

Vinos Baettig consolidates its position as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir top quality producer from Chile

by Luis Gutierrez – Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate

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“Baettig Los Primos Chardonnay 2019 is super austere, has good depth, pungent flavors and some nutty, wax and acacia notes, not exuberant or explosive, but elegant and with density, which gives it more depth and layers. This is superb, very complete.

In Baettig Los Primos Pinot Noir 2019, I love its elegant and complex nose that goes beyond the fruit and flowers, and it has nuance and detail, notes of iron and iodine and soy sauce à la Romanée-St-Vivant”.

Swiss in the South

The focus is on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, as Francisco Baettig loves Burgundy, and the varieties seem to adapt quite well to this cooler part of the country. The project has been a breakthrough for the Traiguén zone of Malleco, where they planted their vineyards in 2013, not only because they have started producing some really interesting wines but also because they have made some of their grapes available to some other leading producers from Chile.

They started small and slow and increased production, selling fewer grapes and making a little more wine every year. They produced 55,000 bottles in 2021, and the absolute maximum will be 90,000 bottles, which is the potential of their Los Suizos (the Swiss) vineyard.



Ratings:

96 pts	2019 Baettig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay
95 pts	2019 Baettig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Pinot Noir
93 pts	2020 Baettig Vino de Viñedos Los Parientes Chardonnay
92 pts	2020 Baettig Vino de Viñedos Los Parientes Pinot Noir

Wine reviews:

2019 Baëttig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay – 96 pts RP

Baëttig selected the El Triángulo and Llama Largo plots to produce the 2019 Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Chardonnay because they deliver more vertical, mineral and tense wine to achieve finesse and complexity. The first experimental vinification was 2016, and 2019 was a year with a cold spring and a warm summer that resulted in wines that combine power, freshness and intensity, with more alcohol (13.5%), acidity (9.8 grams in tartaric!!) and freshness (pH 3.08) than previous years. The whole clusters were pressed, and the juice was put in French barrels to ferment with indigenous yeasts. It matured for 16 months in 400-liter oak barrels, 38% of them new. This is super austere, shy and closed, with subtle complexity, not very varietal, more about the soils and the cooler place. 2019 was not a large crop, and the wines have good concentration, a good year in the south. It has good depth, pungent flavors and some nutty, wax and acacia notes, not exuberant or explosive, but elegant and with density and more weight than the 2018, which gives it more depth and layers. This is superb, very complete. 2,900 bottles were filled in September 2020.



2019 Baëttig Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Pinot Noir – 95 pts RP

The 2019 Selección de Parcelas Los Primos Pinot Noir was produced in search of finesse and complexity with grapes from the El Primo, Chuir and Las Cuñadas plots of the vineyard in Traiguén. The grapes were picked in early April as a result of a warm and dry year (all relative in the cooler and rainier south), and they fermented with 15% full clusters and indigenous yeasts (like all of the wines here) and matured in French oak barrels, 21% of them new 300-liter ones, for 15 months. It's only 13% alcohol and retained 6.75 grams of acidity (tartaric) with a pH of 3.37 (quite low). I love the elegant and complex nose that goes beyond the fruit and flowers, and it has nuance and detail, notes of iron and iodine and soy sauce à la Romanée-St-Vivant. This is more discreet and shy than Los Parientes, more austere and elegant. The palate is superb, ethereal with super fine tannins and vibrant acidity. There is great purity, and it's super clean and precise. 3,456 bottles were filled in July 2020.

2020 Baëttig Vino de Viñedo Los Parientes Chardonnay – 93 pts RP

The entry-level white is the 2020 Vino de Viñedo Los Parientes Chardonnay, produced with dry-farmed grapes from the Los Suizos vineyard in Traiguén first produced in 2019. 2020 was extremely warm and dry in most of winemaking Chile, but in Traiguén, it was moderately warm and "only" rained 815 liters, delivering a good crop of very healthy grapes that were picked early. The wine is low in alcohol (13%) and has a pH of 3.1 and 6.63 grams of acidity (measured in tartaric acid) and was produced fermenting the juice of the full clusters in barrel (10% new), where the wine matured for 10 months. This is subtle, elegant and varietal, with purity and in the house style of balance and harmony. The wine is clean and precise, with floral and citrus notes, transparent, with unnoticeable oak and great freshness. 15,420 bottles produced. It was bottled in January 2021.



2020 Baëttig Vino de Viñedo Los Parientes Pinot Noir – 92 pts RP

The extremely young red 2020 Vino de Viñedo Los Parientes Pinot Noir comes from a very warm and dry year in central Chile, but more normal in the south, but even then, the grapes were picked between March 20th and 30th (before the Chardonnay), quite early. There are nine hectares of Pinot Noir that are dry farmed and without herbicides in a zone of Mediterranean climate with average rain of more than 1,000 liters; in a drier year they might get 800 liters instead... This fermented with some 8% full clusters and matured in French oak barrels, 10% new and 300-liter, for 10 months. It's quite complex, with notes of rose hip and red berries and a hint of blood and iron. It has a soft palate with some earthy tannins, juicy acidity and some spiciness. 15,180 bottles produced. It was bottled in January 2021.