



### **GET TO KNOW VINE CONNECTIONS**

Leading Importer of Premium Argentine and Chilean Wine and Japanese Sake

- In 1999, Vine Connections pioneered the first nationally imported portfolio of artisan wines from Argentina. Of the initial 5 brands and 12 wines released, the <u>least</u> expensive was \$24 retail.
- In 2001, Vine Connections became the US' premier Japanese ginjo sake importer, offering sake from 11 family-run breweries spanning the length of the country from Hokkaido to Kyushu. Today, VC represents 15 family breweries and more than 30 different sake.
- In March 2013, Vine Connections introduced the world to "The New Chile" with a portfolio of 9 family-run wineries with 11 brands from 12 different regions within Chile. The prices ranged from \$15 to \$200 retail.
- In 2001, Food & Wine Magazine named Vine Connections one of three "Importers to Watch." The company was also recognized as an "Importer You Can Trust" by Slate Magazine (2009) and Details Magazine (2010). In 2014, Wine Enthusiast Magazine nominated Vine Connections for "Wine Importer of the Year."
- When Ed y Nick started Vine Connections, they told themselves, "When people who represent us go into an account, we never want them to have to worry about the quality of the wine in the bottle." This mantra still drives their daily pursuit to represent the best wines & sake at all prices.

**MEET ED** 



**MEET NICK** 

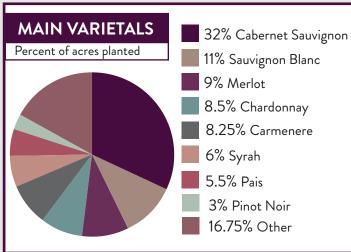


- 1. I have been a wine lover since college and have worked in the wine business since 1986. I am getting pretty good at it, but I still learn something new every day.
- 2. My wine career has been in retail sales, wholesale sales, national brand marketing, direct-to-consumer, and national importing.
- 3. My boss once told me, "Edward, you should spend more time drinking Mouton-Cadet and less time drinking Mouton-Rothschild." That was 1993, and I have been my own boss ever since.
- 4. I like wines that have the following three characteristics: 1) balance, 2) balance, 3) balance.
- 5. My favorite hangover quote: "You can never say, 'I drank too much wine last night.' You CAN say, 'I drank A LOT of wine last night!"

- 1. At 16, I lived in Fixin, France as an exchange student. Every night I would enjoy a bottle of Burgundy with my host family, which was my first step into the world of wine.
- 2. While attending Berkeley, I needed a job and found an opening at the North Berkeley Wine Co. I have never worked outside of the wine industry since.
- 3. I started Vine Connections as a brokerage/distributor in 1995. My first client was Billington, the importer for Catena, and I grew California into a top-3 market.
- 4. I met Ed after hearing a KFOG radio ad for his direct mail company "Passport Wine Club" while driving over the Golden Gate Bridge.
- 5. I have been in the wine business for almost 30 years, but it feels like yesterday when I was driving cases of wine in my Nissan Sentra making sales calls and deliveries to Southern California.

