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10 Wines To Watch From South America Now



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I write about the people, business and politics of the wine industry.

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2013 Dominio del Plata “BenMarco Expresivo” (Argentina). This blend of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon is aromatically lush (violet, mint, lavender), complemented by a palate of blueberry and black currants, and held together by firm but not overpowering tannins.

2011 VIK Red Blend (Chile). Blended from 54 different lots, this very complex wine lingers long on the palate. Earthy notes of tobacco and savory herbs are counterbalanced by rich and lively fruit notes of dark plums and ripe black cherry.

2012 Luca Malbec (Argentina). Aging in 70% used oak barrels offers a more restrained treatment than some of its counterparts, and lets the red fruits show through. Hints of strawberry and red currants are integrated plush notes of chocolate and leather on the finish.

2011 Alto de la Ballena (Uruguay). This Tannat-Viognier blend is an unexpected and surprisingly appealing match of opposites: Tannat’s wild and rough tannins together with Viognier’s pretty and elegant fragrance somehow characterize the risks the new winemakers of Uruguay are willing to take, and their pay-offs.

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