

Vinos Baettig among the best from South America by Luis Gutierrez – Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate

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“The Baettig wines are a noteworthy addition to Chile’s top wines. I’m sure these are wines that people will be talking about soon”.

The report just released focused on a few iconic wines from Argentina and Chile, often from French-owned properties, offered through the Bordeaux trade in September.

Luis Gutierrez also tasted the first set of wines from the personal project of Francisco “Pancho” Baettig.

The Baettigs

Baettig planted some vineyards in the south of Chile some years ago, and his first wines are hitting the market now. The Baettigs are a Swiss family that arrived in Chile at the end of the 19th century and settled in Malleco.

Francisco “Pancho” Baettig

Francisco joined forces with his friend, Carlos de Carlos and together they planted a vineyard in 2013 that they call Los Suizos (the Swiss), making a reference to the origin of their families. Their families had arrived in Traiguén and Purén and worked in agriculture in a region of volcanoes, lakes, forests and abundant rain. Their families grew up surrounded by cows, wagons, horses and wheat fields. Their passion for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, together with their love for the land of their ancestors, was the inspiration for making their own wine in those terroirs. They have nine hectares of Pinot Noir and 6.4 hectares of Chardonnay. They fermented their first wines in 2017, but the 2018s and 2019s are being released now, while the 2017s will be sold later.



Los Suizos vineyard in Traiguén in Malleco

The wines are produced in an artisanal and manual way—hand harvesting, native fermentations, soft extraction and judicious use of oak and sulfur are all destined to achieve the expression of the place rather than the hand of the winemaker.

The Baëttig wines are not sold through the Bordeaux négoce, but they are a noteworthy addition to Chile's top wines; thus, I took this opportunity to introduce them to our readers. I'm sure these are wines that people will be talking about soon.



Scores:

95 pts 2018 Baëttig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay
94 pts 2018 Baëttig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Pinot Noir



Wines description:

2018 Baettig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay – 95 pts RP

The 2018 Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay was cropped from a cooler year that resulted in a slow ripening of the grapes and a late harvest (mid April) of very healthy grapes, thanks to the cold and windy weather during the end of the cycle. It's lower in alcohol than the 2017 and keeps equally high and healthy acidity. The vinification was similar to the 2017, fermenting the juice from pressing the full clusters in French barrels and a shorter élevage of 12 months in 400-liter oak barrels. This is a cooler vintage, and the wine feels a lot more austere and undeveloped; it was a year of slow ripening of the grapes, and the wine is also moving at a very slow pace. There are some flinty sensations with a note of gun powder. It has more finesse and tension, more detail and complexity but in a subtle way. The palate is vibrant and very precise, with symmetry and more austerity and a marked salty note on the finish that makes it very tasty. This has superb balance and should develop nicely in bottle. 1,512 bottles were filled in April 2019.



2018 Baettig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Pinot Noir – 94 pts RP

The 2018 Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Pinot Noir is the second commercial vintage of the selected Pinot Noir. It's from a later-ripening year and a later harvest that delivered a wine with slightly lower alcohol and integrated acidity. Fermentation was similar to the 2017, native with 18% full clusters, and the élevage was slightly shorter—15 months in French barrels, 42% of them new 300-liter ones. The nose is a little more austere than the 2017, but the main difference is on the palate, where it's vibrant and vertical, with very good freshness. The nose is also a little more austere and nuanced, denoting a better year that has delivered wines with more depth. This opens up nicely in the glass, unfurling more detail and nuance, and it is floral and with notes of pomegranate and blue fruit. 2,124 bottles were filled in August 2019.