Ed & Thick

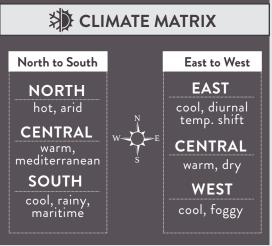
# **CHILEAN WINE 101**

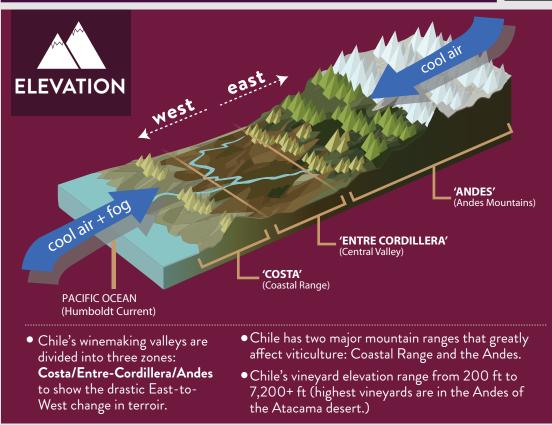




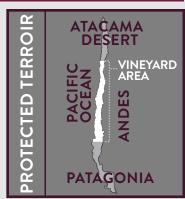
largest wine producer in the world

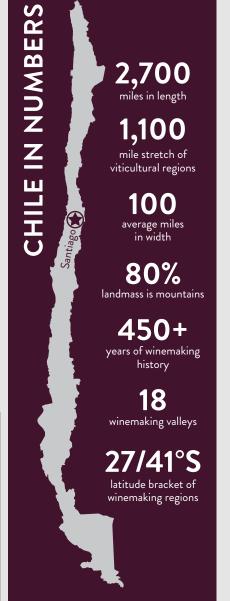
75/25 percent of reds to whites in Chile





