



**San Juan de Pirque Vineyard – Maipo Valley
Cabernet Sauvignon
2017**

Lot #91

“ *Elegant Maipo Cab* ”
Mountain Grown
-- lifted / fresher in style

- Alcohol: 14 % vol
- pH: 3,72
- Acidity: 5,32 g/l
- Residual sugar: 2,04 g/l
- 8 660 bottles filled
- 30 barrels



In a nutshell

- Mountain Grown single vineyard parcel from San Juan de Pirque in Maipo Valley
- at 946 metres above the sea this vineyard an extreme example of Cab Sauv in Alto Maipo Andes
- Round stones in alluvial soils combined with altitude make for a fresh wine with restrained fine almost creamy tannins.

What you need to know

The Vineyard & Farming

- 35+ yrs old at 946 metres above sea level in Maipo gorge
- 2nd alluvial terrace of above the Maipo River
- Alluvial soils, round stones at 40-50 cm
- 1,5 kg per plant / aprox 5,000 kgs per hectare
- Classic second terrace of the Maipo River like Puente Alto but much higher into the gorge of the Cajon de.

Winemaking:

- Naturally fermented
- Conical oval shaped lagar fermenters (open) 3,000 kgs
- Caps punched down by hand

Elevation: Aged in barrels with 2 or more uses over two winters from cooperages Sylvain, Berger, Nadalie special softer Noisette toast.

Appellation: Maipo Valley

Varietal: Cabernet Sauvignon

Color: Garnet

Personality: Cut from blue-chip cloth but refreshingly unexpected

How many lots? Just one each year

Previous Bottlings San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 81 – 2016
San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 71 – 2015
San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 61 – 2014
San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 51 – 2013
San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 44 – 2012
San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 37 – 2011
San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 30 – 2010
San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 23 – 2009

Ageability The 2017 vintage will age 10 years effortlessly and gracefully, but the wine is approachable today
Back in time around 2009 the great majority of wines in Chile were being made with excessive extraction, new oak and a distinct lack of freshness. This was the vogue. It is thus rather surprising to open a bottle from this time ej. 2009 and see the fresher style, built with finesse and tension instead of extraction, and realise just how much better such a wine holds up with time. We regret having not saved more bottles.

Best drinking House: 2020-2030 Atkin 2021-28

The Vintage

2017 was a very difficult year. Tremendous bush fires made for a challenging vintage in many parts of Chile but NOT in Maipo. It was however a warm but the proximity to the river Maipo and altitude helped to keep things somewhat cooler at this site.

House note

Vivid ruby. Sexy, highly perfumed bouquet of fresh red berries, cherry pit, potpourri with hints of black pepper adding complexity. Spicy and expansive in the mouth, offering lively cherry and raspberry flavors and intense floral character. Silky tannins add grip and shape to the long, sappy finish. This wine received no new oak.

Hashtag

#gwcosanjuandepirquevineyard



Critics Notes

James Suckling

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2017 - Lot # 91 93 Pts

Bright red berries, as well as red-apple notes here. Leafy and smoky notes on offer, too. The palate has quite a crunchy, powerful hit of ripe blue fruit and fresh tannin. Impressive purity. Drink or hold.



Vinous – Joaquin Hidalgo

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2017 - Lot # 91 92 Pts

The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon - San Juan de Pirque Vineyard Lot 91 is mixed with 10% Cabernet Franc from Maipo. Dense garnet-red in the glass. The attractive aromas feature black currant, tobacco and cigar box plus ash and herbal notes. Expansive and juicy in the mouth with grippy, slightly insistent tannins, this is a ripe wine with good freshness.



Robert Parker – Wine Advocate

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2017 - Lot # 91 92 Pts

The 2017 San Juan de Pirque Vineyard will be the last vintage for this vineyard, as "the value of the land for weekend homes has vineyards in San Juan disappearing. Garage's focus is in the Maule, and we have found where we want to work Cabernet Sauvignon down there, but we are a Chilean company and we began making Cabernet in Maipo..." So, there is a new Cabernet Sauvignon from Maipo but sourced from the Isla De Maipo in 2018 (which I tasted next to this). This is spicy and creamy with some strict tannins with good ripeness, 14.4% alcohol and mellow acidity. 8,660 bottles produced. It was bottled in February 2019. This wine has a long history going back to 2009 with lots 81, 71, 61, 51, 44, 37, 30 and 23. This is lot #91.



