

# DON MELCHOR

VINTAGE REPORT

— 2023 —

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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS



We find *Don Melchor vineyard* in Puente Alto's *Denomination of Origin*, one of the Maipo Valley's coldest areas, with an average annual temperature of 14.4°C (57°F). The warmest month is January (20.4°C average), and the coolest is July (8.6°C average).

It is a Mediterranean climate with a long dry season. The average annual rainfall is 330 mm, mainly concentrated during winter and in areas closest to the Andes Mountains.

At the foot of the Andes Mountains, the *Don Melchor vineyard* lies on the Maipo River's north bank at 650 meters above sea level, at latitude 33° South. The soil in the first 30 centimeters is loamy in texture with a large amount of gravel of different sizes at depth. These soils ensure good drainage and low fertility, which restricts the plants' vegetative growth and favors the accumulation and maturation of phenolic compounds essential for producing exceptional red wines.



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## PLANT MATERIAL AND VARIETIES

The vineyard consists of 127 hectares: 90% *Cabernet Sauvignon*, 7.1% *Cabernet Franc*, 1.9% *Merlot*, and 1% *Petit Verdot*.

In the 1880s, politician, and businessman *Don Melchor Concha y Toro* brought noble French vines (including *Cabernet Sauvignon*) from the Bordeaux region of France and planted them in Chile. The *Cabernet Sauvignon* grown in this vineyard belongs to the Don Melchor pre-*phylloxera* massal selection, mostly free-standing.

72% of the vineyard was planted between 1979 and 1992, while the remaining 28% between 2004 and 2018. The old vineyard's planting density is mostly 4,000 plants/ha, while the new one covers 8,000 plants/ha.



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## 2022-2023 SEASON CONDITIONS

The 2022-2023 season was warm, with total precipitation close to half that of an average year, mainly concentrated in winter.

In these temperature conditions, more extreme than expected in February and March, the extraordinary terroir of Puente Alto once again proved its ability to moderate the conditions to allow us to obtain excellent quality wines from this vintage. The vineyard and winery teams' experience were vital in obtaining wines of great expression and balance, accompanied by excellent quality and intense flavors and aromas.

Average temperatures remained above the historical average for Puente Alto throughout the season, advancing the vineyard's grapes' development and ripeness. Vineyard management and ripeness monitoring were critical to harvesting grapes with a good balance between freshness and finesse expressions.

Between September and April, from bud break to harvest, we had an average temperature of 18.3°C, with temperature peaks in December, February and March. Despite this, cold nights helped in cooling this unusual situation and maintaining low cluster temperature.

Rainfall reached 178.2 mm throughout the season, mainly concentrated in winter. The spring and summer were drier, forcing us to manage vineyard irrigation well to achieve perfect bud growth and grape maturity.



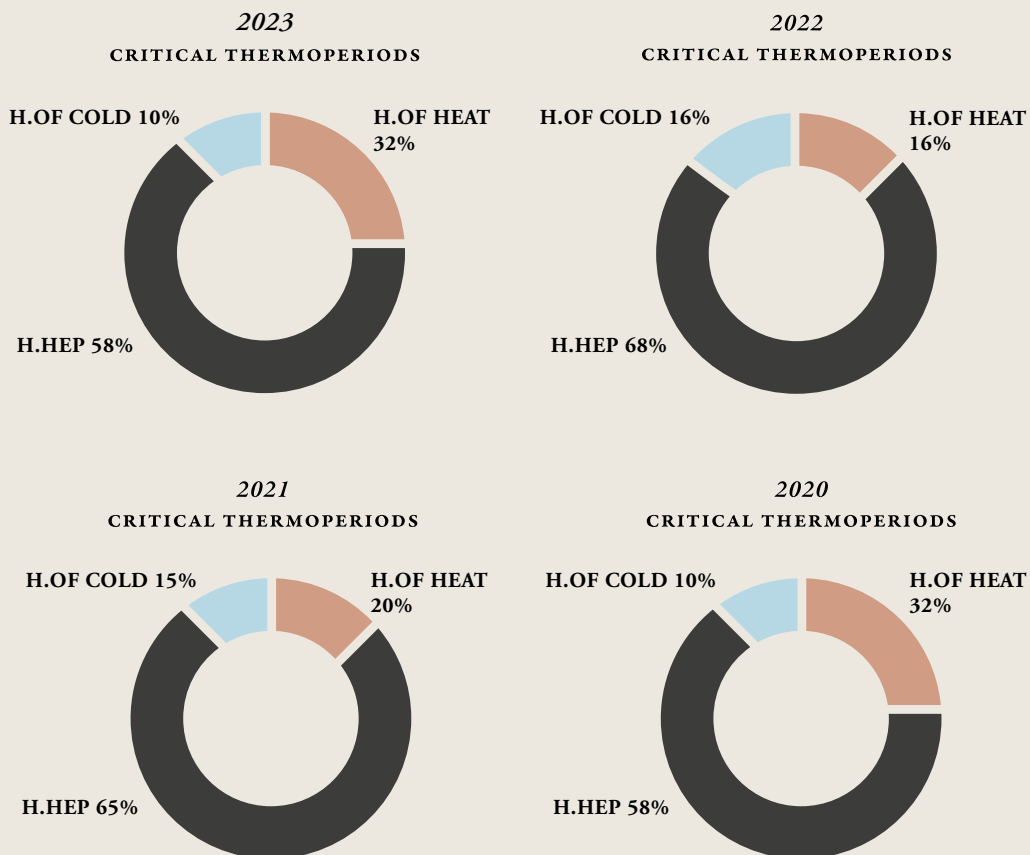
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Harvest was brought forward by one to two weeks, depending on the vineyard parcels. Harvest began on March 6 for the Merlot parcels, harvested mainly during the second week of March. In the case of Cabernet, the harvest started on March 14 and concluded on April 19.