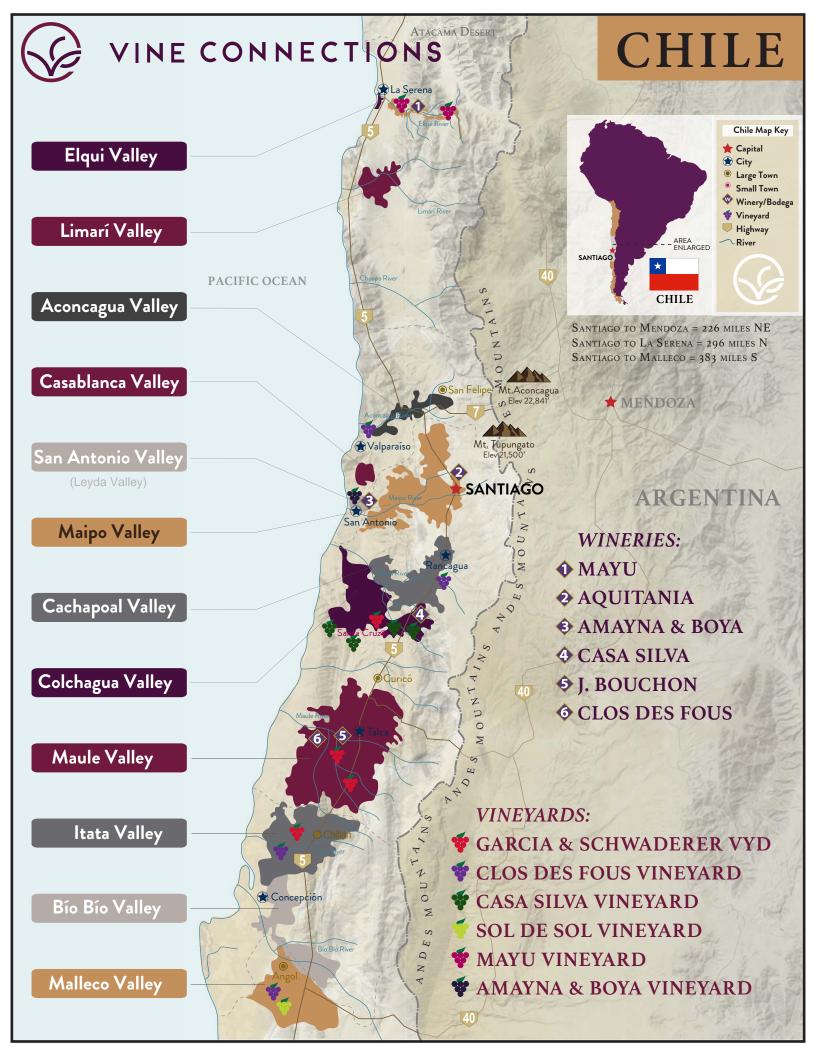


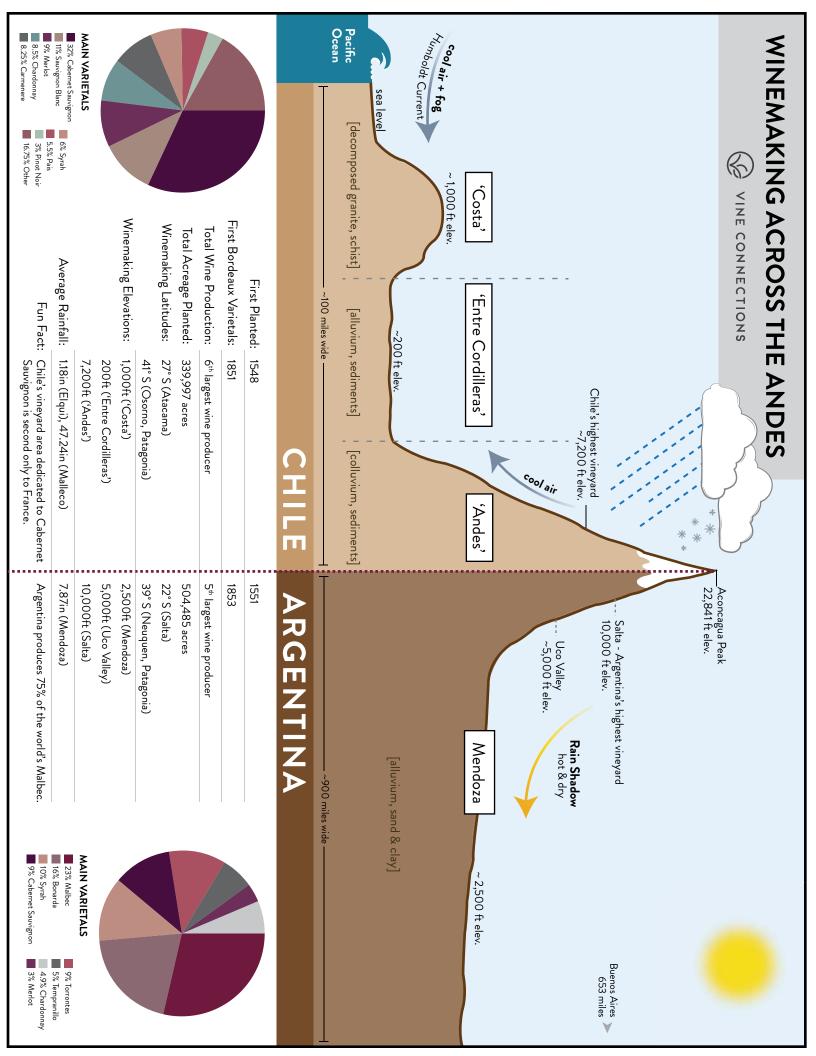








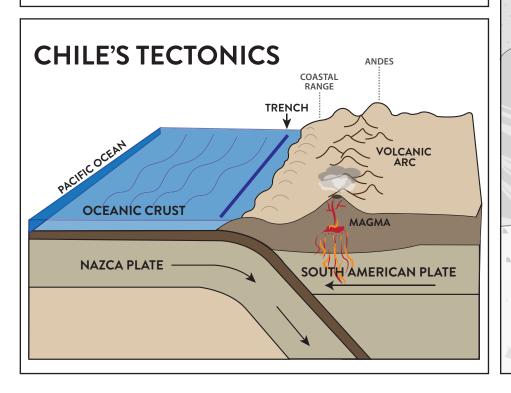






### **TASTE THE ROCK**

VALLEY	SOILS [MOST COMMON IN REGION]
ELQUI	granite, alluvial, some limestone
LIMARI	limestone gravels, clay
ACONCAGUA	volcanic, clay, some limestone
CASABLANCA	black clay, granite
LEYDA	granite, old gravels
MAIPO	limestone gravels, volcanic
CACHAPOAL	limestone gravels, volcanic
COLCHAGUA	volcanic, deep alluvial, some granite
MAULE	granite, some schist, alluvial
ITATA	granite, schist
BIO BIO	granite, basalt, schist
MALLECO	schist, granite, volcanic tuff, complex gravels



# Effects of Bedrock on the Mouthfeel of Wine



#### LIMESTONE

- Chalky and softly mineral on the tongue
- Very direct; strictly front-to-back (vertical) on the palate with no lateral dispersion
- Incredibly long and satisfying finish

#### GRANITE

- A little dry, very frontal on the palate
- Slightly mineral and rustic with great tension

#### SCHIST

- Very mineral driven, with more lateral than vertical dispersion on the palate
- Can have rounded body, but strong mineral tension keeps it precise
- Powerful
- Minimal intervention winemaking is best with grapes from this soil

