



Bagual Vineyard
D.O. Maule Valley – Old Calivoro
Carignan / Garnacha / Mataró
2018

Lot #96

“ From the banks of ”
The Perquilauquén
- the river that flows backwards

- Alcohol: 14 % vol
- pH: 3,41
- Acidity: 5,84 g/l
- Residual sugar: 1,36 g/l

- 5 239 bottles filled
- 18 barrels



In a nutshell

- 1 of 12 wines we make from single parcels
- Singular wine made from a small parcel with ancestral farming by hand and horse of the Secano Interior
- Grower / partner: Solar family
- This wine is a tribute to the resilience of the ploughmen farmers of the Maule who have been stewards of the vines of Caliboro since colonial times. The 76th wine we have bottled since 2001 it is thus labelled Lot # 76

What you need to know

The Vineyard & Farming

River's edge, alluvial Bagual Vineyard is found on the banks of the Perquilauquen river. A river that (very unusual for Chile!) flows from the Coastal Mountains East towards the Andes passing through Caliboro bringing granitic silt with it. East of Caliboro it turns North and then West joining the Loncomilla and then the Maule river and on out to the Pacific.

The Perquillauquen is wide through this section like a narrow lake and this water body lends the fruit cooler conditions than neighboring Melosal or Loncomilla.

- Winemaking:**
- Naturally fermented with native yeasts
 - Open top fermenters. Caps were punched down by hand. Pressing manual.
 - Small portion was made with whole stems stomped with clean feet—this part was more tannic and with higher VA and complemented the rest of the barrels.
 - Aged in barrels over two winters— barrels third use or more.
 - Yeasts native (we add Sauzal wine from previous vintage to a pie de cuba)
 - Pinch of sulfites after Malolactic that normally finishes a full 7 months after harvest with next summer's heat
- Elevage:**
- Aged in barrels over two winters— barrels third use or more.
 - various cooperages (Sylvain, Berger, Nadalie – Alliers Noisette toast, and some Burgundy barrels)
- Appellation:** Bagual / Caliboro / Maule Valley
- Varietal:** Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró field-blend
- Color:** Deep purple
- Personality:** Subtle, balanced, layered – sense of White variety co-fermented
- How many lots?** Just one each year
- Previous Bottlings** Bagual Vineyard Lot 76 – 2016
Bagual Vineyard Lot 66 – 2015
Bagual Vineyard Lot 56 – 2014
Bagual Vineyard Lot 46 – 2013
- Ageability** 2018 vintage will age 10 years, but the wine has a kind of sweet palette today that makes it very approachable (wine is not sweet but seems to be)
- Perspective: 2013 has developed floral tertiaries that bode well for the future!
- Best drinking** House: 2020 - 2030

The Vintage

- Superb to extraordinary (best year since we began in the neighbourhood in 2006)
 - High pressure for mildew thwarted by close attention paid in December
 - Many thought that the extremes of late February > 35 C would be too much, but the old plants shutdown and resist like shock absorbers.
 - The many misty mornings of March (fruit cut in April) made us nervous but again in the long run it led to proper hang time.
 - With old vines that drink deep any given year is the culmination of the years previous.
 - Perhaps some of the concentration of 18 we owe to the very dry 2017. Perhaps some of the purity is from there being less growth of herbs and flowers around the vineyard. But the tannins and balance are very 2018!
- Maule in 2018 was superb. [Robert Parker rated it 96E – E for extraordinary.]
- What began with worries about the lack of rainfall turned into a terrific quality fruit. Specific improvements with control of mildew on the Carignan (Oidio) made for improvements which offset less rain falling which should have led to lower yields in the secano. If one manages parcel by parcel, cultivating the soil properly, the rains of any given year do not have the heightened pendulum effect many assume the olvines acting as shock absorbers.

House note

This is a rich and layered red with plum and berry character, spicy, floral and subtle, it has a dark ruby color, darker than other parcels and it is earthy and organic. The palate is sinewy, with nice acidity and the fine tannins of the Garnacha, perfectly integrated oak and a very tasty finish

Hashtag

#gwcobagualvineyard



Scan me!