Notes on Previous Vintages from this parcel

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2016 - Lot # 81 95 Pts

Desde viñedos en Pirque, a unos 950 metros de altura, en el Alto Maipo, este es un cabernet clásico de la zona. De suelos aluviales, ricos en arenas y piedras redondeadas, echen un vistazo a las notas frutales, los leves toques a especias y mentol, pero sobre todo a ese lado terroso. La estructura de taninos es firme, intensa, rodeada de una acidez jugosa, llena de...ón. Apenas unas 5.400 botellas se llenaron de este vino en 2016. Búsquenlas.



James Suckling

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2016 - Lot # 81 94 Pts

This is a very recognizable cabernet with lots of fresh herbs, eucalyptus, garrigue, blackberry leaf, blackcurrant compote, cedar, tobacco and vanilla. Full body, juicy and round tannins and a round finish. Drink in 2023.



Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2016 - Lot # 81 93 Pts

The same as with other 2016s, the 2016 San Juan de Pirque Vineyard feels fresher than the 2015. That seems to be a pattern here. The 2015 has a more developed nose, but I like this very much; it's a little more austere. It shows great typicity and balance. 5,055 bottles produced from a blend of 11 barrels of Cabernet Sauvignon and one barrel of Cabernet Franc.

Tim Atkin MW

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2016 - Lot # 81 93 Pts

A rare excursion into the Maipo Valley from Derek Mossman Knapp, most of whose wines come from Maule, this is a floral, grassy cuvée of Cabernet Sauvignon with 5% Cabernet Franc. Smooth, supple and polished, with chalky minerality, plum and cassis fruit and subtle, understated wood. 2021-28



Vinous

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2016 - Lot # 81 92 Pts

A Cabernet Sauvignon from Pirque, Maipo Alto, aged for two years in used French barrels. Maroon in color, the nose contains blackcurrant and mint with a hint of pepper. An expressive wine of good volume, the tannins are muscular with just the right amount of juicy freshness. A classical wine harvested at just the time, as Derek Mossman, the owner, says, it has: "The kind of charisma people tell stories about."



Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2015 - Lot # 71 95 Pts

Los cabernet de Pirque, por alguna razón que aún no se sabe del todo, tienden a ser mucho menos mentolados que otros ejemplos del Alto Maipo, notablemente Puente Alto y Macul. También hay un acento en la fruta roja, y las texturas son suaves. Son cabernet más directos, más expresivos de su variedad. Este es un ejemplo de eso. Algo como 2.500 botellas, este vino viene de la zona de San Juan de Pirque, y pasa 2 inviernos en barricas usadas (de tercer y cuarto uso) y es puro en sus frutas rojas, amable; de acidez delineada, refrescante. Inevitable pensar en abrirlo ahora con algún guiso bien especiado de carne, pero también habría que ver la posibilidad de abrirlo en 2 o 3 años, quizás más.



Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2015 - Lot # 71 91 Pts

The 2015 is very spicy, faintly herbal and a little more mainstream than the majority of wines from the Garage Wine Co. It's characterful and representative of the zone and variety and has a gentle, soft palate with integrated acidity and a soft texture.

James Suckling

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2014 - Lot # 61 94 Pts

Gorgeous aromas of black currant, blueberry and spice. Full body, linear and very pretty with a berry and floral undertone. Firm and silky tannins. Delicious finish. Drink or hold.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 230

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2014 - Lot # 61 91 Pts

The 2014 San Juan de Pirque Vineyard is a blend of 14 barrels of Cabernet Sauvignon and one single barrel of Cabernet Franc from their Pirque vineyard in Maipo at 946 meters altitude. It follows the general approach here and was naturally fermented with native yeasts in open top fermenters with the caps punched down by hand. It aged in third use barrels over two winters. It has some sweet sensations in the nose, a little lactic hint, with herbs and spices, very Maipo, with the stones but without the mint. 4,477 bottles were filled in November 2015. Drink 2017-2027 Luis Gutierrez

Tim Atkin MW

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2013 - Lot # 51 93 Pts

Garage is generally associated with the Secano Interior, but makes some of its best wines with Maipo grapes. This is a cuvée of Cabernet Sauvignon with 3% Cabernet Franc, grown at a comparatively elevated 942 metres, and it's grassy, refreshing and refined with highly polished tannins. 2018-25

Wine Enthusiast

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2013 - Lot # 51 92 Pts

This small-lot Cab (350 cases) is classically Chilean at all check points. The nose is spicy and full of cassis and berry flavors along with tobacco, olive and mild eucalyptus notes. A bright, lively palate is bolstered by acidity, while plum and red-berry flavors are oaky, spicy and peppery, with a toasty, slightly rooty finish. Drink through 2020. Michael Schachner — (3/1/2015)

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2013 - Lot # 51 93 Pts

Fresco, vivo, lleno de frutas rojas, aromas terrosos, vivos y frescos. Un vino de tensión y frescor.

