Sauzal Vineyard

D.O. Empedrado, Maule Valley

Carignan / Garnacha / Mataro

2017

Lot #85

> "A compact universe of earth spice & perfume"

Descorchados 93 PUNTOS

- Alcohol: 13 % vol
- pH: 3,32
- Acidity: 6,38 g/l
- Residual sugar: 1,94 g/l

- 2 793 bottles filled
- 10 barrels

In a nutshell: how is 2o17 vintage different?

- It was hot
- It is concentrated
- Perhaps less herbs and opulence more pure fruit with a blood orange note

What you need to know

The Vineyard & Farming

- undocumented old (It was very old and gnarly when Nivaldo was a child, and NIvaldo is now old so…
- 2 hectares
- old bush-head vines
- 1,2 kg per plant / 2,5oo - kgs per hectare
- On Coastal Range of mountains (much older than Andes and slower to cool) full of crystals and decomposed granite
- Cuarcic silty sandy granitic soils / subsoils

- Combination of original methods of cultivating the old vines ie. Farmed by hand and horse, accompanied by the lens, analysis and

scientific ideas of Prof Alvaro Peña [Garage partner] and in-house PhD in Viticulture.
- Uncertified organic
- Pruned with the moon cycles, but not to a modern bio-dynamic calendar, but rather with local custom.

Winemaking:

- Ancestral farming by hand and horse
- Naturally fermented with native yeasts
- Open top fermenters. Caps were punched down by hand. Pressing manual.
- Small portion was made with whole stems stomped with clean feet—this part was more tannic and with higher VA and complemented the rest of the barrels.
- Aged in barrels over two winters— barrels third use or more.
- Yeasts native (we add Sauzal wine from previous vintage to a pie de cuba)
- No temp control (besides opening closing windows) open tank, no nada
- Pinch of sulfites after Malolactic that normally finishes a full 7 months after harvest with next summer´s heat

Elevage: Aged in barrels over two winters— barrels third use or more.

Various cooperages (Sylvain, Berger, Nadalie – Alliers Noisette toast, and some Burgundy barrels

Appellation: D.O. Empedrado Maule Valley

Varietal: Garnacha / Cariñena / 11% Mataró

Color: Purpuro profundo

Personality: Broad shouldered, well-braced. Perfumed and earthy.

How many lots? Just one each year

Previous Bottlings
Sauzal Vineyard Lot 75 – 2016
Sauzal Vineyard Lot 65 – 2015
Sauzal Vineyard Lot 55 – 2014
Sauzal Vineyard Lot 45 – 2013
. . .

Ageability: 2017 is a brilliant vintage with more Garnacha in the blend than ever before. It is rather well braced and will age 10-15 years, but we like to think the wine is more approachable young with proper decanting than previous vintages.

Best drinking	House: 2020-2035 TA: 2023 - 2030

House note

Tantalizing aromas of blueberries, violets, orange peel, raspberry leaf and aniseed with a touch of aromatic herbs that provide freshness. The palate is electric, with pulsing acidity, ultra-fine tannins and very good length. Both rustic and elegant, wild and subtle. It has precision, elegance, balance and life. Shows no alcohol nor wood. A fresh, Mediterranean blend from a vineyard that was forgotten, revived, regenertaed and today shows what the Maule is capable of.

Hashtag

#gwcosauzalvineyard

Scan me!

Critics Notes

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2017 - Lot # 85 **93 Pts**

Notes on Previous Vintages from this parcel

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2016 - Lot # 75 **95 Pts**

As with other wines where I had the chance to taste the 2015 and 2016 versions side by side, the 2016 Sauzal Vineyard is more elegant and has more finesse and a nice texture, and even if the tannins are there, the quality is amazing. 2016 was not an easy year; it was challenging, but they picked these grapes two days before the rain. It's very fresh, and analytically, it has a lot of acidity. This is just great. 1,901 bottles were filled in November 2017. It's lot #75. – Luis Gutierrez

