

A dirt road lined with tall cacti leading to mountains under a cloudy sky.

# Decanter

## SALTA

Extreme viticulture in Argentina:  
Terroirs, wines and destinations

*A Decanter guide produced in partnership with Bodegas de Salta*



# Celebrating extreme-climate winemaking in Salta

It is a pleasure to introduce you to the diverse winemaking landscape of Salta, a region defined by its high altitude and remote, extreme-climate winemaking, and to share with you the stories of its producers, landscapes and wines.

Situated in northwest Argentina, the Salta province is particularly famed in winemaking terms for the Calchaquí Valleys (see map on p70). Surrounded by towering mountains, this network of linked valleys spans nearly 300km in length. Its mineral-rich, sandy soil offers unique conditions for growing vines, and the distinct terroirs of particular valleys are recognised in individual Geographical Indications.

Located between 1,530 and 3,111m elevation, with low levels of rainfall, a wide diurnal range and long hours of sunlight, the area is known for its often highly concentrated, deeply coloured wines with refreshing acidity.

Indeed, the Calchaquí Valleys boast a centuries-long tradition of winemaking. Today, the area is home to both historic, well-established producers and exciting newcomers, who together form the Bodegas de Salta association, represented in this supplement.

In the pages that follow, we showcase the dramatic landscapes and oenological heritage of the region (pp69-71); explore Salta winemakers' newest approaches and exciting trends (pp72-74); offer a selection of distinctive expressions of Malbec, Torrontés and blends from the region (pp75-78); and travel along the celebrated Salta Wine Trail, with a few standout accommodation and eating options along the way (pp79-81).

This year, Bodegas de Salta is also thrilled to be exhibiting at Wine Paris (10th-12th February 2025), and to be hosting a masterclass in collaboration with *Decanter*, giving attendees the chance to experience firsthand the exciting expressions our terroir has to offer.

So read on; we hope you'll be inspired by the stories of our characterful region, the striking images of our unique and challenging landscapes, and the hard work and dedication of our producers, who are constantly seeking to improve, refine and raise the profile of Salta's inimitable wines.

Alejandro Martorell  
President of Bodegas de Salta

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Alejandro Martorell



Vineyards flourish in Salta's challenging landscape

PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LOPEUDO



# Salta: Winemaking's high point

Dramatic landscapes and challenging, high-altitude vineyards define this province in northwestern Argentina



Salta is home to some of the world's highest-altitude vineyards

**M**aking quality wines in Salta might once have been considered rebellious, even heroic. Today, faced with climate change, winemakers around the world are looking to alternative terroirs, at altitudes and latitudes once deemed too challenging and extreme. In this context, Salta stands out as a region ahead of its time.

In the far northwest of Argentina, bordering Bolivia to the north, Chile to the east and the smaller Jujuy province on its northwestern corner, Salta is first and foremost a high-altitude wine region. With vineyards planted between 1,530 and 3,111 metres above sea level, the region's terroirs are pushing the limits of viticulture. This, combined with an enduring artisanal viticultural heritage and a wealth of impressive terroirs, makes Salta a source of wines with very distinctive character – and incredible potential to develop further.

## Terroir diversity – in technicolour

Salta's viticultural area is concentrated in the south of the province along the Calchaquí Valleys, a 270-kilometre system of interconnecting valleys (and also an overarching Geographical Indication) that Salta shares with its southern neighbours, Catamarca and Tucumán.

The heritage of the indigenous Calchaquíes remains strong here. As well as fiercely resisting both Inca and Spanish invaders, they were skilled potters, herders and farmers; their patterned pottery, colourful textiles and stone structures still shape the region's cultural and aesthetic identity. What's more, high-altitude vineyards arguably also continue their legacy: many of the area's steep hillsides are only cultivable at all due to the terraces the Calchaquíes built into the rugged landscape.

Low precipitation is just one of the challenges for Salta's winemakers



PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LOFEUDO





Salta's valleys are naturally biodiverse

all visual clues to the geological wealth of the region. Alluvial and volcanic soils – with a predominance of well-draining sandy-loams – translate into an intricate variety of terroirs.

Precipitation here is notoriously low (200mm per year); the Andes to the west form a rain barrier, while mountain rivers supply the region with much-needed water for irrigation. Salta's combination of low humidity and good aeration from cool mountain winds provides the ideal natural conditions for effortless sustainable viticulture. This is bolstered by its biodiversity: vines share the slopes with local flora such as Algarrobos, Molles, Arcayuyos and Cardones.

