2018 VINTAGE

WINEMAKER
Enrique Tirado.

VINEYARD

VINEYARD DESCRIPTION
Nestled at the foot of the Andes Mountains, the Don Melchor Vineyard is located along the north bank of the Maipo River, at an altitude of 650 m.a.s.l. It is composed of 127 hectares: 90% dedicated to Cabernet Sauvignon; 7.1% to Cabernet Franc, 1.9% to Merlot, and 1% to Petit Verdot. To date, the vineyard’s vines are over 30 years old on average.

PLANTATION YEAR AND DENSITY
Old vineyard (80%): 1979-1992, 2,000 to 4,000 plants/ha.
New vineyard (20%): 2004-2013, 8,000 plants/ha.

SOIL
The first 30 centimeters of soil is loam, followed by a large quantity of stones. This soil ensures good drainage and low fertility, helping restrict the growth of plant vegetation and favoring the natural concentration and maturity of the phenolic compounds.

CLIMATE
In general, the vineyards has a semi-arid Mediterranean climate, with average annual rainfall of 350 mm. It is one of the coldest zones in the Alto Maipo Valley.

Spring began with cooler temperatures than normal and delayed the bud break. Rainfall was well distributed during the winter and spring months, followed by a drier summer. The temperatures were warmer at the beginning of the ripening period, but with fewer days reaching maximum temperatures. The second half of the period saw the temperatures drop, and cooler nights helped produce excellent conditions for preserving the aromas, flavors, and precise ripening of the tannins in the grapes.

HARVEST
By hand. Between March 20 and May 11, 2018. The vineyard yielded 5.0 tons/ha.

VINIFICATION CELLAR
Don Melchor Cellar, Puente Alto.

VINIFICATION
The alcoholic fermentation is carried out in stainless steel tanks for 10 days at 25 to 26°C and is pumped over 4 to 6 times a day. Once the fermentation is complete, the tank is hermetically sealed for an 8-day maceration at 23 to 25°C, for a greater extraction and smoother tannins. At the end of the maceration period, each tank is devatted, tasted and selected by the Don Melchor vineyard and winemaking team. Then, all of the wines are tasted and selected for the final blend, which is later transferred to the barrels.

AGING
35 months in French oak barrels, (72% new, 28% second-use)

AGING POTENTIAL
Over 35 years.

TASTING NOTES
2018 is one of the greatest vintages in the history of Don Melchor. A highly expressive wine, with great personality and complexity. The wine shows lots of expression and complexity of small red fruits, as well as floral notes displayed as a whole. On the palate, the wine is full of flavor and dominated by elegance and balance, as well as a great texture of the tannins, with a long, refined finish.

FOOD PAIRING
Red meats, especially lamb, and wild game: baked, stewed, or prepared with red wine sauces, mushrooms, rosemary and tomatoes. Different terrines and pâtés, like turkey with truffles. Cow and goat cheeses; dry and mature cheeses, or creamy cheeses.

DON MELCHOR