Wine Advocate – Robert Parker #222

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2013 - Lot # 51 92 Pts

The 2013 Lot #51 Cabernet Sauvignon is blended with a little Cabernet Franc (15 to 16 barrels of Cabernet Sauvignon and one of Cabernet Franc), and is sourced from the San Juan de Pirque Vineyard. Most of the wines ferment in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts (some small lots

are done in plastic bins) and then age in used barrels. There is good herbal freshness, ripe berries, earth, iron and a touch of blood. The tannins are very fine and there is a nice thread of acidity, with good balance. This vineyard is the second terrace of the Maipo river, with the classical rolling stones of Puente Alto, at almost 1,000 meters altitude. The bottles now show a round stamp saying 'Mountain Grown'. The 2009 tasted together with this shows classical notes of bottle evolution, layered with developed notes of cigar box, tobacco and graphite. Classical Chilean Cabernet. 5,000 bottles produced. Drink 2015 – 2021 Luis Gutierrez

Decanter – Peter Richards

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2013 - Lot # 51 17,5 Pts

Herbal notes tea leaf and minerals graphite notes complement the dark berry fruit. Elegant, linear and lifted to the finish. Drink 2015 - 2023

James Suckling

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2012 - Lot # 44 92 Pts

Very pretty core of fruit here with blueberry, floral and stone character. Full body, fine tannins and a fresh finish. Fresh and clean. Drink now

Wine Advocate – Robert Parker #213

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2012 - Lot # 44 91 Pts

The 2012 Lot #44 Cabernet Sauvignon from Alto Maipo shows ripe aromas of wild berries, notes of tobacco leaf and some cracked peppercorns. The palate is medium-bodied with the signature fresh acidity I find as a constant in the Garage Wine Co. bottlings, and very fine, polished and refined tannins. This is serious, fresh Cabernet from Maipo. Around 4,000 bottles were produced. Drink now-2019

Descorchados – Patricio Tapia

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2011 - Lot # 37 91 Pts

De las 14 barricas que se produjeron de este vino dos de ellas son de Cabernet Franc y el resto es cab Sauvignon, todo viene de la zona más arriba de San Juan de Pirque. Fermentado con levaduras nativas y con cero madera nueva, esto es un vino que se siente puro y frutal, como un jugo de cerezas negras condimentado con hierba, una deliciosa sensación para un vino cristalino.

Steve Tanzer's Int. Wine Cellar

San Juan de Pirque Vineyard - Maipo Valley Cab Sauvignon 2011 - Lot # 37 92 Pts

Vivid ruby. Sexy, highly perfumed bouquet of fresh red berries, cherry pit, potpourri and mocha, with hints of black pepper and anise adding complexity. Spicy and expansive in the mouth, offering lively cherry and raspberry flavors and intense floral character. Silky tannins add grip and shape to the long, sappy finish. This wine received no new oak. Josh Reynolds

Anecdotal narrative

Story about San Juan de Pirque Vineyard

Before 2010 premium wine in Chile was thought to be Cabernet from the Maipo, and be made with great concentration, heavy extraction, new barrels—and (matter of opinion but) for us very ripe fruit. We had other ideas. Perhaps more importantly was what we did not have. We did not have money for barrels, we had no lesser wines to put any juice we might bleed to concentrate, and we were punching down manually as we had no pump to extract with.... ... seeking better acidity we worked our way up from Pirque to higher into the Maipo Valley and found that mountain-grown fruit was much more to our liking, our style and initially at least our budget. Our Cabernet stood out.

Sadly, today this area is being developed into very expensive weekend homes. We have twice changed blocks of fruit when land was sold for development. 2017 is our last vintage of pure San Juan fruit. Not to worry 2019-20 & 21 have had us very busy getting to know a new vineyard that will surely delight our Maipo regulars!