



**Las Higueras Vineyard
D.O. Maule Valley
Cabernet Franc
2017**

Lot #92

Wonderful herbal aromas and a leafy, spicy personality, very fine tannins and good freshness. Elegance with complexity.

15 barrels Cab Franc
5264 bottles filled in Dic 2018

Total Acid 5,6 g/l
pH: 3,49
Residual Sugar: 2,09 g/l
Alcohol: 12,8 % vol

The Vineyard:

- 116 yrs old
- old-bush head vines (see story)
- Alluvial soils, round stones at 40-50 cm
- 3rd alluvial terrace of above the Achibueno River
- 1,2 kg per plant / < 3,500 kgs per hectare

Elaboration:

- Naturally fermented with native yeasts
- Conical oval shaped lagar fermenter (open tank)
- Caps punched down by hand
- Lignified stems re-introduced after crush 15%+
- No temp control (besides opening closing windows)
- Pinch of sulfites after malolactic that finishes before winter begins (normally)

Crianza:

- Aged in barrels over two winters— barrels for this wine come from Almaviva after two uses: Sylvain, Berger & Fils, Nadalie, Seguin Moreau.

In a Nutshell

- Mountain grown in the Maipo in Pirque aprox 600 mts
- Vineyard planted in the 1980's

The Vintage

- In a retrospective tasting of various vintages lately 2015 came to be called the year of the grip in the Maule wines but here from Maipo it is more restrained. It was warmer than most years but healthy and dry.
- **Denominación de Origen:** Pirque - Maipo Valley (Maipo Alto / Maipo Andes)
- **Tipo:** "Elegant blue-fruited gent with muscles inside a well-cut jacket."
- **Variety:** *Pure Cabernet Franc*
- **Vineyard Characteristics:**
- Aprox 1 Hectare / Alluvial soils with classic round stones 40-90 cm deep.
- An ancient riverbed flows beneath this vineyard. Rio Clarillo once had two tributaries that have since dried up. Soil studies with Pedro Parra revealed the river's path and this cuartel from the bending section of the old river as especially interesting. Altitude 600 mts+ allows a freshness that works very well with this variety when it is extracted gently allowing elegant and distinct flavour profile of blue fruits.

¿How many lots of this wine?

Just one each year.

Previous Las Higueras Vineyard bottlings:

- Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 82 – 2016
- Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 72 – 2015
- Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 62 – 2014
- Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 52 – 2013

Yes this is the 92nd Lot of wine we have bottled since 2001.

Tasting Notes

House note:

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2017 - Lot # 92

Rare bush-head vine Cabernet Franc, shows classic notes of graphite, cut grass (tomato leaf) backed up by fine, well integrated tannins and proper supporting acidity. Lighter colour with surprising density and intensity. Atypical new-world Cab Franc: balanced and expressive with 12,9 % alc. This is the difference farming makes.

Ageability

2013 is drinking well and could be stored 4-5 years more

2017 vintage will age 10 years gracefully, but the wine is approachable today

Best drinking

2020-2028

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 247

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2017 - Lot # 92 – 94 Pts

The 2017 Las Higueras Vineyard is a Cabernet Franc from Maule and, therefore, is quite different in style from the one from Pirque in Maipo, with less herbal and mint notes and more of a fruit-forward, peachy personality, perhaps aided by the warmer year. In any case, they changed the farming of this vineyard as they took over, starting with the pruning and training of the vines, making them look more like the bush vines and letting them grow above the first wire, which lent more shade to the fruit and seemed to result in a slower maturation of the grapes and less alcohol (this is only 12.9%!). They also sold some fruit from this vineyard to other wineries, so in the future, we might get to taste different interpretations of this very same vineyard. They also started working with cover crops and removed the synthetic fertilizers and other stuff, even abandoning irrigation and going back to cultivating it the old way with the aid of vigneron from Sauzal and Puico. They say they really noticed a big difference now that have been working it for three years. The plants are now 116 years old. With time in the glass the wine develops a very specific note of merken, a Chilean paprika-like blend of spices. 5,264 bottles were filled in January 2019.

Vinous Mar 2020 Joaquin Hidalgo

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2017 - Lot # 92 – 91 Pts

Cabernet Franc from Las Higueras, Maule, aged for two years. The intense nose contains blackberry and maraschino cherries with bell pepper, herbs and a hint of tobacco. A rough texture combines with firm tannins that get very juicy when woken up by the moderate acidity and a long finish of woody notes. A serious wine.

Notes on Previous Vintages from this parcel

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2016 - Lot # 82 – 93 Pts

The 2016 Las Higueras Vineyard bottling (Lot #82) is from a place close to Linares that they now manage entirely (and sell some fruit to others) and has some herbal aromas and a leafy, spicy personality. It has very fine tannins and good freshness. It's elegant, with some complexity. Some 4,000 bottles produced from 13 barrels. It was bottled in December 2017.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2014 - Lot # 72 – 92 Pts

As with many of their bottlings, I was able to compare the 2015 Las Higueras Vineyard with the 2016, and this was darker, more concentrated and powerful. It feels quite ripe and not that varietal. The palate is medium to full-bodied, with abundant, slightly dusty tannins. 3,764 bottles were filled in December 2016.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 230

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2014 - Lot # 62 – 93+ Pts

I also got to taste the 2014 Las Higueras Vineyard bottling (marked lot #62). This vineyard in the Caliboro zone of Maule has provided a very balanced and expressive Cabernet Franc, with complexity and nuances, fine tannins and good freshness. 3,642 bottles produced. It was bottled in December 2015, having spent two winters in barrel.

James Suckling .com May 25th 2017

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2014 - Lot # 62 – 93 Pts

This is a solid cabernet franc with beautiful density and intense. Wonderfully structured with firm and velvety tannins and a flavorful finish. Needs a year or two of bottle age.

Tim Atkin MW

Las Higueras Vineyard Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2013 - Lot # 52 – 93 Pts

New to Derek Mossman's extensive range of goodies in 2013, this is a rather unusual bush vine Cabernet Franc, showing classic notes of graphite and cut grass backed up by sinewy, well integrated tannins and supporting acidity. An impressive début. **Drink 2018-24**

Maule Valley

Las Higueras Vineyard

35°50'58.1"S 71°39'49.6"W

165 metres ASL

