

CATENA ZAPATA

Jan/Feb 2009 issue.

NICOLAS CATENA ZAPATA 2005 - 94+ POINTS

This represents a selection of the best fruit from the Catena Zapata vineyards. Full ruby. Superripe aromas of black cherry, dark chocolate and licorice, enlivened by minerals, violet, pepper and herbs. Then penetrating, sharply delineated and impressively concentrated, with a serious backbone supporting its very fresh currant and mineral flavors. This strikes me as less exotic and porty than the 2004 version, not to mention less exotic than the 2005 Nicasia Vineyard bottling. Still a tad tight in the middle, but the vibrant, echoing finish suggests that this wine will have even more to say in five or six years.



CATENA ZAPATA MALBEC ARGENTINO 2005 - 94 POINTS

Made from the best 12 barrels from a high-altitude planting of very old vines. Saturated medium ruby. Knockout nose offers cassis, mocha and clove, along with a strong suggestion of soil tones. Projects an uncanny combination of density and sweetness on the one hand and penetration on the other, with gripping, lightly saline flavors of dark berries, tobacco, spices and minerals. A wonderfully tactile wine with substantial broad tannins and a palate-staining finish dominated by sweet black and blue fruits.



CATENA ZAPATA NICASIA VINEYARD MALBEC 2005 - 93 POINTS

Saturated ruby. Aromas of black- and redcurrant, licorice, graphite and sexy oak. Enters the mouth like liquid velvet, then creamy and seamless in the mid-palate, with lovely violet lift to the flavors of dark berries, licorice, bitter chocolate and spiced cake. Wonderfully suave wine with lovely lift and energy. The wonderfully long, subtle aftertaste offers a whiplash of flavor.



CATENA ZAPATA ADRIANNA VINEYARD MALBEC 2005 - 92+ POINTS

Full ruby-red. Musky dark fruits and bitter chocolate on the brooding nose, with a strong kirsch note emerging with aeration. Powerful and deep but youthfully closed, with terrific grip to the flavors of cassis, dark chocolate and minerals. Quite closed and young today, but with its fine-grained tannins and slowly building persistence this single-vineyard malbec appears to be built for a positive evolution in bottle.