Critics Notes



Descorchados – Patricio Tapia

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2018 - Lot # 96 94 Pts

The Bagual Vineyard is located on the banks of the Perquilauquen River, planted on alluvial soils in the San Javier zone of the Maule Valley's dry-farmed secano. The soils are granitic, and that can be seen in this wine of 40% cariñena plus 40% garnacha and 20% monastrell, all grafted onto old país vines. The freshness of the fruit is powerful in this wine, and the nervy sensation from the acidity in the carignan plays a leading role here. A red to leave in its bottle for a while, but it could also be drunk now with a plate of charcuterie.

Vinous – Joaquin Hidalgo

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2018 - Lot # 96 90 Pts

The 2018 Cariñena Garnacha Monastrell Bagual Vineyard Lot 96 is a blend of equal parts Garnacha and Cariñena with 10% Monastrell from Caliboro, Maule, that spent two winters in barrel. Vivid violet red in color. The complex nose presents notes of sour cherry, strawberry, liqueur, rum cake and a little stock. Intense in the mouth, where the firm, free-flowing tannins of the Cariñena set the tone while freshness keeps everything light on its feet. An energetic, slightly alcoholic wine made in a new style.

Notes on Previous Vintages from this parcel

La Cav – Mesa de Cata

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2016 - Lot # 76 94 Pts

rojo violeta profundo. Nariz perfumada, moras, guindas licorosas, hojas de laurel, menta. En la boca es jugoso, de una acidez impecable intensa, firme. Un vino masculino y fibroso.

Robert Parker's Wine Advocate # 239

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2015 - Lot # 66 93 Pts

I was able to compare the 2015 Bagual Vineyard with the 2016, and the difference of character is notable. This 2015 is a lot more powerful and has a little more ripeness, while the 2016 is fresher and more aromatic. This seems to be aromatically dominated by Carignan, and the palate reveals some earthy rusticity I also often associate with the grape. However, 2015 seems to be a quite tannic year. Lot #66 was bottled into 1,588 bottles in November 2016.

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2015 - Lot # 66 93 Pts

Bagual Vineyard Lot 66 Carignan, Garnacha, Mataró 2015 Otro Field Blend, de un mismo viñedo en la zona de Caliboro, en el interior del secano, se produjeron unas 4 barricas (225) de carignan, 2 de garnacha y una de mataró. El 2015 ha dado un vino de taninos duros, compactos, austeros y cerrados. Necesita tiempo, pero ahora ya muestra una fruta negra intensa, unida a una acidez de los demonios. Vayan por cordero, urgente.– Patricio Tapia

Tim Atkin MW

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2014 - Lot # 56 94 Pts

This may come from what Derek Mossman calls a “scruffy vineyard”, but when it produces wines as good as this, who cares about aesthetics. It’s a classic Maule Field blend of Carignan, Garnacha and Mataró with lovely, wild herb and orange zest notes and fine, well-integrated tannins. 2017-2022

Robert Parker’s Wine Advocate # 230

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2014 - Lot # 56 94 Pts

This is a Carignan, Garnacha and Mataró field blend marked lot #56 where the Carignan is approximately 75 years old and the Garnacha and Mataró were grafted on roots of País that was over 150 years old. It’s perfumed, floral, aromatic, intoxicating, nuanced and harmonious, with the elegance and subtleness of a white wine. It has good grip, with very fine tannins and great acidity. 1,694 bottles were filled in November 2015.

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2014 - Lot # 56 94 Pts

Delicate in the mouth to begin with and then the wine gathers force and acidity, and arms a veritable party – Patricio Tapia

James Suckling

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2014 - Lot # 56 92 Pts

A pretty and juicy wine with plum and spice character. Medium to full body. Firm tannins. Lovely subtle, earthiness. Handmade. Drink now

Vinous – Antonio Galloni

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2013 - Lot # 46 92 Pts

(aged for two years in used French oak barrels; pH 3.34) Deep ruby. A wild, exotically perfumed bouquet evokes ripe dark berries, passion fruit and candied flowers, and a zesty mineral flourish builds in the glass. Appealingly sweet black raspberry, cherry and rose pastille flavors become livelier as the wine opens up. In a seamless, open-knit style, offering excellent finishing clarity and a long, gently tannic finish that echoes the floral note. Drink 2018 – 2023 Josh Raynolds