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2015 - Lot # 65 **95 Pts**

Sauzal Vineyard Lot 65 Carignan, Garnacha, Mataró 2015 De un viejo viñedo de carignan en la zona de Sauzal, en donde también había país que se ha injertado con garnacha y monastrell o mataró, este es una verdadera mezcla mediterránea y funciona como tal. Llena de notas florales, a frutas negras intensas, y una acidez que marca los contornos de la lengua y una profundidad deliciosa. Es un vino tremendo en porte, pero a la vez tremendo en frescor. Déjenlo en la cava por unos 2 a 3 años, cuando menos.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2015 - Lot # 65 **93+ Pts**

A field blend of Carignan, Garnacha and Mataró, the 2015 Sauzal Vineyard is produced with grapes from the vineyard of Nivaldo Morales in the village of Sauzal. It's an expressive, powerful, very Mediterranean vintage for this wine. This has quite a lot of other grapes, but the imprint of the Cariñena seems to be quite strong. This lot #65 was put into 1,908 bottles in November 2016.

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2014 - Lot # 55 **95 Pts**

De aromas un tanto más maduros y algunos leves torrados. La boca es recia y jugosísima, ideal para esos cerdos cocidos a la llama por horas y horas.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 23o

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2014 - Lot # 55 **93 Pts**

The 2014 Sauzal Vineyard is also a field blend of Carignan, Garnacha and Mataró (Monastrell) from the vineyard of Nivaldo Morales in Sauzal on degraded granite soils that allow roots to get deep into cracks. Tannins in 2015 were a little bit firmer than normal and the wines in general a little denser. Nivaldo cultivates his vineyards in an ancestral way, by hand and horse. A small portion of the grapes were kept with whole stems and stomped by feet and resulted in more tannic and slightly higher volatile acidity that complemented the rest of the barrels. It's more powerful, with flowers, spices and something earthy, resinous even. The palate is medium to full-bodied with balance in a slightly XL way, lifted by great acidity. 1,694 bottles were produced from three barrels of Carignan, two of Garnacha and one of Mataró. It was bottled in November 2015. Drink 2017–2027 - Luis Gutierrez

James Suckling

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2014 - Lot # 55 **93 Pts**

Soulful red with juicy and earth with meat and berry. Full body and beautiful. Long and flavorful. Juicy and intense.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate #222

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2013 - Lot # 45 **94 Pts**

I visited an amazing vineyard from a grower called Nivaldo Morales with Derek Mossman, an old vineyard planted mostly with País and some Carignan, and some País vines were regrafted to Garnacha, Mataró (Monastrell) and Garnacha (Grenache). The 2013 Lot #45 Carignan Garnacha Mataró Field Blend is sourced from that Sauzal vineyard in the Maule Valley. A very similar wine is also sold in the United Kingdom as The Ploughmen. The nose is fresh and has tantalizing aromas of blueberries, violets, orange peel, raspberry leaf and aniseed with a touch of aromatic herbs that provide freshness. The palate is electric, with citric acidity, ultra-fine tannins and very good length. This is both rustic and elegant, wild and subtle. None of these wines show any alcohol or wood. This is a superb, fresh, Mediterranean blend that shows what the Maule is capable of. Bravo! Around 2,500 bottles were produced. Drink 2015 – 2021 Luis Gutierrez

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Sauzal Vineyard - Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2013 - Lot # 45 **93 Pts**

Dominado por una acidez deliciosa, este tinto se mueve con nervio por la boca, como su tuviera su propia luz. Delicioso.

Anecdotal narrative

Story of Sauzal Vineyard :

The face of our grower Nivaldo Morales is well known in the wine world today but a decade ago no one recognised.
We met Nivaldo in 2010 after the earthquake in 2010 we developed a boot strapping programme to get small farmers back on their feet by making fine wine from their unrecognised / un_____ Carignan.

has been a tremendous partner grower over the years.

Special bottling for Bibendum made with en primeur funding provided by Bibendum ethical trading fund

- Part of a boot strapping programme developed by GWCo after the quake in 2010
- Grower / partner Nivaldo Morales