



Crios

DE

Susana Balbo

TORRONTÉS

The Philosophy

After over two decades of winemaking, Susana Balbo has a strong sense of what she wants from her wines. Susana spent her first nine years of winemaking in the small appellation of Cafayate, home to Argentina's finest Torrontes grapes. She is widely credited with bringing the style of Cafayate Torrontes into the modern era, creating a more delicate, refined style of white wine than had been done in the past. Susana's Crios wines display ripe fruit flavors, excellent balance and concentration, and are meant to be enjoyed in their vibrant youth. They are also an incredibly good value. And like Susana's own crios (a boy & a girl), this Torrontes is extremely lovable and fun to be around.

About the Grape

Torrontes was originally thought to be a variety that was brought over long ago from Northern Spain. But recent DNA testing has revealed that these vines are most likely the result of a hybrid created long ago from two grapes: Muscat of Alexandria & Criolla Chica (or what is called the Mission grape in California). While Torrontes is the most widely planted white wine grape throughout Argentina, the finest quality Torrontes comes from Cafayate, located in the Calchaquí Valley in the northern province of Salta. The combination of high elevation (4800-5600 feet), very dry weather, intense solar radiation, cool nights, and sandy soils brings out its best characteristics. Best consumed in its youth.

The Details

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| Vintage: | 2006 | Oak Regimen: | None |
| Varietal Composition: | 100% Torrontés | Fining/ Filtration: | None/Light filtration |
| Vineyard Locations: | Cafayate (Salta Province) | Alcohol: | 13.5% |
| Avg. Vineyard Elev.: | 5,775 feet | pH: | 3.5 |
| Avg. Age of Vines: | 28 years | T.A. | 6.1 |
| Rootstock: | Ungrafted | Total Case Production: | 13,000 cases |
| Harvest Method: | Hand-harvested | | |

Tasting Notes/Food Pairing Suggestions

Enticing aromas that are strikingly similar to Viognier, with hints of peach pit, white pear, flowers, and orange citrus fruit. On the palate, it has beautiful structure and acidity similar to Sauvignon Blanc along with enticing fruit flavors that keep you coming back for another sip and plenty of body for a wine that shows such delicate aromas and flavors. Fruity, floral and yet still quite dry, this wine has to be tasted to be believed. Best enjoyed in its youth either by itself, or as a wonderful partner with smoked meats, mild to medium-strong cheeses, and seafood (especially crab!). Keep one in the fridge at all times!

About the Name/Label

Crios means "offspring" (as in children). Susana selected a word to express the notion that these are wines that haven't quite "grown up" to the same level of quality and maturity as her more expensive Susana Balbo label wines, but they receive the same loving care and attention throughout the winemaking process. The label features a series of three connected and overlapping hands, an image inspired by a Mayan artifact. The three hands represent Susana and her two children.