MELI

Old-vine, dry-farmed Riesling and Carignane

Maule Valley, Chile

60-year-old vines at Meli.

Meli is the dream of celebrated winemaker Adriana Cerda. Adriana had already been a respected winemaker for 30 years when she decided it was time to make her own wine.

In 2005, she and her three adult sons bought a property with 60-year-old Carignane and Riesling vines in the Maule Valley. Using dry farming, Meli produces two unique wines — both unusual for Chile. These varieties, Riesling and Carignane, are well-suited to the cooler Maule Valley, where the growing season is long, with cool nights and warm days.

Adriana has been called the "Zelma Long of Chile" as she was one of the very first celebrated female winemakers.

2010 Dry Riesling

This aromatic white grape most associated with Germany is very expressive of this Chilean terroir in which it is grown. Meli's Riesling is unoaked and has no residual sugar, which showcases the grape's brisk acidity. Only 500 cases produced.

2008 Carignane

This lesser known varietal is planted extensively in southern France. Although it doesn't usually take a leading role, there's star power in Meli's 90% Carignane-10% Cabernet Sauvignon blend. Aged in both used oak barrels and stainless steel, this wine is concentrated and unique, with an distinctive balance of earth and fruit. 2,000 cases produced.

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