

Decanter
Contributor

Tim Atkin,
Master of Wine



Chile 2019 Special Report

Tim Atkin, contributor to Decanter Magazine, has been producing special regional wine reports for several years. The 2019 Chile report includes many GVI wines along with Tim's unique analysis of the Chilean Cru Classe.

Chile Report / Classification / Best of 2019

This is Tim's third attempt to classify Chile's best producers as he's done other countries. His list is loosely based on the 1855 Bordeaux Classification, although quality rather than price is the only criterion. According to Tim, there are six different growths: first, second, third, fourth, fifth and cru bourgeois.

Chile's Cru Classe

First Growths: **Maquis**

Second Growths: **Gillmore**

Cru Bourgeois: **Apaltagua, Calcu, William Cole (Albamar)**

Best Wines of the Year

Best Aglianico of the year: **2017 Gillmore Aglianico**

Best Cabernet Franc of the year: **2015 Maquis Franco**

Best Carignan of the year: **2015 Gillmore VIGNO Carignan**

"Mindful that a critic should attempt to reward talent, irrespective of a long track record in some cases, I have chosen my favourite producers, rather than parroted the opinions of others. I intend to revise this annually." –Tim Atkin

Tasting Notes / Scores

2015 Maquis Franco- Colchagua Valley, [96 points](#)

The latest in a series of superb wines under this label, the 2015 Franco marries Cabernet Franc with 3% Carmenère from clay-rich soils. Made without new wood, this is violet scented, stylish and layered with fresh acidity, fine tannins and a sense of balance that's reminiscent of Right Bank Bordeaux. 2020-28

2015 Maquis Lien- Colchagua Valley, [92 points](#)

The Maquis style always emphasises freshness and balance over power and that's the case on this lightly wooded cuvée of Carmenère with Cabernet Franc and a little Syrah. Spicy, textured and refined with leafy, green herb notes and a long, balanced finish. 2019-24

2018 Maquis Rosé Gran Reserva

Colchagua Valley, [90 points](#)

Left for just an hour on skins before fermentation and five months ageing in oak, this complex, bronze-hued rosé is made from a combination of Malbec and Cabernet Franc.

2015 Calcu Futa Cabernet Sauvignon-

Colchagua Valley, [93 points](#)

Made, like all the Calcu reds, with fruit from cooler Marchigüe, this is a stylish, scented, minty Cabernet Sauvignon that has some support from 12% Cabernet Franc. 2020-28

2017 Apaltagua Envero Carmenère Gran Reserva-

Apalta, [91 points](#)

Impressive value from Apalta, this scented, grassy, fleshy Carmenère benefits from the inclusion of 15% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, as it adds some acidity and backbone. The oak is aromatic and alluring. 2021-25

2015 Gillmore VIGNO Carignan- Maule Valley, [95 points](#)

Showing his delicate touch with the Carignan grape, Andrés Sánchez has made another delicious VIGNO, using grapes from Loncomilla close to the winery. Subtle, sappy and floral, this has understated wood, lovely baking spice aromatics and refreshing minerality. 2020-28

2015 Gillmore Hacedor de Mundos Cabernet Franc- Maule Valley, [93 points](#)

Andrés Sánchez's Cabernet Franc comes from a 60-year-old parcel on granite soils in Loncomilla. The low yields are evident in the concentration of the wine with freshness and acidity. 2020-26

2016 Gillmore Mariposa- Maule Valley, [92 points](#)

Including 30% Cabernet Franc for the first time, this blend of Merlot with some Syrah has the deep colour and low pH that's typical of Maule Valley reds. Scented and very appealing with fine tannins. 2019-26

Scores at-a-Glance

2015 Maquis Franco, [96 points](#)

2015 Gillmore VIGNO Carignan, [95 points](#)

2015 Calcu Futa Cabernet Sauvignon, [93 points](#)

2015 Gillmore Hacedor de Mundos Cab Franc, [93 points](#)

2015 Maquis Lien, [92 points](#)

2014 Calcu Winemaker's Selection, [92 points](#)

2016 Gillmore Mariposa, [92 points](#)

2017 Apaltagua Coleccion Pinot Noir, [91 points](#)

2017 Apaltagua Envero Carmenère, [91 points](#)

2018 Maquis Rosé, [90 points](#)

2018 Apaltagua Pinot Gris, [89 points](#)

2018 Apaltagua Rosé, [89 points](#)

2016 Calcu Carmenere, [88 points](#)

2016 Calcu Cabernet Sauvignon, [88 points](#)

2018 Apaltagua Carmenere, [88 points](#)



GLOBAL VINEYARD IMPORTERS
BERKELEY, CA 510-527-5877
WWW.GLOBALVINEYARD.COM