

[Home](#) / [News & Features](#) / [Tasting Highlights](#)

10 Under-\$25 Winners from Argentina

New reviews of great-value Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and more



Photo by: Federico García

Piattelli makes wine from various areas of the Mendoza region and Cafayate in Salta.

Kim Marcus

Posted: April 19, 2018

◀ 3

◀ 2



Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our ^{editor's} most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members. ^{page.}

Malbec is Argentina's go-to red grape for providing deep, rich fruit flavors that are filled with spicy accents. The grape has spread beyond its home base in Mendoza and is also grown in key winegrowing regions throughout the South American nation. The following list highlights this geographic diversity.

But one of the two highest-scoring wines here does indeed come from Mendoza: Andeluna's 2015 Altitud, which hails from the Tupungato region. Tupungato takes its name from a massive long-dormant volcano that towers in the nearby Andes Mountains. Soils here are rich with rock and gravel

washed down from the Andes. The Andeluna is loaded with dark fruit and spice flavors that are typical of Mendoza Malbecs. Other Mendoza subregions are well-represented here as well, including Agrelo, La Consulta and Uco Valley.

Rivaling the Andeluna Altitud in quality is the Piattelli from the Cafayate region in northern Argentina. Here, the high-altitude vineyards are more sandstone-based and iron-rich, resulting in this suave and finely structured version.

Argentina has diversified its portfolio and found success with other grapes, too. Here, a Cabernet Sauvignon and a Pinot Gris are both bargains at \$15 and \$11, respectively.

ANDELUNA Malbec Tupungato Altitud 2015 Score: 91 | \$20

Concentrated dark plum and dark cherry flavors are loaded with Asian spice notes that take on a creamy texture. Dark chocolate details fill the rich finish. Drink now through 2022. 1,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

PIATTELLI Malbec Cafayate Valley Grand Reserve 2015 Score: 91 | \$22

A suave red, with plenty of chocolate accents to the blackberry, dark plum and dried cherry flavors. Asian spice notes come in midpalate, carrying through the ripe, rich finish. Drink now through 2022. 2,500 cases imported.—*K.M.*

ALTOCEDRO Select La Consulta 2016 Score: 90 | \$23

Shows lots of sanguine notes to the long, rich dried red fruit flavors, with accents of dried sage and spice on the juicy finish. Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo and Syrah. Drink now through 2022. 420 cases imported.—*K.M.*

FINCA DECERO Malbec Agrelo Remolinos Vineyard 2016 Score: 90 | \$22

A sanguine red, with notes of hot stone to the raspberry, dried cherry and floral flavors. The savory finish has some mineral accents. Drink now through 2021. 20,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

PIATTELLI Malbec-Tannat Cafayate Valley Reserve 2016 Score: 90 | \$16

A rich and muscular red, offering espresso notes that flank the dark fruit flavors, accented by hints of dried green herb, with dark chocolate and Asian spice notes on the finish. Drink now through 2022. 1,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

FINCA FLICHMAN Malbec Uco Valley Gran Caballero De La Cepa 2015 Score: 88 | \$20

Offers a tight beam of cherry and plum flavors, supported by plenty of acidity, with mineral and green herbal accents on the crunchy finish. Drink now through 2022. 1,500 cases imported.—*K.M.*

LAMADRID Malbec Agrelo Reserva 2016 Score: 88 | \$20

A ripe red, offering a strong mineral element to the red berry and roasted plum flavors. Mulled spice notes come in midpalate, ending with a brooding finish. Drink now through 2021. 4,800 cases imported.—*K.M.*

ALTOCEDRO Malbec La Consulta Año Cero 2017 Score: 87 | \$19

There's a touch of austerity to the red fruit and berry flavors in this red. Mineral midpalate, with a tannic finish. Drink now. 4,000 cases imported.—*K.M.*

ANDELUNA Cabernet Sauvignon Uco Valley 1300 2016 Score: 87 | \$15

A savory red, offering dried raspberry and red currant flavors that lengthen out nicely, with dried mint accents on the finish. Drink now. 1,200 cases imported.—*K.M.*

BODEGA PIEDRA NEGRA Pinot Gris Uco Valley Alta Colección 2017 Score: 87 | \$11

Lots of peach and green herbal flavors show in this zesty white. The crisp, spicy finish shows touches of richness. Drink now. 7,500 cases imported.—*K.M.*

See Also



April 16, 2018

10 Standout Napa Wines for \$40 or Less

April 12, 2018

11 Affordable Burgundies that Punch Above Their Weight

April 9, 2018

13 Zinfandels for California Dreaming

April 5, 2018

13 Discovery Wines from Greece

April 2, 2018

10 California Rosés You've Been Waiting For

[See all from Tasting Highlights](#)