

Laura Catena

Born in Mendoza, Argentina, Laura spent her youth studying languages and the arts in Buenos Aires, Paris and California, where the family moved in 1982. As she entered Harvard for her undergraduate studies, her family moved back to Mendoza and founded Catena Zapata winery. She frequently traveled to France with her father Nicolas where she fell in love with the elegantly balanced wines of Bordeaux and the traditions behind French winemaking.

While pursuing her medical degree at Stanford, she sought out notable French and California wines that she and her father would taste to help shape their world-class palates and winemaking style.

Her heart always led her back to Mendoza where she realized the potential of Malbec. She explored some of the region's oldest, family-owned vineyards. After meeting many of the multi-generation growers, hearing their passionate stories about family and survival in rough economic times, and tasting their extraordinary grapes, Laura was convinced great wines were possible from these small family vineyards. And so Luca Winery was born, named after her first son.

Her vision of creating a new breed of Argentine wines has been wildly successful with small quantities, artisan quality, that are true to their individual terroirs. A true pioneer of small-grower relations in Mendoza, Laura's incredible, limited production wines come from some of Argentina's best fruit from low-yield, high elevation vineyards. Her final varietal blends deliver power along with complexity and finesse. They are the ultimate expression of rigorous vineyard management, viticultural experimentation, strict irrigation controls, skilled winemaking, and a quest for quality at any cost. The 2012 Luca Malbec has been hailed #19 on Wine Spectator's Top 100 List, 2014.

Additionally, Laura created the La Posta brand that pays tribute to Mendoza's amazing grape growers. She picked the best, small-family growers that illustrate the passion of Argentina with three single Vineyard Malbecs, one red blend, and one seasonal Armando. La Posta has been awarded "Value Brand of the Year" by Wine & Spirits, 2014. The La Posta packaging has also been awarded "Best Paper Label in the World" by Tastings.com, 2014. Luca and La Posta will be featured in Jacques Pepin's last TV cooking series on PBS, Heart & Soul, airing Fall 2015.

Today, Laura is a vintner, business woman, practicing physician, medical professor, mother of three, accomplished tango dancer, a world-wide ambassador for Argentine wine and fledging author. Her book, *Vino Argentino*, is one of the best books on the market about Argentina and winemaking. She has been named one of the top 25 wine innovators and has been featured by *Food & Wine*, *Huffington Post* and *Google*.

She is guided in all of her endeavors by the principles of innovation, creativity, and respect and kindness for all those on her path—whether patient, customer, or business partner. Laura resides in Mendoza and San Francisco with her husband and three children Luca (17), Dante (14), and Nico (10).

