



Garage Wine Company Champion of Chilean Old Vines

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Registration: 6:00 PM, Tasting: 6:30 PM

Faculty Club, Univ. of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

Members' Fee: \$95; Guests'/Non-Members' Fee: \$125

For our October event the **Toronto Vintners Club** is excited to present 8 wines exclusively from the boutique wine producer, Garage Wine Company of Chile. These wines have achieved cult-like status among those who are always searching for quality without paying the price for a famous name. Our speaker will be Celia Méndez Díaz, Portfolio manager at Nicholas Pearce Wines, the premier wine agency that represents Garage Wine Co. in Ontario.

Garage Wine Co. was literally started in a garage in 2001, by Etobicoke expat Derek Mossman and his wife Pilar Miranda. Derek Mossman is one of the co-founders of MOVI (Movimiento de Viñateros Independientes or Independent Winemakers Movement of Chile) and was winner of the Geoffrey Roberts award in 2010, using the money to develop a project to regenerate the small, often less-affluent growers and old vineyards of the Maule region of Chile. His passion for rejuvenating old vineyards is evident as all the Garage Wine Co. wines are made with old-vine parcels from individual growers' small lots in the Maule and Itata Valleys. Each wine is from a 1-2 hectare parcel from a different place to produce bottlings of 8-22 barrels from dry-farmed field-blends of Carignan, Garnacha, Monastrell, País, Cinsault and Cab Franc grown on pre-phylloxera rootstock.

Over the years, working in the community, they have raised a veritable posse of vineyard hands whose skills are working the vineyards the old (traditional) way— originario. The vineyards are on the old coastal range of mountains closer to the Pacific Ocean and have granitic soils with cracks for roots to get deep. Viticulture is chemical-free and low-impact. Winemaking is spontaneous, hands-off with minimal intervention and is often stacked fermentation (fruit coming in from different families is added to already fermenting juice). All the wines are made by hand with native yeasts in small tanks, punched down manually and pressed out in a small basket press.

When Garage Wine Co. speaks of the provenance of these wines they mean more than just the geological terroir. Derek and Pilar think the farming practices that have evolved over generations have as much to do with the wines' personalities as the soils. According to Luis Gutierrez of The Wine Advocate ***"The wines have depth and keep the freshness, the character of the vintage, the grapes and especially the places where they are grown. A name to follow, among the most exciting in Chile. Tasting the whole range is one of the highlights of my Chilean report every year"***

The event price includes reception wine, bread, appetizers and, of course, our main wines. Newcomers and those who would like more tutoring are encouraged to sign up for our Newcomers' Table on our registration page. We look forward to seeing you!

REGISTER/BUY TICKETS online at [Garage Wine Co of Chile October 17](#) and then pay by e-transfer, credit card (via PayPal) or by cheque. E-transfer & credit card payments must be received within 48 hours of signing up to secure your reservation. Cheques must be received by Tuesday, October 10. You will be sent an automated email confirmation from our online reservation system, JotForm, after submitting your registration. All ticket sales/reservations are final. **If you tried to register but did not receive your confirmation, please contact winetastings@torontovintners.org before trying to register again.**



Tasting Notes and Information – Garage Wine Company.

(Prices are as of date of purchase)

2018 Truquilemu Field-blend Carignan

"After 20 harvests comes their first Cru, the 2018 Cru Truquilemu, which they describe as 'Truqui with more stuffing.' It comes from a small triangular section with a lower natural yield, with greater concentration and a darker, more brooding personality. It was fermented with more stems than the other Truquilemu and with a bit of Syrah, which adds weight, depth and texture. After fermenting pieces of the vineyard separately over many years, two distinct personalities emerged, and they have bottled them separately since 2018. Truquilemu has become more ethereal after the separation, and this is sturdier, with extra stuffing but more tension. The wine has less alcohol (12.8%, and 12.5% in 2019!!) higher acidity (7.43 grams measured in tartaric acid) and an incredible pH of 3.18, amazing parameters of freshness and restraint. This is not heavier, it just seems to have the same personality but with more layers. It was produced in a very simple and slow way, fermenting in open-top lagars with some full clusters and adding lignified stems to avoid carbonic maceration, with indigenous yeasts; malolactic took 11 months (!), and the aging in used and neutral barrel was extended over two winters." Drink 2021-2035. Score - 99. Luis Gutiérrez, Aug 2021 **\$89**

