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ARGENTINEAN MALBECs STAND ON THEIR OWN

TOP PICK

CATENA ALTA MALBEC 2004



Malbec's history stems from France, where it is best known as one of the blending grapes of red Bordeaux wines. The malbec grape has always made an intense wine that would lend structure and color to some of the most famous wines in the world. As the world's palates have changed, malbec has come to be appreciated on its own. Today, malbec has found a home in Argentina, where the climate allows the grape to make the best version of itself: a big wine full of black fruit, big tannins and high alcohol. We think malbec makes a great alternative to cabernet sauvignon or zinfandel and makes a great match with a charred, fatty steak. Our wine-tasting group compared five malbecs from Argentina. The results follow.

Aroma: Leather, graham crackers and coffee. Palate: Black cherries, smooth texture, perfect balance of acids and tannins and a lingering black cherry and cedar finish. Verdict: Everything worked in harmony in this wine, with a smoother texture than the others. This was our favorite of the group.