### Taking the high road

The best way to discover Salta's vineyards, terroirs and producers is to follow the iconic Salta Wine Trail. Running along Routes 40, 33 and 68, the Ruta del Vino is the world's highest-altitude wine route. It offers visitors a full immersion in the province's natural and

The vibrant colours of Calchaquíes art echo those of Salta's dramatic and diverse landscapes. It's not by chance that the province is known as *La Linda* – the beautiful. As well as making for breathtaking vistas, its rust-hued canyons, turquoise salt flats, thick, green jungles, pink sand banks and gold-lit caves are

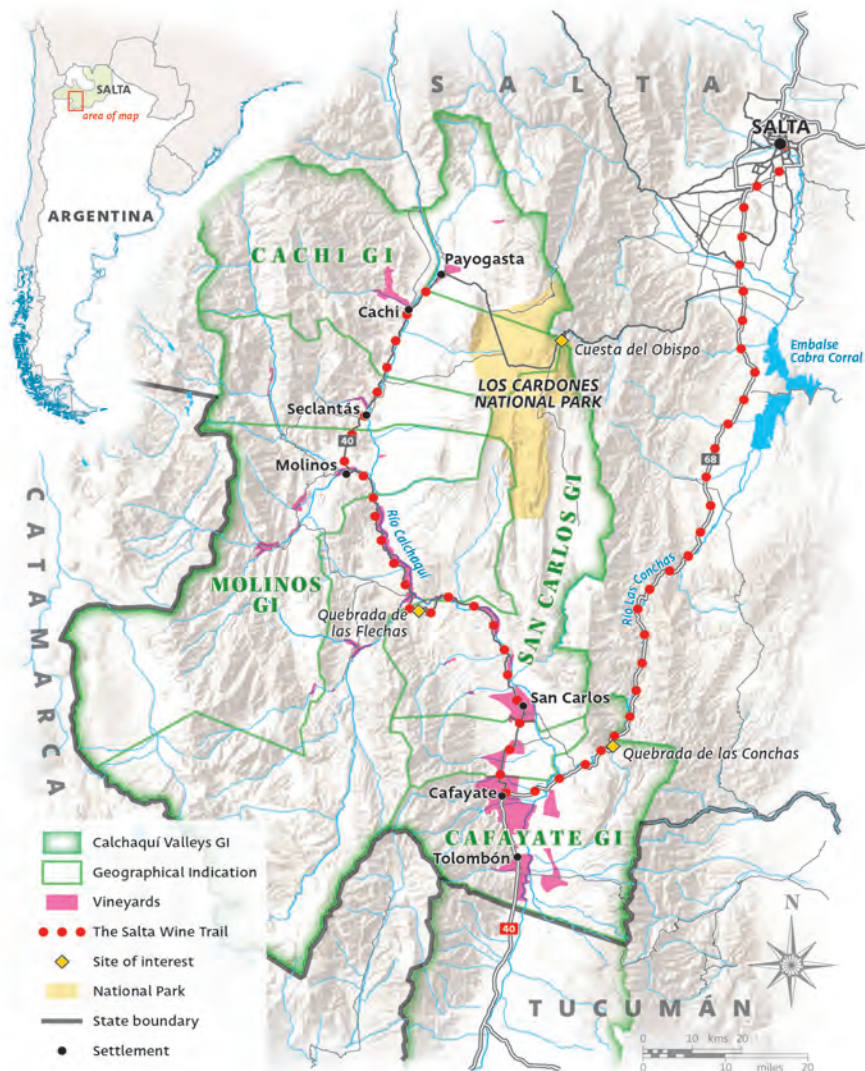


Cool mountain winds and low humidity facilitate sustainable and organic viticulture



Salta's high altitude brings large diurnal temperature variation – promoting slow, balanced ripening

PHOTOGRAPH DANIELA DAVILA



Salta GI covers the entire province of Salta

cultural identity, taking in Salta's key wineries, historic settlements and natural landmarks, such as the beautiful ravines and rock formations of Quebrada de las Flechas and Quebrada de las Conchas.

The route passes through San Carlos, Molinos and Cachi, picturesque towns that give their names to their respective GIs. It was near Molinos that the province's first vines were planted, brought by Jesuit priests from the Canary Islands via what is now Chile. Meanwhile, some of the world's highest vineyards are located in Payogasta, just northeast of Cachi.

Salta has preserved an artisanal winemaking tradition – it remains particularly strong in Payogasta, Cachi and Seclantás. This in turn has preserved old vines that might otherwise have been abandoned or uprooted, and has sparked a renewed interest in traditional techniques and grape varieties in recent decades.

Nestled in the heart of the Calchaquí Valleys, 200km southwest of Salta, Cafayate is the epicentre of wine production in the province. The municipality (which is also a GI of its own) accounts for 75% of the vineyard area of Salta, and 60% of that of Calchaquí Valleys GI. Therefore the area around Cafayate is where most of the province's wineries are found. Also in Cafayate, the Museo de la Vid y el Vino (Museum of the Vine and Wine) offers a comprehensive overview of the history, tradition and evolution of winemaking in the region.

