

MONTES Alpha Carmenère 2022

Chile / Colchagua Valley

This Carmenère is sourced from Montes' Finca Apalta Estate vineyard with some additions from their Marchigüe Estate vineyard. These two unique vineyards feature granite-rich soils in differing degrees of decomposition. Both have considerable variation in the clay content, depth, and organic matter from the influence of erosion and deposits from local rivers over time. The soils are generally deep in the flat areas and thinner at the foot of the mountains and at higher elevations. Carmenère is planted in deep, rich soils, with moderate water retention.

HARVEST NOTE

Both the Apalta and Marchigüe vineyards experienced a frost-free winter, followed by a spring that brought sufficient rainfall to support healthy vine development. The summer was dry with a few days of unusually high temperatures during veraison. Ideal weather conditions allowed for a long ripening season, naturally reducing the level of pyrazines in the fruit. Harvest began on April 30 and continued through May 12. The fruit was hand harvested and underwent 5 days of pre-fermentation cold soak to extract aromas and flavors. Alcoholic fermentation was completed in 10 days after which the wine was racked into stainless steel and concrete tanks to undergo malolactic conversion.

TASTING NOTE

The wine displays a deep carmine-red color. On the nose, it offers a complex bouquet with pronounced aromas of ripe red and black fruits, including plum, fig, and cherry syrup. Subtle toasted notes from French oak are complemented by hints of vanilla, sweet spices, and dried fruits. The palate is soft and rounded, with generous body and a smooth, well-integrated structure.

TECHNICAL DATA

GRAPES: 90% Carmenère; 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

APPELLATION: Colchagua Valley

PH: 3.5

ACIDITY: 3.7 g/l

ABV: 14.5%

AGING: 12 months in concrete tank and French oak barrels, 50% new

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Variety only reappeared in 1993, after it was thought to be extinct for 200 years
- Massale selection Carmenère pioneered by Montes
- Blend with Cabernet provides lift and savory character



The story of Montes is a testament to what unique vision, grit, determination, and perseverance can achieve. Aurelio Montes Jr, Chief Winemaker

