Chile: Earth, Air, Fire and Water
By Luis Gutierrez

“The wine scene in Chile is certainly a lot more dynamic. It is dynamic and diverse, as people are open to exploring new places, new grapes, new styles and new techniques.”

“What struck me is the better understanding of the Carmenere grape and the improvement in many wines produced from this challenging variety.”

“I met with the classical Vina Quebrada de Macul (Domus Aurea, Anka & Penalolen) which I’d say is one of the most successful city vineyards in the world. Winemaker Jean-Pascal Lacaze has been doing a great job with the wines since he arrived in 2002.”

94+ 2012 Domus Aurea Cabernet Sauvignon
“Showed very good freshness; tremendous concentration but overall keeping the character of the place, intensely balsamic, powerful and elegant, with notes of wild herbs and flowers.”

92 2012 Gillmore Hacedor de Mundos Cabernet Franc
“Fresh and aromatic, floral and not herbal. The palate has the fine-grained, elegant tannins of the variety, and the wine has a salty side to it, with a very tasty finish.”

91 2013 Gillmore Mariposa (red blend)
“Very aromatic, surprisingly perfumed and with a notable absence of herbal aromas. The palate is soft and approachable with clean and tasty flavors, with very good freshness. Dry-farmed and from a cool vintage in a warm place. Really tasty.”

90 2014 Maquis Cabernet Franc
“Better freshness and balance with varietal character; elegance is mainly found in the palate, where the tannins are fine and the texture very soft. It has a tasty finish. A very pleasant Cabernet Franc.”

91 2011 Maquis Viola
“The palate is medium to full-bodied with a notable absence of herbal or green notes.”

91 2011 Maquis Lien
“Balanced with a long, persistent finish.”

92 2012 Meli Dueño de la Luna Carignan
“Lovely rusticity, developing very fresh and showy notes of violets. This one is one if the more voluptuous Carignans.”

93 2010 Calcu FUTA Cabernet Sauvignon
“Balsamic aromas and earthy hints with spices and ripe fruit, in an elegant way, very fine tannins. Elegant, subtle Cabernet. It has the balance and stuff to develop nicely in bottle.”

89 2014 Calcu Cabernet Franc
“It is fresh, with natural balance and good freshness, with fresh fruit and nothing jammy. Very tasty Cabernet Franc.”

89 2014 Calcu Carmenere
“Spicy and floral; elegant and not overpowering, simply delicious.”