



# The Washington Post

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## Where Malbec Does Best

Michael Franz

***Out of the top 20 Argentine Malbecs selected,  
5 of the top 10 were Vine Connections wines!  
7 of the top 20 were Vine Connections wines!!***

**Susana Balbo 2002:** Full and fleshy in flavor and texture, with rich fruit in the foreground and exceptionally well-integrated oak.

**Tikal "Amorio" 2002:** A big, exotic, smoky wine with lots of oak but fine balance thanks to rich, intensely flavorful fruit.

**Luca 2001:** A very serious wine that will benefit from further aging, this features lovely dark cherry fruit, strong, spicy oak, and enough acidity to remain fresh in the future.

**mapema 2002:** A beautiful wine with lots of intensity and power but charm as well thanks to ripe, fine-grained tannins.

**BenMarco 2002:** Still tight and woody, this nevertheless has a bright future, with intense blackberry fruit that is up to the challenge of balancing a serious dose of smoky oak.

**La Posta del Viñatero, Angel Paulucci Vineyard 2002:** A terrific wine for the money, with excellent concentration, intense flavors and a soft, charming finish.

**Budini 2002:** Rounded and soft, but with flavors that pack a punch