## 'High altitude and long sunlight hours throughout the growing season allow the grapes to develop the particular, complex intensity that shapes the character of Salta's wines'

### The taste of altitude

High altitudes together with long sunlight hours throughout the growing season allow the grapes to develop the particular, complex intensity that defines the character of Salta's wines.

Elevation is key to this in two ways. First, grapes develop thicker skins in response to the increased UV exposure found at higher altitudes. Secondly, the extreme temperature variation (summer temperatures range from 38°C during the day to 12°C at night) leads to the development of complex aromatic compounds without a loss of acidity.

Ultimately, thicker skins and slow, balanced phenolic ripening deliver a high amount of complex compounds, making grapes grown in Salta the perfect raw material for high-quality, ageworthy wines. The province's reds, particularly its expressions of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, are known for their aromatic depth and nuance, and robust yet elegant, ripe tannins.

Although pink-skinned Criolla varieties (namely Criolla Chica and Cereza) account for only a small fraction of Salta's total vineyard area today, they are now seeing renewed interest from both winemakers and consumers.

Despite Malbec being by far the most planted variety in Salta, the province's flagship grape is the white Torrontés Riojano, the most famous of the Criolla varieties. This natural crossing of Muscat of Alexandria and Criolla Chica is well adapted to the challenging climate, producing some of its finest expressions in Salta, and in Cafayate in particular. In high-elevation vineyards here it benefits from low night-time temperatures – enabling it to retain refreshing acidity while developing its trademark floral aromas of rose, jasmine and geranium, lined with herbal and spicy notes.

Singular qualities like these reflect the uniqueness and heritage of Salta: a province whose past and present promise an exciting future for winemaking.

### SALTA – KEY FACTS TO KNOW:

**Latitude:** between 26° and 25° south  
**Elevation of vineyards:** 1,530–3,111m  
**Average annual temperature:** 15°C  
**Average annual rainfall:** 203mm/year

**Area under vine:** 3,604.4ha  
 (69.91% red; 28.66% white; 1.43% pink)

- Main grape varieties:**
- **Red:** Malbec (1646.6ha), Cabernet Sauvignon (469.9ha), Merlot (52.1ha), Tannat (135.5ha)
  - **White:** Torrontés Riojano (896.9ha)
  - **Pink-skinned:** Criolla Chica (41.1ha), Cereza (2.4ha)

#### Geographical Indications (GIs):

- Within the province of Salta:**
- Cachi
  - Cafayate / Valle de Cafayate
  - Molinos
  - Salta
  - San Carlos

#### Shared with the provinces of Catamarca and Tucumán:

- Calchaquí Valleys

Source: *Wines of Argentina*



# The changing face of Salta: A fresh approach

From new generation winemakers to innovative interpretations of vineyard sites and traditional varieties, the Salta wine scene offers much to be discovered



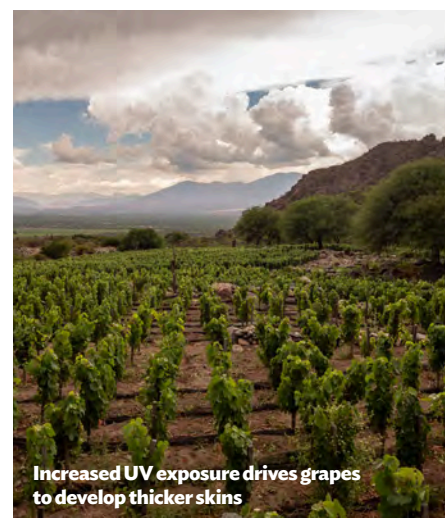
Salta's vineyards demand careful management

Not so long ago, Salta's wines were usually thought of as just as challenging as the landscape itself: intense wines, the reds often marked by heavy-handed use of wood. Today, however, this image no longer corresponds to the reality. Many elements have come together to create this transformation, from the introduction of new varieties and the exploration of different valleys and sub-zones to experimentation in sparkling, white and red winemaking styles. The shift can be traced back to around a decade ago, with a growing openness to the path of diversity: of grape varieties, styles, winemakers, terroirs and stories.

## Passion projects

Key to understanding the modern Salta wine scene is the growth of signature wines: winemakers' personal projects, guided less by commercial considerations than by passion for winemaking and the terroir itself. Established winemakers are using their personal projects to provide a fresh perspective – artisanal, but still informed by knowledge of the international market.

**Alejandro Pepa**, for example, winemaker at the historic Bodega El Esteco, is known for his work with old Criolla vineyards. **Paco Puga**, who oversees winemaking at El Porvenir de Cafayate, is a proud lover of Burgundy, having lived and worked for many years in the region.



