



Bodegas Weinert

Mature, yet Wild. Argentine Wine with European Soul.

Founded in 1975 by Bernardo Weinert, a Brazilian businessman of German origin, Cavas de Weinert has gone on to become one of highest-acclaimed wineries in Argentina.

His red wines are noticeable for being aged 2-5 years, and sometimes longer, in old foudres in a deep, cool, granite cellar. Over time the brash fruit softens, mellows and develops the tertiary aromas of leather, tobacco and cedar. These wines have a certain similarity to other long-aged wines like traditional Rioja and Lebanon's Château Musar.

After exhaustive research and study, Bernardo chose to establish his estate at Lujan de Cuyo, one of the areas best known for top-quality wines in Argentina's famous Mendoza province. The climate is ideal for viticulture, with low levels of frost, hail and wind, plenty of sunshine, and a good water supply both from the surrounding rivers and from melting snow high up in the Andes mountains.

There are 40 hectares of vines in total, which lie at over 850 meters above sea level. The mineral-rich soils here - a mixture of alluvial rock and sand - are particularly suited to the French varieties Bernardo chose to plant between 1986 and 1992. These consist of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and of course there is plenty of Malbec, the grape most associated with Argentine wines.

Today, much of the success of the wines is due to winemaker Hubert Weber. He is Swiss, with a Germanic sense of order and an Italian passion for wine. After the grapes have been harvested by hand, fermentation takes place in temperature-controlled cement tanks, and the wines are then aged in French oak foudres (large oak barrels) in Weinert's underground cellars, which benefit from ideal levels of humidity and temperature.

Part of the style of Weinert's red wines is a mature, sometimes slightly more or less animally character. Part of this comes from a yeast called *brettanomyces*. In small concentrations it adds an interesting and appealing 'farmyard' character. This yeast character is carefully controlled by Hubert to be present but not dominant.

