

GOOD TO KNOW

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**Spectacular Scores
for Vintage 2001
from Wine Spectator**

When I visited Chile in late 2002, I tasted through a number of wines from the '01 vintage. I could hardly contain my enthusiasm—what I was tasting was better than anything Chile had produced up to that point. But barrel tastings are almost always flattering for a wine; the proof is in blind tastings from bottle. The top wines for '01 are now being released, and they live up to my initial expectations.

The Maipo Valley in particular had a strong performance in '01, with Cabernet Sauvignon the star. Here is a selection of the flagship wines from some of Chile's elite top producers. Prices here aren't for the timid. While Chile's top wineries have proven they can compete with the world's best, they often feel overshadowed by their premier regions. Consequently, they are pricing their top wines to get noticed, rightly or wrongly. But the proof is in the bottle for these wines.

James Molesworth

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www.winespectator.com

James Molesworth is Senior Editor and Chile Tasting Coordinator for Wine Spectator.



Viñedo Chadwick 2001

Maipo Valley

94 Points

Eduardo Chadwick, owner of Viña Errázuriz, has set up this small operation as an homage to his father. Almaviva and Concha's Don Melchor are right next door to the vineyard that produces this powerhouse Cabernet Sauvignon, which has a wall of raspberry ganache, black currant and cocoa flavors that don't quit, thanks to the ironclad tannins and dense loamy notes that sweep in on the long, chewy finish. Best from 2005 through 2012.



Seña 2001

Aconcagua Valley

93 points

A powerful display of dark chocolate, espresso bean, black currant and plum flavors, with impressive concentration and serious structure. Long, dense finish is chock-full of fruit and toast while hinting at the refinement to come from cellaring. A noticeable step up in power for this wine, which is a joint venture between Viña Errázuriz and Robert Mondavi. Best from 2005 to 2010.



Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve 2001

Aconcagua Valley

92 points

Solidly built Cabernet, with coffee, vanilla, bittersweet chocolate and smoke weaving through ripe black currant fruit. Muscular tannins take over on the finish so cellar a touch to let this harmonize fully. Drink now through 2009.

ERRAZURIZ
Family of Wines