2018 Renacido Vineyard Lot 104 Cabernet Sauvignon

"The incredibly perfumed 2019 Renacido Vineyard has nothing to do with the Renacidos from the past... Their explanation is as follows: 'We started making Cabernet Sauvignon in Maule on the banks of the Perquilauquen River. It was a little heavy-set, perhaps husky, 'large boned.' So we went back to the drawing board and spent two years searching for something more particular, fresher, with finer bones. 2017-2018 came and went without commercial release, and then we found her... southeast of Cauquenes on Coastal Range of mountains facing eastward. Originally País, the Cabernet Sauvignon was grafted onto the 150+-year-old roots 10 years ago (some of the original old-vine Malbec was left without grafting and is in the field-blend).' I don't know how much Malbec we're talking about, but this is floral and aromatic, almost ethereal, with 13.5% alcohol, great freshness, a velvety texture and clean, vibrant and pristine flavors. Their most unusual Cabernet Sauvignon, and a great one! It has distinct wild berry aromas and flavors that I could not nail down but made me swallow the wine. Myrtle, rhubarb, berry and herbal with acidity. I found this to be spectacular, and I hear the 2021 will be off the charts. Drink 2021-2029. Score - 96. Luis Gutiérrez Aug. 2021 **\$49**

2018 Vigno Field-blend Carignan

"There are three Carignan/Cariñena wines from the same vineyard in Truquilemu in 2018, and the 2018 Vigno comes from a section further down along the creek where there's terrific drainage and thus low yield and concentration. It's Carignan with smidgens of País and Monastrell in the field blend, the grapes grown by a mall farmer by hand and horse with traditional methods of dry-farming, uncertified organic for 75+ years. Like all the rest, it fermented in open-top vats with indigenous yeasts and matured in used barrels over two winters. None of these wines are about the process, they are about the place and the year. In 2018, the wine finished with 13% alcohol, a pH of 3.2 and seven grams of acidity, parameters that talk about a wine with moderate ripeness and vibrant freshness, from a cooler year in a cool part of Maule." Drink: 2021-2030. Score - 99. Luis Gutiérrez, Aug.2021 **\$89**

2016 Truquilemu Vineyard Lot #77 Field-blend Carignan

"The really grand and elegant 2016 Truquilemu Vineyard starts off quite shy and takes some time to open up in the glass. They used a little more stems for the fermentation (stems are added rather than using the full clusters), as they don't like carbonic maceration. This is characterful, floral, subtle and really elegant while keeping the varietal profile. The tannins are very fine grained, and the palate feels really balanced. This has to be the stuff wine dreams are made of!" Drink 2018-2028. Score - 97. Luis Gutiérrez, Oct. 2018 **\$89**

2018 Bagual Vineyard Lot 96 Grenache Blend

"The 2018 Bagual Vineyard Cariñena Garnacha Monastrell marked with lot #96 (in the past, this wine has been bottled with numbers 76, 66, 56 and 46) comes from the same vineyard as the pure Garnacha - only 1.1 hectares of old vines with a field blend of the three varieties (even if the Garnacha was regrafted much later). Also like the pure Garnacha, this 2018 is rounder and has better quality tannins than the 2019. This is earthy and very much marked by the Cariñena character, with good ripeness and freshness. Malolactic usually takes around seven months, and the élevage is extended over two winters in third use or older, well-seasoned and neutral barrels. This reminds me of an elegant Priorat." Drink 2021-2028. Score - 95. Luis Gutiérrez Aug. 2021 **\$43**

2016 Bagual Vineyard Lot 79 Field-blend Grenacha

"The 2016 Bagual Vineyard Garnacha Field Blend is floral, expressive and perhaps radically different, with notes I've never found in previous vintages. It was harvested very early, because ripening was very fast, and it has great tension on the palate (it has 7.17 grams of acidity!). The bunches of Garnacha here are very small, as Garnacha can be very variable." Drink 2018-2026. Score - 94. Luis Gutiérrez Oct. 2018 **\$43**

2018 Higueras Vineyard Lot 102 Cabernet Franc

"There's a long explanation about what happened to Las Higueras, a Cabernet Franc vineyard in Maule that produced the 2018 Las Higueras Vineyard, which they consider part of the transition from a relatively tannic Chilean Cabernet Franc to something more elegant and graceful with less extraction and more tension. These transition vintages include the wines from 2017 to 2020. This 2018 has only 13% alcohol and notable freshness and is aromatic, subtle, elegant and fresh and feels like their best effort yet. They have produced Las Higueras since 2013 from a corner of a larger eight-hectare vineyard of 120-year-old Cabernet Franc that they have returned to their natural state in nature - i.e., old bush-head vines! Old bush-head vine Cabernet Franc. They aptly (and boldly) described it as 'a statesmen, with manners and dress from a bygone era, that shines amongst the younger set.' 2018 and 2019 are lots #102 and #112, respectively". Drink 2021-2028. Score - 94. Luis Gutiérrez Aug. 2021 **\$49**

2019 Truquilemu Vineyard Lot 108 Syrah

"Grown on the weathered granite soils of the Coastal Range in Truquilemu, this 100% syrah from young vineyards has all the character of the local reds - especially Mediterranean varieties such as carignan or this syrah - with their firm acidity, their tense, wild tannins, and the influence of the sea (about 30 kilometers away) doing its thing in a hard, vertical wine. One to cellar for at least five years. Score - 94. Patricio Tapia, 2022 **\$43**