

ARGENTINE WINERY SHARES THE RESULTS OF ITS RESEARCH IN CALIFORNIA

The study involves a comparative analysis of Malbec selections from Argentina vs Malbec selections from France. Catena Zapata has been working on a formal basis with UC Davis since 2007.

Last week, the Catena Institute of Wine announced several research results at UC Davis in California. "Basically, we shared the results of a comparative study of Malbec selections from Argentina (from Catena's collection) that had been sent to UC Davis in 2007 vs Malbec selections from France (Cot)".

"Laura Catena joined the family business in 1995. Her first project consisted of selecting the best Malbec plants from Catena's old Angelica Vineyard, utilizing her background as a biologist. This initial research study led to today's milestone - the Catena Institute of Wine", explains Fernando Buscema, Executive Director of the Catena Institute of Wine.

The CIW has been conducting research for 20 years now. In fact, Buscema points out, the winery owns the biggest Malbec collection in the world. "We have called this collection the Catena Malbec Selections. In 2007, after several years of study, we chose 5 Malbec selections and sent them to UC Davis to continue this study and to have them certified as virus-free plant material. This was the beginning of our formal collaboration with this prestigious American university" concludes Buscema.

The one-day program started with a vineyard tour at UC Davis where participants could see the 5 Argentine Malbec selections that had been sent to Davis in 2007 and compare them with the French (Cot) selections.

Note: The study on soil microflora was carried out in partnership with the School of Agricultural Science of Cuyo National University.



Catena Zapata has been doing research for 20 years.

"At the conference, we met Doctor Andy Walker, a phylloxera and rootstock world expert, and discussed with him our studies on phylloxera from different regions in Argentina and the potential impact on grape production. Later on, we conducted a wine tasting of 5 experimental wines that were based on our project of rescuing certain grape varieties and studying new wine growing regions. We tasted a Bonarda wine from La Pampa, for instance, as well as a Criolla sample sourced from the Uco Valley", explained Buscema.

In the afternoon, Dr Roger Boulton, probably today's most respected wine scientist, showed us the facilities of UC Davis new experimental winery. This winery can produce wines in a totally monitored and reproducible way, guaranteeing that the characteristics of a certain wine reflects its true origin and are not the contribution of a certain winemaker.

"Finally, we shared the results of the largest single cultivar experiment ever done. To the participants surprise, the aforementioned study was a cross-continent Malbec study carried out between researchers from the Catena Institute of Wine and researchers from UC Davis, which consisted of comparing several Malbec vineyard lots from Mendoza with several Malbec vineyard lots from California. Through this study we were able to demonstrate that our Adrianna Vineyard can comprise not only one terroir but also a collection of terroirs", concluded Buscema.