

Wine of the Month



OUR ML&S! WINE EXPERT **ADAM PERKAL** EXPLAINS WHY THIS ARGENTINEAN MALBEC TICKS THE RIGHT BOXES.

Wine:

Finca Perdriel Malbec 2004



Winery:

Bodega Norton (www.norton.com.ar)

Location:

Mendoza, Argentina

Composition: 100% Malbec



SOURCE OF GRAPES: An old-vine, high altitude vineyard, located directly behind the original winery at 950 metres above sea level. The vineyard is called Perdriel, which is also the name of the hamlet where Bodega Norton is located.

WINEMAKING: Grapes for this wine were manually harvested and hand selected before pressing. Winemakers employed a short, cold maceration (five days) before a week-long fermentation with only native yeasts, followed by 30 days additional maceration at 20°. The wine was aged for one year in French oak barrels and then another year in the bottle before release.

DESCRIPTION: Intense ruby red colour with hints of purple. Aroma of ripe fruit, violets and spicy tobacco leaf. Rich & full-bodied flavour with smooth tannins and a long, clean finish. A classic example of Argentine Malbec. 14.5% alcohol.

SERVE WITH: Grilled meats, sausages and stews

OPTIMUM DRINKING: through 2014.

COST: €12 to €15

WHERE TO BUY: Isla Catavinos (Palma), Cocinaria (Palma), Santi Taura store (Lloseta), Deli Flanigan (Puerto Portals), Sal de la Vie (Santanyi) & Mundidrinks (Llucmajor – by appointment)

FAST FACT: Bodega Norton is a historic winery, and dates back to the end of the 19th century when its founder, an English engineer named Edmund James Palmer Norton, came to Argentina to work on the railroad connecting the city of Mendoza with Chile. As with most other producers at this time, Norton planted grapes imported from Bordeaux, varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Malbec, the latter now considered a grape "typical" of Argentina.

The winery's gradual growth over the years has allowed it to acquire very large property holdings, which are approximately double the extension of the area presently under vines. In 1989, Bodega Norton was acquired by the Austrian businessman Gernot Langes-Swarovski, which has led to a decade of substantial investment in both the vineyard and winery. The production capacity has been increased to a staggering six million litres per year, and a large share of the winery's business continues to be in Argentina, where the Norton brand is synonymous with fine wines. The production of finca Perdriel, however, is limited to 100,000 bottles per year.

For more information Contact Adam Perkal at fine wine importers www.mundidrinks.com