

The Specifics

Wine Details

Wine Name:	San Polo Bodega & Vineyards Auka Reserva Malbec
Vintage:	2023
Varietal(s):	100% Malbec
Appellation:	Mendoza
Country:	Argentina
Alcohol:	14.0%
Production:	70% aged in French and second fill American oak for 6 months



What Is It

Malbec is a dark, thick-skinned grape that absolutely requires abundant sunshine to flourish. The combination of high altitude and intense sun exposure allows Argentine Malbec to develop into smooth, fruit-forward wines whereas those from France (particularly from Cahors) are more tannic and earthy.

Deep red in color, the San Polo Bodega & Vineyards Auka Reserve Malbec balances red fruit with vanilla notes obtained from its barrel maturation. The wine is put through a secondary process called malolactic fermentation which reduces acidity while adding a creamy texture. Pair this with grilled meat, empanadas, and aged hard cheese. Within the Winehouse, compare it to the Miau 4 Gatos Locos Malbec (also from Mendoza) which was aged in concrete as opposed to the oak seen here.

The name is in tribute of the Auka people who emphasized the importance of conserving water and living in harmony with the surrounding environment.

Who Made It

San Polo Bodega & Vineyards started in the 1880s when three Italian immigrants settled in Mendoza. By 1930, the son of one of the immigrants purchased the current property and named it after his father's native San Polo di Piave. Situated at an elevation around 3,200 feet, San Polo Bodega & Vineyards lies atop mineral-rich soils which receive an average of 300 days of sunshine a year. With such little rain falling in Mendoza (thanks to the Andes Mountains being directly to the west), they rely heavily on snow melt for irrigation.

Doug's Deep Thoughts

This is an intense wine. Everything it has it has in full - dark fruit, dark chocolate, coffee, oak, tannins, body. For all it brings, it's a screaming value. Just know going in that the oak is prominent on the San Polo Bodega & Vineyards Auka Reserva Malbec. If that's a style you embrace, then this is your Argentinian Malbec.