

Your Argentine Wine Collection

From the Bonner Private Wine Partnership



BONNER
PRIVATE WINE
PARTNERSHIP

An Adventure in Every Bottle

Searching the world for astonishing
wines from little-known winemakers

Our Online Store is Open!

Don't Run Out Of Wine! Certain bottles are available for purchase at our online shop. Log into your profile on www.bonnerprivatewines.com to see what's in the cellar. You can also always give us a call at 844.733.5249.



Photo: Agustín Lanús Wines

Dear Member,

I miss the Valley when I'm not there.

I sit in traffic next to a strip mall here in South Florida, wishing I were astride the moody-but-fast *El Bayo*, galloping over the high plains, or carefully wending down into a *quebrada* in search of a little oasis.

As I write to you now, the grapes down south are shedding their green for dark purple, fattening up for the *cosecha* which will be here before we know it. 2024's harvest will be small, a result of the weather. Calchaquí winemaking is, as always, a precarious operation, out at the limits of viability.

South Florida, too, was once a marginal proposition – buffeted by hurricanes, infested with mosquitoes and alligators, rendered impassable by miles of mangrove. It is now the pinnacle of convenience and comfort.

But an element is lost in removing that ever present potential for oblivion, an element we seek to rediscover when we open a bottle from northwestern Argentina.

It's not the struggle against nature, or an "edge" in the wine's flavor.

It's the sense that God's will is done, despite any other ideas or dogmas we might cling to.

One is able to ignore that truth, at least to a certain degree, amidst the din of a downtown strip.

Out on a high plain, where the air is thin, the sun is blinding, and help is hours away, it is incontrovertible.

Who speaks through the grape? Nature? The vine? The

Almighty Himself?

We don't know. But the story told is nothing short of exhilarating.

In this box, you will find six bottles:

- ① Thibaut Delmotte Malbec Natural 2022
- ② Sierra Lima Alfa Cabernet Franc 2022
- ③ Sunal Criolla Exploración 2021
- ④ Huichaira Vineyards Cielo Arriba 2019
- ⑤ Tacuil 33 de Dávalos 2020
- ⑥ Paco Puga Contemporaneo 2021

These wines come from the finest winemakers and terroirs in all of Argentina. Each has the potential to become an iconic presence in your cellar.

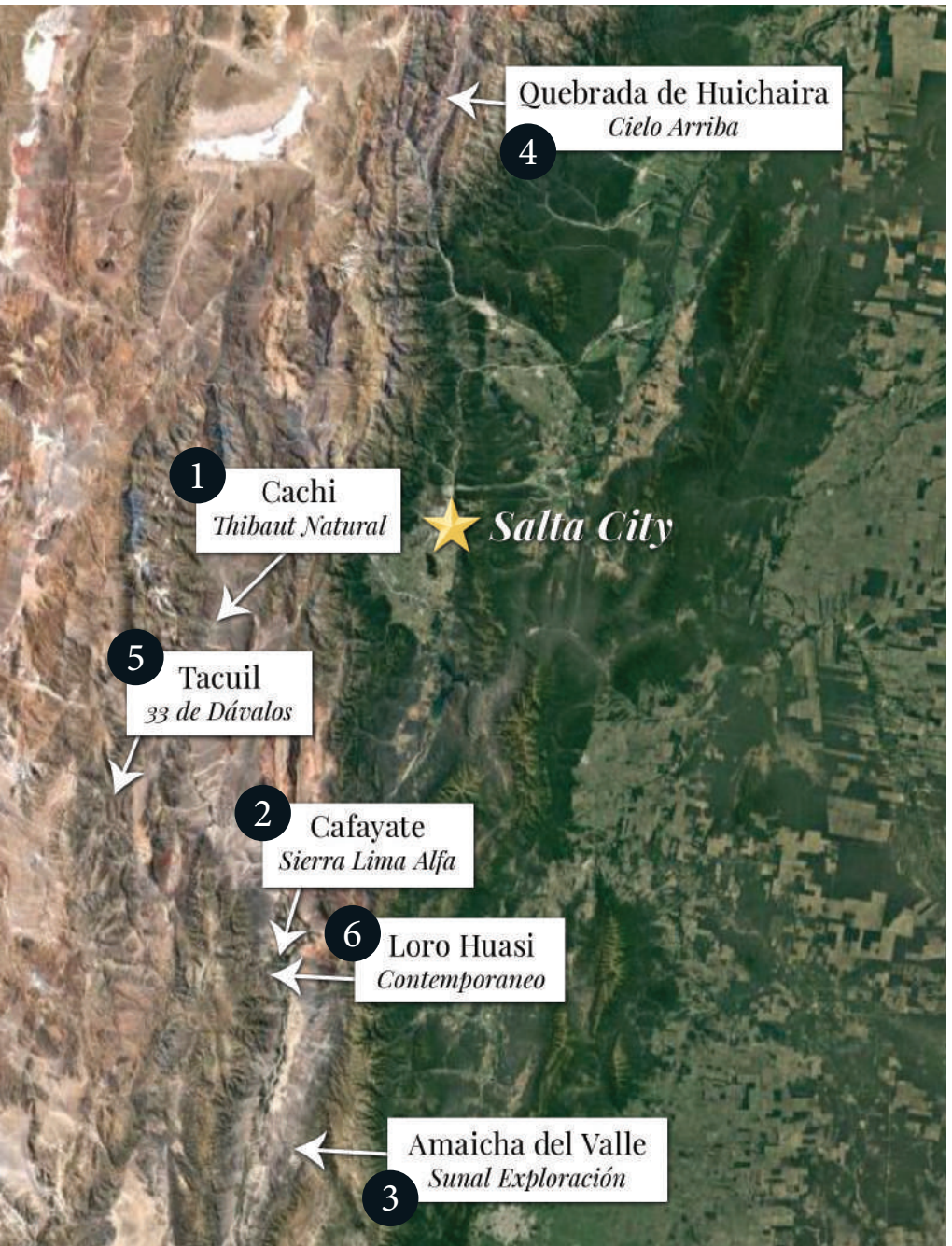
Salud,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Bonner', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Will Bonner

