

...cant a bottle, leave it on the dining  
room table, and an hour later the room will  
be full of that spice, the wine ready to pour  
with a pan-seared steak. *Storybook Mountain  
Vineyards, Calistoga, CA*

**ARGENTINA | Best Malbec**

**93 | Achaval Ferrer**

\$85

**2002 La Consulta Mendoza Finca Altamira**

**Malbec** Finca Altamira is a ten-acre vine-  
yard at the foot of the Cordillera de los  
Andes, planted with vines in the late twen-  
ties. It's also the reason why Italian wine-  
maker (and Achaval Ferrer partner) Roberto  
Cipresso fell in love with malbec and decided  
to build a winery in Mendoza. The place is  
gorgeous, and the wine is, too. Its freshness  
and power are balanced, the sense of place  
emerging the way cold breezes blow down  
from the Andes, resolving into fresh juicy  
flavors behind a strong-as-rock structure.  
Wait a while, and cherry and violet scents  
emerge out of that block of tannins, like  
bubbles in a geyser. Argentine malbec at its  
best. *T.G.I.C. Importers, Woodland Hills, CA*

**93 | C**  
**2002 M**  
**Grenach**

40- to 80  
vines. Thi