



Las Higueras Vineyard
D.O. Maule Valley
Cabernet Franc
2018

Lot #102

“ *Old bush-head vine* ”
Cabernet franc

- Alcohol: 13 % vol
- pH: 3,49
- Acidity: 5,69 g/l
- Residual sugar: 1,36 g/l

- 5 975 bottles filled
- 21 barrels



In a nutshell

We have made Las Higueras Cab Franc since 2013.

It was sourced from a corner of a larger 8 hectares vineyard of 100+ year old Cab Franc. In this particular corner the cables and posts of the rows had mostly fallen down (the owners had used these bits to repair the structure in the rest of the vineyard) As we saw it, these two little hectares had returned to their natural state in nature ie old bush head vines! Old bush-head vine Cab Franc.

What you need to know

- The Vineyard & Farming
- 100+ yrs old vines 8 hectares ttl (we produce fruit for others)
 - one particular block of old-bush head vines makes up the core
 - Alluvial soils, round stones at 40-50 cm
 - 3rd alluvial terrace of above the Achibueno River
 - 1,2 kg per plant / < 3,500 kgs per hectare
 - very small bunches
 - old style physical farming organic practices

Winemaking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Naturally fermented with native yeasts- Conical [oval] shaped lagar fermenters (open) 3,000 kgs- Caps punched down by hand- Lignified stems re-introduced after crush aprox 20%- Pinch of sulfites after malolactic that finishes before winter begins (normally)
Elevage:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aged in 3+ uses barrels over two Winters- Barrels for this wine come from Almadava after two uses: Nadalie (Allier – Noisette toast), Sylvain, Berger & Fils, Seguin Moreau.
Appellation:	Maule Valley (an area of Maule without many other vineyards)
Varietal:	Cabernet Franc
Color:	Deep
Personality:	A retro dresser with manners from a bygone era that shines amongst the younger set
How many lots?	Just one each year
Previous Bottlings	Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 92 – 2017 Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 82 – 2016 Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 72 – 2015 Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 62 – 2014 Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 52 – 2013
Ageability	We have been opening 2013 & 2014 regularly over the years and have every reason to believe this will age gracefully in bottle for at least a decade.
Best drinking	House: 2021-2030

The Vintage

- What began with worries about the lack of rainfall turned into a terrific quality fruit. Specific vineyard improvements from regenerative farming begin to show themselves in this wine.
- Maule in 2018 was superb. [Robert Parker rated it 96E – E for extraordinary.]

House note

Rare bush-head vine Cabernet Franc, shows classic herbal aromas and a leafy, spicy personality with notes of graphite, cut grass (tomato leaf) backed up by fine, well integrated tannins and proper supporting acidity. Lighter in colour with surprising density and layers. Atypical new-world Cab Franc: balanced and expressive with 12,8 % alc. The difference proper farming makes.

Hashtag

#gwcolashiguerasvineyard



Critics Notes

Vinous – Joaquin Hidalgo



Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2018 - Lot # 102 **93 Pts**

The 2018 Cabernet Franc - Las Higueras Vineyard Lot 102 from Loncomilla, Maule, is purple in color with a rich, complex nose of blackberry, sour cherry, herbs, mint and camphor and hints of spice. An intense red with very active tannins, it is alluringly compact, conveying a chalky feel and heightened freshness that adds energy. Drink in a couple of years.

James Suckling



Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2018 - Lot # 102 **91 Pts**

A fragrant nose of dried cherry, tomato leaf, rosemary, sandalwood and incense. It's medium-bodied with firm, tight-grained tannins. Fresh with a firm tannin structure and zesty, spiced character. 15 barrels produced. Drink or hold.

Notes on Previous Vintages from this parcel

Descorchados – Patricio Tapa



Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2017 - Lot # 92 **95 Pts**

Las Higueras is a vineyard on the northern bank of the Achibueno River in the Maule Valley and was planted to cabernet franc in 1940 as well as to other varieties such as malbec and cariñena. Garage selected the cabernet franc and malbec plants (a minimal percentage) for this wine, co-fermented the grapes, and aged the wine in used oak barrels for two winters. The result was a production of a bit more than 5,000 bottles (5,264) of a wine that has a strong tannic presence and firm, sharp tannins accompanied by equally sharp acidity. A wine full of red fruits, herbs, and spices. A wine that's irresistible today, but with tremendous aging potential as well.



Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 247

Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2017 - Lot # 92 94 Pts

The 2017 Las Higueras Vineyard is a Cabernet Franc from Maule and, therefore, is quite different in style from the one from Pirque in Maipo, with less herbal and mint notes and more of a fruit-forward, peachy personality, perhaps aided by the warmer year. In any case, they changed the farming of this vineyard as they took over, starting with the pruning and training of the vines, making them look more like the bush vines and letting them grow above the first wire, which lent more shade to the fruit and seemed to result in a slower maturation of the grapes and less alcohol (this is only 12.9%!). They also sold some fruit from this vineyard to other wineries, so in the future, we might get to taste different interpretations of this very same vineyard. They also started working with cover crops and removed the synthetic fertilizers and other stuff, even abandoning irrigation and going back to cultivating it the old way with the aid of vignerons from Sauzal and Puico. They say they really noticed a big difference now that have been working it for three years. The plants are now 116 years old. With time in the glass the wine develops a very specific note of merken, a Chilean paprika-like blend of spices. 5,264 bottles were filled in January 2019.

Vinous - Joaquin Hidalgo

Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2017 - Lot # 92 91 Pts

Cabernet Franc from Las Higueras, Maule, aged for two years. The intense nose contains blackberry and maraschino cherries with bell pepper, herbs and a hint of tobacco. A rough texture combines with firm tannins that get very juicy when woken up by the moderate acidity and a long finish of woody notes. A serious wine.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2016 - Lot # 82 93 Pts

The 2016 Las Higueras Vineyard bottling (Lot #82) is from a place close to Linares that they now manage entirely (and sell some fruit to others) and has some herbal aromas and a leafy, spicy personality. It has very fine tannins and good freshness. It's elegant, with some complexity. Some 4,000 bottles produced from 13 barrels. It was bottled in December 2017.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2015 - Lot # 72 92 Pts

As with many of their bottlings, I was able to compare the 2015 Las Higueras Vineyard with the 2016, and this was darker, more concentrated and powerful. It feels quite ripe and not that varietal. The palate is medium to full-bodied, with abundant, slightly dusty tannins. 3,764 bottles were filled in December 2016.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 230

Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2014 - Lot # 62 93+ Pts

I also got to taste the 2014 Las Higueras Vineyard bottling (marked lot #62). This vineyard in the Caliboro zone of Maule has provided a very balanced and expressive Cabernet Franc, with complexity and nuances, fine tannins and good freshness. 3,642 bottles produced. It was bottled in December 2015, having spent two winters in barrel.

James Suckling

Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2014 - Lot # 62 93 Pts

This is a solid cabernet franc with beautiful density and intense. Wonderfully structured with firm and velvety tannins and a flavorful finish. Needs a year or two of bottle age.

Tim Atkin MW

Las Higueras Vineyard - Maule Valley Cabernet Franc 2013 - Lot # 52 93 Pts

New to Derek Mossman's extensive range of goodies in 2013, this is a rather unusual bush vine Cabernet Franc, showing classic notes of graphite and cut grass backed up by sinewy, well integrated tannins and supporting acidity. An impressive début. Drink 2018-24

Anecdotal narrative

Story about Las Higueras:

We have made Las Higueras Cab Franc since 2013. It was sourced from a corner of a larger 8 hectares vineyard of 100+ year old Cab Franc. In this particular corner the cables and posts of the rows had mostly fallen down (the owners had used these bits to repair the structure in the rest of the vineyard) As we saw it, these two little hectares had returned to their natural state in nature ie old bush head vines! Old bush-head vine Cab Franc.

Five years ago, we entered into an agreement to rent the whole 8 hectares in a long-term deal. We have brought in our dry-farming vigneron from Sauzal and Puico to help and have begun cultivating the vineyard the old way. The vineyard has responded well to what was a formidable pruning to recover and rebuild the old vines, but already we are seeing a re-birth.

The 2018 – 2021 vintages have been harvested at 12,8-12,9 alc.

We are looking forward to future years now we manage the whole vineyard!