Founder, Bonner Private Wine Partnership

The Vineyards



A Quick Note on Wine Tasting

On the next few pages, we've included tasting notes. Here's a quick tip on how to approach them.

What makes a “wine expert” is not just depth of knowledge — which anyone can achieve — but sensitivity to taste and smell. A great wine expert will find a hundred little aromas that most ordinary noses will never be able to detect.

Now. If you don't pick up on the same flavors, does that mean you're doing it wrong?

No. Tasting is subjective. Pronounced flavors on my palate may present themselves as secondary or tertiary notes for you. Remember, wines are always evolving in the bottle. That hint of cherry from a few months ago might present itself differently now. So, if you detect a flavor or aroma you don't see on the tasting sheet, add it. See what your friends say. Better yet, if you have a tasting that differs markedly from what's written here, send us your notes. We'd love to compare them! Email us at feedback@bonnerprivatewines.com.

2024

Argentine

Collection

Bonner Private Wine Partnership

Thibaut Delmotte

Malbec Natural 2022

8,600 ft.
Malbec



This 2022 from the lofty vineyards of Cachi is easily a \$100+ bottle of wine on its own. The winemaker, our friend (and neighbor, at just an hour or so away!) Thibaut Delmotte is the head winemaker at Bodega Colomé, the folks behind the legendary “Altura Maxima,” which goes for around \$130 a bottle (we’ve seen it sell for as much as \$195).

Made by hand with zero pesticides or sulfites, this malbec is what you might call an auteur wine, the embodiment of Thibaut’s ideals and philosophies as a winemaker. You will be shocked at how round yet solid the body is for an unoaked, unfiltered, pure malbec (was 8 months aging in a concrete egg the secret?)

Drink now to 2025.

Only 4500 bottles made.

Sierra Lima Alfa

Cabernet Franc 2022

6,561 ft.

Cabernet Franc



In Cafayate, the Calchaquí's Sebastopol (for Sonoma fans) or Saint-Émilion (for Bordeaux fans), the nascent winery of Sierra Lima Alfa has everyone's attention. We've been fans since we sourced their malbec blend for last year's collection.

The winemaker, Francisco "Pancho" Morelli Rubio, is a cousin of Raul Dávalos (see the 33 de Dávalos in this collection if you don't know the name). The two collaborated on the first vintage of Ascensión (imported for the Partnership in 2022).

Pancho has been careful to preserve the character of both grape and terroir by choosing stainless steel for 90% of the juice. The other 10% spent 14 months in French oak – just long enough to give it a lift without muting the cab. You can drink now but expect some fun developments as it ages into 2030.