#### **COMPLEX GRAVELS\***

- Elegant and soft tannins
- Easy to drink, but never plush
- Light minerality; a medium long finish

\*mixture of alluvial & colluvial gravels, sand and silt





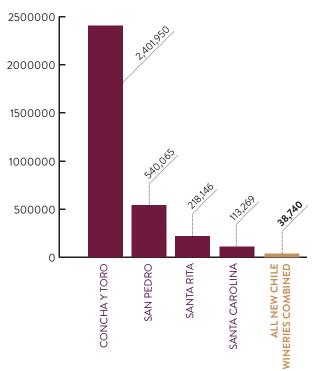


The New Chile Portfolio is breaking barriers with lower volume, higher value & increased diversity of Chilean wine in the US market.

#### **EXPORT VOLUME**

TO THE US

#### LARGE CHILEAN PRODUCERS vs. THE NEW CHILE



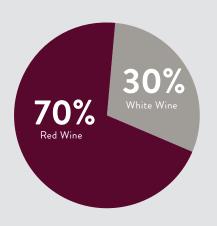
#### **VALUE**

CHILEAN IMPORTS TO THE US | RETAIL PRICE



#### **DIVERSITY**

#### CHILEAN IMPORTS TO THE US | VARIETALS



- Cabernet Sauvignon is the #1 imported Chilean varietal to the US.
- 92% of Chilean red wine imports to the US are made from Bordeaux varietals.
- Carmenere is only 5% of total imported Chilean wine to the US.
- Sauvignon Blanc (50%) and Chardonnay (40%) make up 90% of the white wine imported to the US from Chile.
- Varietals like Syrah, Carignan, Pais, Pedro Ximenez, and Sauvignon Gris are all less than 1% of the imported varietals to the US.

\*All Data provided by Caucasia Import Data, 2015 - 2016





# CRITICS RAVE FIR NEW CHILE

#### 90+ POINTS ON EVERY WINE

"Suave balance of richness & vivacity, with an earthiness that's reminiscent of serious Burgundy."

Pinot Noir Sauvignon Blanc 2014 **92** JS

AQUITANIA

impressive, showing very good energy.

2013 **91** JS

2011 **93+** WA

"Best New World Sauvianon Blanc" - Wine & Spirits "Best Chilean Pinot Noir under £15" - Decanter

Sauvignon Blanc 2015 **92** *W&S* 

2014 **93** *W&S* 

2013 **90** V Pinor Noir

**90** JS



"Truly impressive. The future for Carmenere." - Wine Advocate

Carmenere, Cuvee Colchagua Carmenere, Los Lingues Vyd Cabernet Sauvignon Sauvignon Gris, 1912 Vines Sauvignon Blanc, Cool Coast Carmenere, Microterroir Altura (Red Blend)

2014 **90** W&S 2013 **90** V 2013 **91** V **91** JS

2013 **90** V

2014 **90** V 2013 **91** WA 2014 **91** V

2008 **93** WA

"One of the most exciting new projects in Chile...& the best is yet to come."

- Wine Advocate

 Chardonnay, Locura
 2015
 92
 JS
 2013
 92
 JS
 91
 WA

 Pinot Noir, Latuffa
 2014
 93
 JS
 2012
 93
 WA

 Cauquenina
 2013
 93
 WA
 2012
 94
 JS
 91
 WA
 91
 V

 Pinot Noir, Subsollum
 2014
 92
 JS
 2013
 91
 WA
 91
 JS

Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 **92** JS

GARCIA + DCHWADERER. "Elegant rusticity in a bottle All of these wines are highly recommended." - Wine Advocate

2014 93 + W&S 94 JS 2013 91 WA Bravado 2012 **92** WA 2011 **93** JS **92** V Facundo

2014 **92** JS 2013 **95** + WA Vigno

Sauv Blanc 2015 **90** WA 2013 **93** JS **91** WA Pinot Noir 2013 95 JS 92+ WA 2012 95 JS 91

J.BOUCHON

"Winery of the Year 2016." - Descorchados

CantoSur 2016 **91** *W&S* 2014 **89** 2014 **90** V CantoNorte Cabernet Sauvignon

MAYU

"Mindboggling quality & character at unbelievable prices." - Wine Advocate

2014 **90** *WA* 2013 **90** *WA* **89** *V* 2015 **90** *WA* 2014 **89** *WA* **89** *V* Carmenere-Syrah Sauvignon Blanc Pedro Ximenez

MERINO

"A name to keep on the radar screen." - Wine Advocate

2014 **90** WA Syrah 2012 **90** WA

Chardonnay Chardonnay, Limestone Hill SOLdeSOL

"Impressive... Makes you salivate & look forward to the next bite."

