



Susana Balbo

Brioso

The Philosophy

After 21 years of winemaking, Susana Balbo has a strong sense of what she wants from her wines. Susana strives for optimal balance, with layers of complexity coming from blends she creates from individually fermented and barrel-aged varietals. The wines are never heavy or dull. Power is never the object—finesse is. She wants people who drink her wines to feel that every sip from the glass is as exciting as the first. The Susana Balbo wines are the top barrel selections from her overall production, thus quantities are limited.

The Details

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| Vintage: | 2000 |
| Varietal Composition: | 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 20% Malbec, 5% Petit Verdot |
| Vineyard Locations: | Agrelo, Tupungato |
| Avg. Vineyard Elev.: | 3,110 feet |
| Avg. Age of Vines: | 25 years |
| Rootstock: | Ungrafted |
| Harvest Method: | Hand-harvested |
| Special Handling: | Pumped over & delestage 3 x daily; extended maceration for 30 days |
| Oak Regimen: | 12 months in 100% new French barriques |
| Fining: | Light egg-white fining |
| Filtration: | None |
| Alcohol: | 13.3% |
| pH: | 3.58 |
| T.A. | 6.6 |
| Total Case Production: | 630 cases (6-packs) |

Tasting Notes/Food Pairing Suggestions

Deep, intense purple color with aromas of blackberry and hints of vanilla, toast, and spice. Lush and concentrated with a core of plummy/blackberry fruit. A range of layered flavors including chocolate, tobacco and spice leading into a long finish. A big, complex wine that will drink well now with a nice meal, but should improve over the next 5 years. Pairs well with beef, pork, lamb, squab, quail and duck.

About the Name/Label

The label features figurines from a silver Huarpe Indian necklace that Susana owns. The figures represent women's reproductive role as the connection between the past, present, and future. She considers her role as winemaker to be the connection between the vineyards (past), the winemaking (present), and the finished wines (future). Brioso means "tenacity or strength of spirit", and it is the adjective most often used by Susana's close friends to describe both herself and her passion for make great wines.