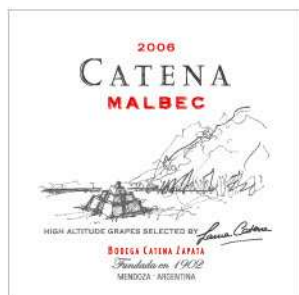


Stephen Tanzer's
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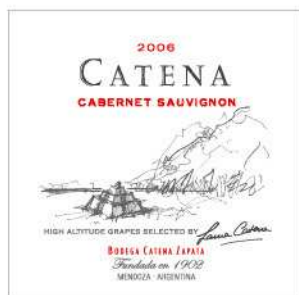
C A T E N A

Jan/Feb 2009 issue.



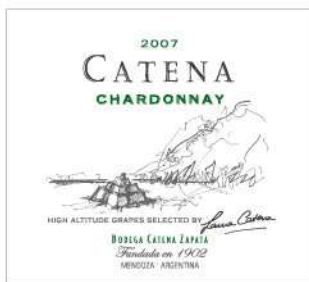
Catena Malbec 2006 - **91 POINTS**

Bright ruby-red. Dark berries, graphite and nutty oak on the very ripe nose, with a distinctive peppery lift. The palate offers an almost exotic sweetness to the lush, seamless flavors of macerated dark fruits, mocha and dark chocolate. Not the last word in complexity but pliant, generous and full in the mouth, finishing with lush tannins and an almost exotic liqueur-like quality. This is drinkable already. Some tasters may find this too sweet for a Catena wine.



Catena Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 - **90 POINTS**

Good bright medium ruby. Superripe aromas of cassis, mocha, cola and chocolatey oak are complicated by cooler suggestions of graphite and tobacco leaf. Sweet, lush and silky, but with nicely integrated acidity framing the dark berry and cedary oak flavors. This is fat with fruit and downright sexy, with none of the cooked character shown by many 2006 reds from Mendoza.



Catena Chardonnay 2007 - **89 POINTS**

From estate vineyards at altitudes of 3,100, 3,700 and 5,000 feet. Bright medium yellow. Sexy aromas of peach, melon, flowers, spices and smoky vanillin oak. Supple but quite dry, with laid-back flavors of stone fruits and nutmeg. Less rich and silky than the '06 but pure, spicy and clean-and firm on the back end. And very chardonnay.