Rustico Pais 2023



Region

Itata Valley is a wine region in the southern end of Chile`s long, thin wine producing zone. This historical, cool-climate region is dominated by plantings of Carignan, Muscat of Alexandria and Pais. The first vines are said to have arrived in the Itata Valley the 1550s, potentially making the region one of the first to be planted with vines in Chile. The high-altitude Coastal Range, which brings moderated weather conditions to many vineyards further north, peters out as it reaches the port city of Concepcion, leaving Itata relatively exposed. This means that weather patterns moving from the Pacific Ocean to the Andes are unhindered, resulting in higher rainfall and cloud cover. This cool climate is complemented by alluvial soils made up of sandy and clay loam, deposited in the valley over time by the Itata and Nuble rivers.

Producer

VFC are a certified sustainable organisation that is a collaboration of two families who are based in the Maule Valley, specifically within the sub-valley and town of San Javier. Las Mercedes belongs to fourth generation of the Bouchon family in Chile (With their family seal on the label), their original philosophy was to create wines they wanted to share with friends and family then later sharing with the rest of the world. They pursue small-size vineyards with climates best suited for each of their wines, and work with native varieties from old vines such as Pais as well as more typical, international varieties in their estate range. VFC approach viticulture sustainably opting for dry farming where they can, reducing their water usage and grow with organic practices.

Tasting Notes

Pais is the native variety of Chile, nearly lost but now prized for the quality coming from old vines. It has a light red colour, and fresh bright red from on the nose and palate. The grapes were destemmed and then fermented in old concrete tanks using natural yeasts to emphasise the natural character of the variety. The fruit is vibrant with intense blackberry and blackcurrant with a hint of green pepper and floral notes, it has a medium body and supple tannin.

Food

This wine can be enjoyed as an aperitif or pairs wel with chicken and pasta dishes.

Technical Information

Country	Chile
Region	Itata Valley
Grape(s)	Pais (100%)
Type	Red
Style	Spicy
Oaked Style	Unoaked
Body Style	Light bodied
Sustainable	Yes-certified sustainable

Dry/Sweet Style	Dry	
Alcohol Content	12.5%	
Closure Style	Screw cap	
Organic/Biodynamic	No	
Allergens	**Milk:**	No
	Egg:	No
Vegetarian/Vegan	**Vegetarian:**	Yes
	Vegan:	Yes

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