- Wine Advocate

2013 **93** WA 2012 **92** WA Chardonnay

WA = The Wine Advocate V = Vinous Media (formerly Stephen Tanzer's Int'l Wine Cellar) W&S = Wine & Spirits JS = James Suckling WE = Wine Enthusiast \*34 TOTAL VINE CONNECTIONS' WINES TASTED: ALL SCORED 89+





Extraordinary wines from the driest desert on earth - experience the clear skies and high elevations of Chile's Elqui Valley with every sip of Mayu.

#### WHY DOES MAYU STAND OUT?

- 1) Elqui's arid desert climate exposes vines to intense solar radiation and large temperature fluctuation. This leads to wines with concentrated aromatics, deeper color, and developed tannins.
- 2) Mayu's Pedro Ximenez is harvested from one of the highest elevation vineyards in Chile at 6,320 feet.
- 3) A unique varietal (PX), an unusual blend (Carmenere-Syrah), and a balanced, citrus-driven Sauvignon Blanc makes for a one-of-a-kind trio.



#### **WINES**

- **Pedro Ximenez:** single-vineyard, old vine PX from one of Chile's highest elevation vineyards 6,320 ft.
- Sauvignon Blanc: cool coastal fog combines with strong sun to make a fresh & aromatic white.
- Carmenere-Syrah: an unusual Chilean blend from the warmer central vineyards in the valley.









"The Elqui Valley is one place to keep in mind. [Mayu] wines offer mindboggling quality and character at unbelievable prices."

- Luis Gutierrez, ROBERT M PARKER JR.'S THE WINE ADVOCATE







At the narrowest point between the Andes and the Pacific, the cool winds and limestone soils of the Limarí Valley deliver wines with outstanding elegance and acidity from the desert north of Chile.

#### WHY DOES MERINO STAND OUT?

- 1) Limari's close proximity to the cooling ocean winds and mountain air creates an unexpected cool climate valley in the desert north of Chile.
- 2) The highest concentration of limestone in Chile is found in the Limarí Valley due to marine fossil deposits in the soil. The most limestone-dense area is the Quebrada Seca (Dry Creek) where Merino's Limestone Hill is harvested.
- 3) Precision vineyard block selection and low vine yields deliver excellent quality for Merino wines.



#### **WINES**

- Chardonnay: cool climate and chalky soil produces a Chablis-style Chard with limited oak.
- Chardonnay "Limestone Hill": best block selection from Limari's most concentrated chalky soils.
- **Syrah:** co-fermented with Viognier and reminiscent of a Northern Rhone red.









"The vineyards have the influence from the sea and the soils are rich in chalk. This is a very windy place, and yields are naturally low. A name to keep on the radar screen."

- Luis Gutierrez, Robert M Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate





Amayna

As a pioneer of the Leyda Valley, Amayna creates its own category of a rich style of cool climate wines grown within sight of the ocean and carefully vinified in a gravity-fed winery.

#### WHY DOES AMAYNA STAND OUT?

- 1) Amayna was one of the first wineries to establish the Leyda appellation in the late 1990s.
- 2) Amayna's boutique, gravity-fed winery is designed for quality winemaking and became Certified Sustainable in 2016.
- 3) Amayna vineyards have an unobstructed view of the ocean and are located seven miles inland from the coast.



#### **WINES**

- **Sauvignon Blanc**: ocean breezes bring a savory saline balance to the wine's intense fruit character.
- Pinot Noir: a rich Pinot that has the world-class elegance of Burgundy with luscious cherry fruit.







"Shows a suave balance of richness and vivacity, with an earthiness that's highly reminiscent of serious Burgundy."

- Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar







Bursting with fresh fruit flavors and brisk acidity, Boya immediately impresses with its youthful, New World style made from grapes grown on oceanside vineyards on the Leyda coast.