As a result of a highly challenging harvest due to its climatic conditions, wines are very expressive, intense, and full of flavors and aromas, dominated by refined textures and outstanding balance, showing the character of Puente Alto's noble terroir.

*The attached figure shows that the 2023 season, compared to earlier vintages, presents traits in line with the 2020 vintage, conditions favoring the wines' expression of energy and finesse.*



H. HEP: HOURS OF EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION    H. OF COLD: HOUR OF COLD    H. OF HEAT: HOURS OF HEAT

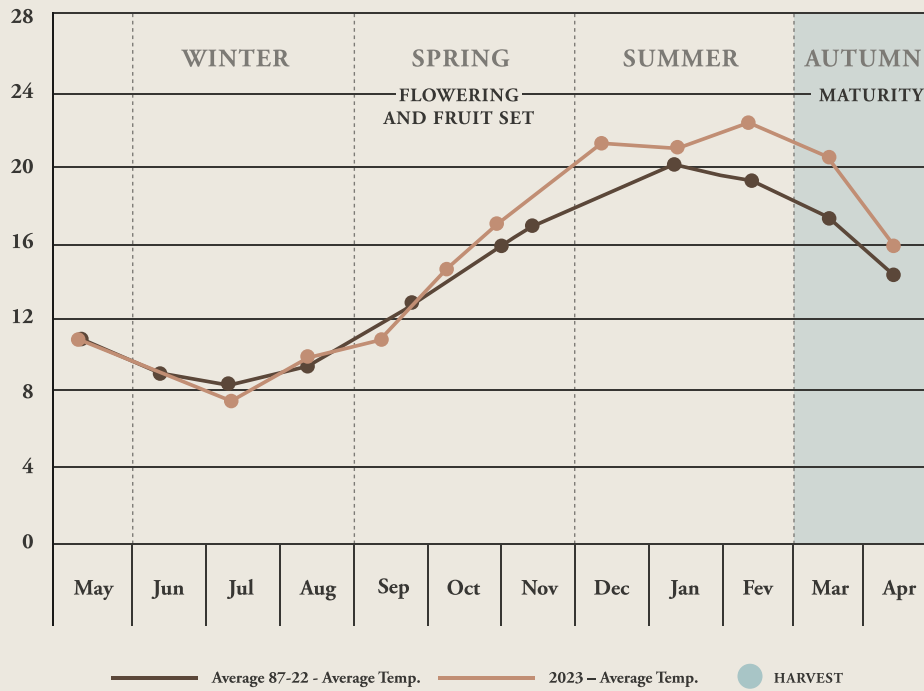


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The attached graphs show the average temperature and rainfall during the 2022 - 2023 season in the Don Melchor Vineyard, Puente Alto.

MONTHLY TEMPERATURES °C



MONTHLY RAINFALL mm

