

New Wines From Around the World

ARGENTINA

92 Bodega Catena Zapata Cabernet Sauvignon Mendoza Catena Alta Zapata Vineyard 1999 \$55

Dark, brooding style, with dark chocolate, black currant, coffee, prune, spice and plum flavors, and a muscular, thickly textured finish. Rather dense now, but already shows impressive range and should open up nicely in the short term. Drink through 2006. 1,435 cases made.—J.M.

91 Luca Syrah Altos de Mendoza 2001 \$32

Alluring plum pudding and spice aromas give way to a structured Syrah crammed with boysenberry, plum and blackberry fruit. Fleshy, ripe and long on the finish, but stays focused and balanced. Just needs some time to show everything. Drink through 2006. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 500 cases made.—J.M.

88 Bodega Catena Zapata Malbec Mendoza 2001 \$24

Lovely raspberry, plum and blackberry fruit, with hints of vanilla, brier and minerals underneath. Good grip and focus. Textbook introduction to Malbec. Drink now through 2004. 22,780 cases made.—J.M.

87 Bodegas y Viñedos Santiago Graffigna

Syrah Tulum Valley G Don Santiago 2000 \$18

Delicious plum, blackberry and chocolate flavors here, with a round, fleshy, accessible texture. Chocolate notes linger on the finish. Solid. Drink now through 2004. 12,000 cases made.—J.M.

83 Fantelli Syrah Mendoza 2001 \$9 —J.M.

83 J. & F. Lurton Sangiovese Uco Valley 2001 \$6 —J.M.

82 BenMarco V.M.S. Mendoza 2001 \$32

Shows good, ripe, juicy blackberry and boysenberry fruit, offset by a minerally, meaty edge. Turns a bit earthy on the finish though, a facet that grows with air. Disappointing for this producer. Malbec, Bonarda, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Tannat. Drink now through 2004. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 500 cases made.—J.M.

81 J. & F. Lurton Tierra del Fuego Red Mendoza 2002 \$5 —J.M.

81 Trapiche Pinot Noir Mendoza 2002 \$7 —J.M.

DUNN ROBBINS

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