

MORANDÉ

Premium Wines - Chile



Pablo Morandé

Founded: 1996

Winemaker: Pablo Morandé

Viticulturist: Diego Correa

Acres owned: 753

Annual production: 500.000 cases

Estate grown: 60%

Owner: Empresas Juan Yarur

Kwon for: Refreshing white Casablanca and profound cabernet from Maipo

Importer: Morandé USA, Atlanta, GA

Website: morande.cl



A project that started as a restaurant financed by a group of friends ended up becoming one of Chile's leading wineries. Viña Morandé is headed up by winemaker Pablo Morandé, one of the most respected men in Chilean wine, responsible for planting the first vineyard in the Casablanca Valley and the "father" of Don Melchor, the top cabernet from Concha y Toro, where he worked until 1996.

The restaurant became a winery and the pair of wines Morandé originally planned to make became a wide-ranging portfolio of varietals, reserva, gran reserva, experimental efforts and esoteric bottlings of portugais bleu and cinsault. The sheer number of individual wines got out of hand and the group of friends decided the firm would need to be restructured; in 2000, they sold it to Chile's family-run Yarur Group.

Pablo Morandé continues at the helm as technical director, while the new owners have helped to focus the portfolio.

They've also provided capital for extensive new vineyards projects such as Belén, in Lo Ovalle, where Morandé has planted 321 acres in one of the coolest sectors of Casablanca Valley-mainly to aromatic whites and pinot noir. Further inland, the Romeral Vineyard, on the banks of the Maipo River, 123 acres of Bordeaux varieties.

While these new vineyards mature, Morandé continues to source its top fruit from Casablanca and Maipo. Pablo Morandé has consistently grown some of the best sauvignon blanc in Chile at El Ensueño, where he has experimented with several clones of variety. He blended fruit from selected clones for the

2007 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc, a fresh, crystalline and intensely fruity wine that was one of the most outstanding Chilean whites we tasted this year. The Chena Vineyard in Maipo produced the 2005 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon. It was a warm year in Chile, and the wine is filled with exuberant fruit while maintaining distinctive herbal aromas. This is one of the most outstanding cabernet of the vintage.



TOP - SCORING WINES

92 '07 Casablanca Valley Reserva Sauvignon Blanc \$12 (6/08)

92 '05 Maipo Valley Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon \$17 (2/08)

90 '07 Casablanca Valley Reserva Gewürztraminer \$12 (6/08)