Wine Advocate – Robert Parker #222

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2013 - Lot # 46 91 Pts

The 2013 Bagual Vineyard Lot #46 is a blend of Cariñena, Garnacha and Mataró (Monastrell or Mourvèdre) from the Bagaul Vineyard, located in Caliboro in the Maule Valley. It's a vineyard that had old Cariñena and they regrafted some of the vines to Garnacha and Monastrell. They harvest and ferment the grapes separately from these alluvial soils from dry farmed, ungrafted vines (a constant in their wines). A little closed and serious, it slowly develops some aromas of paprika and beef blood, wild berries and something earthy. The palate is medium-bodied, with very fine acidity, fine tannins and very good length. Like all of heir wines, the wine spends two winters in the winery, as they believe it stabilizes and focuses the wines. This has very good harmony and stuffing to age in bottle. They produce a little more than 4,000 bottles of this wine. Drink 2015 – 2021 Luis Gutierrez

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2013 - Lot # 46 92 Pts

Algo vacío hacia el final, pero bien. Fresco, radiante en especias y en acidez. De los vinos que necesitas para el asado. Patricio Tapia

James Suckling

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2013 - Lot # 46 92 Pts

“Full body with lots of earth and mushroom on the nose and palate. Round juicy character. Bright acidity. Chewy tannins. A blend of mainly garnacha and some syrah. Drink or hold.”

Wine Advcate – Robert Parker #213

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2011 - Lot # 34 93 Pts

The 2011 Lot #34 Carignan from the Maule Valley is produced from the fruit of dry-farmed, head-pruned old vines. It is bright ruby-colored with a serious nose mixing tree bark aromas, red and black fruit, licorice and subtle spices. The Carignan is blended with some Grenache and Mataró. The palate is fluid with good acidity and medium body – pure, fresh, delicious Mediterranean wine. This is a great, elegant blend. Drink now-2019

Descorchados - Patricio Tapia

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2011 - Lot # 34 93 Pts

Best of Maule, Ranking Best of Variety Carignan

Jancis Robinson

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2011 - Lot # 34 16,5 Pts

Juicy, exuberant red fruit. Quality oak, though it is quite prominent at this early stage, and fresh, attractive acidity. Tender and well crafted. (RH) 14.1% Drink 2014-2019

Wine Advocate – Robert Parker (Neil Martin & Jay Miller)

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2010 - Lot # 27 92 Pts

The 2010 Carignan (91%) – Grenache (9%) sports an intriguing nose of exotic spices, black plum, black cherry, underbrush, and earthy minerals. This is followed by a plush, succulent, pleasure-bent wine that is more structured than its peers. Give it 5-6 years to reveal its full potential and drink it from 2016 to 2025

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2008 - Lot # 17 92 Pts

Field Blend includes unknown amounts of Cabernet Franc and Malbec sourced from a 65-year-old parcel and aged in neutral oak. Purple in color with a captivating nose of exotic spices, incense, wild berries, and floral notes, in the glass it opens to reveal a complex, rich, layered wine packed into a medium-bodied frame. Give it 5-6 years to reveal its full potential and drink it from 2016 to 2023.

Steve Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2008 - Lot # 17 92 Pts

Bright ruby. Intense, spice-accented aromas of cherry, redcurrant and violet, with smoke and mineral topnotes. Juicy and precise on the palate, offering energetic red fruit flavors that take on weight with air. Finishes smoky, spicy and very long, with slow-building tannins and resonating florality. - Josh Reynolds

Tim Atkin MW

Bagual Vineyard Carignan, Garnacha & Mataró Field-blend 2008 - Lot # 17 91 Pts

This Carignan-based blend is savoury and slightly funky with complex notes of clove spice, red fruits and balsamic vinegar. Yet another great wine from Maule. Tim Atkin

Anecdotal narrative

Story of Bagual Vineyard

Bagual Vineyard Garnacha Field Blend uses fruit from Caliboro in Maule in partnership with the Solar family. This vineyard is on the banks of the Perquilauquen river, a river that, very unusual for Chile, flows from the Coastal Mountains Eastward towards the Andes Mountains, passing through Caliboro, bringing granitic silt with it. It sounds like magical surrealism, but it is one of two rivers in all of Chile that flow the wrong way. Because of its strange flood pattern proper bridges were never built in Caliboro, and the town (hamlet) became cut-off and lost in time. Here people live in the past, and keep traditions like dry-farming old vines alive.

Because of the granitic soils the wines in this area were for many years misunderstood. They had higher acid, more tension and a different structural feel and texture than the wines all around them. When you taste this Garnacha you will understand the uniqueness of the banks of the Perquilauquen—even if you will never remember how it is spelt!