

# CATENA ZAPATA

*Jan/Feb 2010 issue.*



**NICOLAS CATENA ZAPATA 2006 - 94+ POINTS**

(70% cabernet sauvignon and 30% malbec) Full, bright ruby. Black cherry, dark raspberry, cassis and a whiff of graphite on the very ripe but reticent nose. Then sweet, creamy and suave on the palate, more sappy and less open-knit than the Argentino malbec but utterly seamless nevertheless. Very long and firmly tannic on the aftertaste. This wonderfully plump, deep, elegantly styled wine showed even stronger fruit, and a slightly liqueur-like chocolatey ripeness, after 48 hours in the recorked bottle. (Winebow, Inc., New York NY)



**CATENA ZAPATA MALBEC ARGENTINO 2006 - 94 POINTS**

Good full medium ruby. Wonderfully expressive aromas of black raspberry, mocha and sexy nutty oak. Sweet, lush and full; more approachable than the vineyard-designated Catena Zapata malbecs but with no shortage of firming acidity. This was actually made from the best lots of the Adrianna and Nicosia, which were apparently those picked later. Very broad and full in the mouth. Finishes with big but sweet tannins and lingering suggestions of minerals, leather and bitter chocolate.



**CATENA ZAPATA ADRIANNA VINEYARD MALBEC 2006 - 93+POINTS**

Deep ruby-red. Captivating nose combines dark berries, mocha and smoky minerality, all lifted by a violet topnote. Very rich but classically dry, with outstanding intensity and depth of dark fruit flavor. There's no easy sweetness or flesh to this serious wine, which seems set for a decade or more of positive evolution in bottle. Vintage 2006 was a very warm year, but both this and the Nicosia Vineyard are in cool spots, and the Adrianna is situated at an altitude of 4,800 feet. According to Nicolas Catena, sunlight intensity at high altitude decreases tropical fruit aromas in white wines and also "kills" pyrazine aromas (e.g., green pepper) in cabernet.



**CATENA ZAPATA NICASIA VINEYARD MALBEC 2006 - 92+ POINTS**

From a vineyard situated in the far south of the Mendoza region, at an altitude of 3,800 feet. Good ruby-red. Complex nose hints at black fruits, bitter chocolate, sexy oak and flinty minerality, plus a slightly medicinal quality. Then high-pitched and tightly wound, with terrific precision to the blackberry fruit. An intriguing leathery, earthy quality conveys a strong impression of soil. Finishes very ripe but youthfully closed, with building tannins. According to Nicolas Catena, this vineyard features shallower, less fertile soils than the Adrianna.