Only 1600 bottles made.

Sunal Exploración 2021

6,889 to 7,545 ft.
Criolla chica



Caught between a mountain range and hundreds of miles of desert, Amaicha del Valle is a cluster of indigenous homesteads scratching out a living to the south of Cafayate. Fittingly, the grape they grow, on a patchwork of small family plots, is Argentina's indigenous grape, criolla chica.

Criolla isn't one varietal but rather the name for dozens of semi-feral hybrids descended from grapes brought to Argentina by conquistadors and missionaries. Winemaker (and longtime

friend) Agustín Lanús was the first in the Calchaquí Valley (and the second in all of Argentina) to treat criolla as a serious wine. Today, you might call it "the Beaujolais of the Andes," a lighter counterpoint to malbec. We imported Agustín's first criolla, *lógico*, a few years back and can think back fondly to its notes of dried roses, spice, and dates. We are pleased to report that Exploración is equally beguiling. You won't drink another wine like it. So drink now (why wait?)

Huichaira Vineyards

Cielo Arriba 2019

9,500 ft.

Malbec, Cabernet
Franc, Syrah



To the north of the Calchaquí Valley lies a mess of peaks and troughs that come together like a stormy sea frozen in time. The frontier's frontier. There, in a high mountain canyon, the Quebrada de Huichaira, lies a modest acreage of malbec, cab franc, and syrah.

A modern winemaker would take care that each varietal had a tightly controlled plot, and, further, that each varietal was then fermented separately. Winemaker Alejandro Sejanovich does neither. He also tosses entire bunches in the vat rather than pick the grapes off the stems. It's an older – and divisive – approach. The pay off is the wine's complexity: beginning with a wall of crushed stone, dried herbs and black spice. But stand your ground for just a moment and a juicy blackberry core reveals itself. You can drink now but it'll be even better closer to 2030. 95 pts (Suckling).

Only 4,000 bottles made.

Tacuil

33 de Dávalos 2020

8,202 ft.

Malbec, Cabernet
Sauvignon



Long time Partnership members will know the name Dávalos well by now: the reclusive winemaking genius holed up in his impregnable little valley, where, over 200 years ago, his ancestor Ascensión, founder of the oldest winery in Argentina, brought the first malbec vines to the Calchaquí.

It's unclear if the vines that produced this wine are her originals, but at least some of them are pre-phylloxera and about 200 years old. You drink history when you open this bottle. The name, too, is laden with genealogical significance. Don José Dávalos, who ran the winery in the 1920s, also bred horses and used "33 de Dávalos" as his brand.

After harvesting from vines with deep roots in the rocky soil on the banks of the Mayuco river, Raul and his brother Alvaro chose to go organic and use no oak – letting this stallion of a wine rip with spice, pepper, and ripe fruit. Mineral notes hit once on the palate followed by a long finish. With 93 pts (Atkin), drink now or cellar till 2033.

Paco Puga

Contemporaneo 2021

7,545 ft.

Cabernet Franc,
Malbec, Merlot



Every year we find ourselves sourcing a new Paco Puga wine. The man is always doing something fascinating: making Burgundian-style wine with malbec, say, or challenging three friends to each create a separate wine then blending them all together with his own. It's always out of left field and it always works.

With Contemporaneo, Paco invites three grapes to share the spotlight simultaneously. A lesser winemaker might make quite a mess with that concept, but once again Paco pulls it off brilliantly, borrowing elegance from the cab franc, freshness from the merlot, and power from the malbec.

In the nose and on the palate you'll find blackberries, blueberries, black pepper and spice, with notes of tobacco and vanilla floating in the distance (Contemporaneo spends 12 months in French oak). 95 pts (Atkin).

Drink now or till 2026.

Our Mission

At the Bonner Private Wine Partnership, our mission is to bring you unique bottles from all over the world. We seek wines that are bursting with life and character – wines with an adventure in every bottle.

Your Next Quarterly Shipment

As you read this, we are already selecting and arranging to import wines for next quarter's shipment. We will be in touch to share what we've found with you when we get closer to the shipping date. Until then, enjoy your wine! (And let us know what you think!)

Problem with Your Shipment?

Please call our customer service, 9-5 Monday through Friday at 1-844-733-5249. We want everyone to get the most out of this club and these wines. So if there's a problem, we'll do our best to make it right.