripe plum and strawberry notes mingle elegantly with floral highlights, rosemary, and vanilla characters. Medium-bodied palate displays soft, juicy tannins with a refreshing finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

86 pts Wine Enthusiast

ABOUT CHILENSIS:

Chilensis is the epitome of Chile; the word itself means Chilean or coming from Chile. Based in the Maule Valley, Chilensis produces estate wines that are an authentic reflection of Chile's most prestigious wine appellations, including the Maule, Casablanca and Colchagua Valleys. As part of the VIA Wines family, Winemaker Claudio Villouta and his team farm 2,500 acres of estate fruit that they hand-craft into wines that reflect the typicity of each grape variety and individual region's terroir. Managed under sustainable principles with minimal intervention – Chilensis is one of only three wineries in Chile to be certified sustainable under Wines of Chile's Sustainability program in all categories – their wines showcase Chile's "vicultural" paradise.



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