

## Wine Star: Laura Catena

Wine Spectator - October 22, 2018 (<https://www.winespectator.com/webfeature/show/id/2018-New-York-Wine-Experience-Wine-Star-Laura-Catena-Arg>)



Photo by Shannon Sturgis

Laura Catena is cementing Malbec's place on the world stage.

The Argentinian vintner is a passionate ambassador for her native land.

Laura Catena is an emergency-room physician, a published author and the fourth-generation leader at her family's Bodega Catena Zapata in Mendoza, Argentina. It wasn't always the plan. "I thought that I was going to spend my life working as a doctor and drinking the family's wines, not making them," she said Friday at the event.

But Catena obviously did join the family business. Her decision, it turns out, came after her first New York Wine Experience back in 1995.

"The New York Wine Experience changed my life," Catena said. She recalled her frustration when attendees passed over her family's booth for more popular products from France and Italy. "I called my father the next day and I said 'Papa, I am coming to work with you.'"

Today, Catena Zapata is world-renowned for revolutionizing the quality and reputation of Argentine Malbec, and Catena, now the winery's managing director, is focused on the estate, the region and the grape. Inspired by the history of Malbec, from its birth in France to its disastrous near-extinction due to phylloxera to its renaissance, she has an intent on establishing Argentine Malbec as an equal to the most famous of French wines.

"There is a question that I keep getting asked that I don't like ... 'What comes after Malbec in Argentina?'" she said. "You wouldn't ask Aubert de Villaine from Romanée-Conti comes after Pinot Noir in Burgundy?" would you?"

As Catena shared her family's still bright and vibrant 2004 Malbec Mendoza Argentino (95 points, \$120 on release) with hundreds of eager wine lovers, it was clear that the days of being passed over at wine tastings are long gone.


READ MORE AT WINE SPECTATOR (<https://www.winespectator.com/webfeature/show/id/2018-New-York-Wine-Experience-Wine-Star-Laura-Catena>)

RE

 (<https://twitter.com/CatenaMalbec>)

 (<https://www.facebook.com/bodegacatenazapata>)

 (<https://www.instagram.com/catenaw>)

 (<https://www.youtube.com/CatenaMalbec/>)