#### WHY DOES BOYA STAND OUT?

- 1) Boya's vineyards are some of Chile's closest vineyards to the ocean, located five miles from the coast with a direct view to the sea.
- 2) Early harvest and young vineyards provide vibrancy and freshness.
- 3) Using New World clones grown on selected soils (high iron and calcium carbonate) provides the freshest style.



#### **WINES**

- **Pinot Noir:** An elegant Pinot Noir that melds lively acidity with bright red fruits in a well-balanced, harmonious style.
- Sauvignon Blanc: The perfect balance of lime-tinged fruit and natural acidity with a clean, refined finish.
- **Rosé:** 93% Pinot Noir with 7% Grenache, this rosé refreshes the palate with flavors of raspberry and tangerine with a mineral finish that begs for another glass.





"Fresh, young, citric, exotic."
- Luis Gutierrez, ROBERT M PARKER JR.'S THE WINE ADVOCATE





### AQUITANIA

Aquitania, one of the first boutique wineries in Chile, brings you Bordeaux-style Cabernets from the complex gravel vineyards of the Macul area in Maipo.

#### WHY DOES AQUITANIA STAND OUT?

- 1) Aquitania was one of the first small-production, boutique wineries in Maipo.
- 2) Aquitania Cabernets have a true 'Macul' style: earthy, herbal, reminiscent of Bordeaux.
- 3) The project is a one-of-a-kind partnership between Felipe de Solminihac (Aquitania & Sol de Sol), Paul Pontallier (Chateau Margaux), Bruno Prats (Chateau Cos d'Estournel) and Ghislain de Montgolfier (Bollinger).



#### WINES

- Cabernet Sauvignon: an elegant Andean Cabernet with purity of local expression.
- **Lazuli:** named after the precious blue gemstone 'Lapis Lazuli', this wine is only made during the best vintages with top selected fruit; a wine with impressive character that only gets better with age.







"[Lazuli is an] elegant, pliant, fully mature wine...Impressive, showing very good energy."

- Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar







5th generation, family-run, and the most awarded Chilean winery in the 21st century; Casa Silva continues to invest in the future with extensive clonal studies and block-specific wines from the best-suited soils in the Colchagua Valley.

#### WHY DOES CASA SILVA STAND OUT?

- 1) Casa Silva is a multi-generational, family owned and run winery with all members living locally in Colchagua.
- 2) All grapes are estate grown and only from the Colchagua Valley.
- 3) Casa Silva runs the highest level of research and development in Chile for Carmenere including new vineyard plantings, soil research, and clonal studies.



#### **WINES**

- **Sauvignon Gris:** a rarely-seen varietal harvested from vines planted in 1912.
- Carmenere "Cuvee Colchagua": this elevates the conversation about less-expensive Carmenere.
- Carmenere "Los Lingues": a single-vineyard wine showing an Andean-climate expression of Carmenere.
- Cabernet Sauvignon "Los Lingues": a single-vineyard wine showing Andean-climate expression of Cabernet.
- Microterroir: the result of groundbreaking research aimed at defining Carmenere's potential in Chile.
- Altura: the winery's top production a blend made in minimal quantities and bottle-aged before release.





"Truly impressive...The future for Carmenere." [on Altura]

- Luis Gutierrez, ROBERT M PARKER JR.'S THE WINE ADVOCATE





# J.BOUCHON

J.Bouchon shares their French and Chilean heritage through their wines made with Bordeaux varietals plus Chile's Carmenere, Carignan and Pais from the best vineyard blocks in Maule.

#### WHY DOES J.BOUCHON STAND OUT?

- 1) J.Bouchon's Canto Norte blend represents their French ancestry (Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc), and the Canto Sur blend represents their Chilean roots (Carmenere/Carignan/old vine Pais).
- 2) J.Bouchon's fresh, unoaked blends show natural structure and character of the vineyards.
- 3) J.Bouchon's Block Selection Cabernet is harvested from Maule's most premium vineyards.



