



PARTY ON!

What kind of wine would you serve with a birthday cake? At Viña Cousiño-Macul the choice is obvious, 2002 Antiguas Reservas Cabernet Sauvignon. This year, the Cousiño family is celebrating the 75th vintage of its legendary Antiguas Reservas, the 2002.

In 1927 Arturo Cousiño, grandfather of the current Cousiño generation, created the first Antiguas Reservas by selecting the finest Cabernet Sauvignon from the vintage and setting it aside for special aging. His purpose was to have wines at their peak to enjoy with friends and family and to showcase the finest Chilean wine to the consumer. Over its long history, Cousiño-Macul has maintained its traditional style of elegance, balance and finesse that are hallmarks of Antiguas Reservas.

In the 1970s when Chile's wine producers began developing international markets, Antiguas Reservas was among the pioneering names creating a demand for fine Chilean wine. After encountering the early vintages of Antiguas Reservas Cabernet Sauvignon, noted British wine critic Hugh Johnson dubbed Cousiño-Macul the "first growth of Chile."

LIFE BEGINS AT 75

Now that the golden years of Antiguas Reservas are under way, the 75th vintage marks a new beginning for this wine. The grapes for the 2002 were harvested from the now mature vines of Cousiño-Macul's Buin Estate vineyard. But while the location is new, the Cabernet vines at Buin are descendants of the vines used to make the first Antiguas Reservas. By massal selection, Cousiño-Macul has propagated vines from their Macul Estate which are now happily thriving at Buin.

The bucolic Buin Estate is 20 miles south of Santiago. With its rolling hills and the ever-present Andes as backdrop, this is the choicest area within the Alto-Maipo sub-region of the Maipo Valley. This unique region enjoys a well-deserved reputation for classic Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet Sauvignon from this region develops deep ruby-magenta colour and displays a distinct Maipo character. Critics describe Maipo Cabernet Sauvignon as amiable and complex. The aromas are a mélange of ripe black fruits--blackberry, black cherry black currants-- and spice-laden fragrances. With subtle but firming tannins, the Cabernets are known to age long and well.

The 2002 Antiguas Reservas was crafted at Cousiño's new, technologically advanced winery in Buin. The style of this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon combines New World richness with Old World elegance and finesse. After extensive research, the winery now uses only small French oak barrels which impart a subtle note of oak while allowing the distinctive terroir to shine through.

"It is a bit unusual to celebrate the birthday of a wine, "explained Arturo Cousiño, President of Cousiño-Macul. "But my family is proud to have produced such a special wine for three-quarters of a century."

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