#### **WINES**

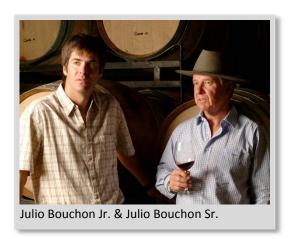
- CantoNorte: echoes Bordeaux's Right Bank Merlot-based blends. Unoaked and fresh.
- CantoSur: echoes Chile's historic and signature varietals, blending Carmenere, Carignan and old vine Pais.
- **Cabernet Sauvignon:** Specific block selections blend together for a Cabernet that structurally speaks to the terroir complexity of Maule.
- Pais Salvaje: Never been touched by the human hand, these Pais vines grow wildly in the trees next to the vineyards. 100% organic, 100% dry-farmed, 100% wild.











"DESCORCHADOS WINERY OF THE YEAR"

- Descorchados 2017







These limited production, soil-focused wines by the Clos des Fous quartet of 'crazies' are quickly achieving cult status as one the most terroir-driven projects Chile has ever seen.

#### WHY DOES CLOS DES FOUS STAND OUT?

- 1) Terroir Hunter Pedro Parra is the creator of the project and a worldrenowned terroir expert and viticulture consultant.
- Each partner in this quartet has his own expertise and skill: Pedro Parra (bedrock/soil), Francois Massoc (winemaking), Paco Leyton (agronomy), Albert Cussen (business).
- 3) Small vineyards, small production and low-intervention winemaking are the pillars of the Clos des Fous philosophy.



#### **WINES**

- Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal): a fresh, mineral Cabernet from a high elevation Andes vineyard.
- **Pinot Noir "Latuffa" (Malleco):** a Pinot from Chile's cool climate, southern valley with volcanic soils.
- **Pinot Noir "Subsollum":** a new Pinot Noir from two distinct terroirs in Malleco and Aconcagua.
- Chardonnay (Cachapoal): Chard from high elevation and no oak—you taste what the terroir gives here.
- Cauquenina (Cauquenes, Maule): a wild field blend that shows the rustic brilliance of Chile's Maule Valley.













"One of the most exciting new projects in Chile...and the best is yet to come."

- Luis Gutierrez, Robert M Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate





### GARCIA + DCHWADERER

Felipe Garcia leads the 'New Chile' revolutionaries - working with local growers to produce small batch wines that bring the Chilean wine conversation to a human scale.

#### WHY DOES GARCIA & SCHWADERER STAND OUT?

- 1) G&S's mirco-boutique winemaking is small, hands-on, and with four wines adding up to only 750 cases imported to the US.
- 2) G&S works with growers from Chile's finest, old vine vineyards in Maule (VIGNO) to preserve Chile's 'ancestral viticulture'.
- 3) Felipe is a founding member of MOVI (Movement of Independent Vintners) and VIGNO (Vignadores de Carignan Chile's first official appellation association) to support small, human-scale producers.



#### **WINES**

- **Bravado:** harvested from a schist hillside on the slopes of Itata, Bravado is a blend of red varietals that show the spirit & history Chile's oldest winemaking region.
- Facundo: a Carignan-based blend that shows the true potential and elegance of the Maule and Itata Valleys.
- Vigno: made from old vines in Maule that are a part of the revolutionary Carignan VIGNO movement.





"Elegant rusticity in a bottle... All of the wines are highly recommended."

- Luis Gutierrez, ROBERT M PARKER JR.'S THE WINE ADVOCATE





# SOLdeSOL

Harvested from the first vines ever planted in the cooler, southern Malleco Valley, Sol de Sol has grown to be the benchmark for cool climate, age-worthy Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from Chile.

#### WHY DOES SOL DE SOL STAND OUT?

- 1) Felipe de Solminihac was the first to ever plant vines in Malleco after being inspired by the cooler, rainy climate similar to Burgundy and Oregon.
- 2) Sol de Sol uncovered a new region and created a new category of worldclass, age-worthy Chilean Chardonnay.
- 3) Sol de Sol's older vintages maintain balance, acidity, and gain more complexity with time.



#### **WINES**

- **Chardonnay:** a Chardonnay with incredible complexity that can age like fine Burgundy.
- Pinot Noir: this wine may prove the Malleco Valley to be the holy grail for Chilean Pinot Noir.







"Impressive...makes you salivate and look forward to the next bite."

- Luis Gutierrez, Robert M Parker Jr.'s The Wine Advocate