Increased UV exposure drives grapes to develop thicker skins

PHOTOGRAPH BY DANIELA DÁVALA



For winemakers, Salta is a region of extremes



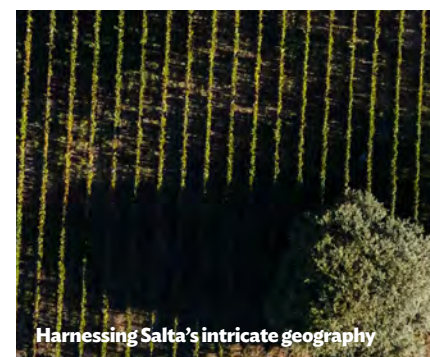
Vineyards high in the Calchaquí Valleys

Bodega Colomé's **Thibaut Delmotte**, meanwhile, made the opposite journey, emigrating from his native France to immerse himself in the life of the Calchaquí Valleys.

The talented agronomist **Raúl Dávalos Rubio**, known as 'Yeyé', represents the sixth generation of the historic Dávalos family. Dávalos is responsible for winery operations at the family winery, Bodega Tacuil in Molinos, deep within the Calchaquí Valleys, whilst also producing wines under the Valle Arriba label. A renowned consultant across the region, he is a founding member of the Bodegas de Salta association.

## Diverse terroirs demanding new techniques

To make wine in Salta, winemakers must relish a challenge. Salta's terroir is extremely diverse, even between neighbouring areas such as Cafayate and Tolombón. The task of understanding and harnessing this intricate geography was one of the things that attracted **Alejandro Sejanovich** to the region. One of the country's most experienced agronomists, having worked widely across Argentina's regions, Sejanovich now he serves as winemaker at Estancia Los Cardones in Tolombón.



Harnessing Salta's intricate geography

Salta, explains Sejanovich, is a region of extremes. Compared to other regions, temperature differences are especially marked here because of the elevation – which also leads to great solar intensity, very diverse soils and extremely dry conditions. For Sejanovich, the first challenge is therefore the work in the vineyard: protecting the grapes from dehydration and the impact of the sun, while simultaneously avoiding over-ripeness to protect the grapes' natural acidity and aromatics.

## 'The challenge of understanding and harnessing the intricately varied Salta terroirs was one of the things that attracted Alejandro Sejanovich to the region'

### Combining legacy and innovation

Many Salta winemakers are heirs to a long vinous tradition – but are nonetheless unafraid to experiment. One of the most fearless is **Pancho Lavaque**, who travelled widely before returning home to run the historic Lavaque Winery.

It's clear from Lavaque's Vallisto wines that his family's long winemaking heritage is no obstacle to experimentation: native yeasts, regenerative viticulture, skin contact and ageing in cement eggs – the list goes on. As well as a fortified wine in the traditional Rancio style (which ages for three years in the open air), Lavaque produces a blend of Ugni Blanc and Riesling from a 50-year-old vineyard on a terroir of decomposed granite. While reviving old Tannat vines, he's also planting Garnacha and Barbera; taken together, Lavaque's wines offer a fertile mix of past and present.

### A terroir-centred approach

An increasingly detailed focus on terroir is another way the latest generation are revolutionising Salta wine. After working in Barolo and Bordeaux, **Agustín Lanús** arrived in Salta in 2013 and began delineating and naming different subzones.

He soon decided to register the Altos Terruños brand, solidifying his focus on microvinifying the different terroirs of the Calchaquí Valleys. To understand the character of each plot, Lanús experimented with different elevations, soils, exposures and vintages, and also developed his own rootstocks, as well as reducing the use of oak, seeking to allow the terroir to show through.

In the course of his experiments, Lanús discovered a rare Criolla Blanca in Luracatao, northwest of Seclantás. Analysis at the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria showed it to be a previously undiscovered crossing of Criolla Chica and Muscat of Alexandria, which is thought to have naturally occurred there – a new treasure he is intrigued to vinify.





PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LOPELUDO

Salta boasts a centuries-long viticultural tradition

## Returning home

In many cases, the younger generation has travelled abroad and brought that international experience back to Salta. **Clara Isasmendi**, a second-generation winemaker, is a prominent example – and her wines have already gained a loyal following within Argentina and beyond. Her family's winery is based between Cachi and Payogasta (and also works with vineyards in Seclantás and Molinos).

What Isasmendi brings is an international perspective – she spent time living in London and studying the WSET Diploma, while selling her family's wines abroad. She returned home to Salta in 2022, and is in the process of taking over the family winery, continuing its mission to revitalize the region's century-old vineyards and produce high-end, artisanal wines.

## Creating a community

**Paco Puga** is renowned as one of the region's most important winemakers. As well as consulting on several projects, and serving as winemaker at El Porvenir de Cafayate, he somehow finds the time to craft his signature wines with his 24-year-old daughter, oenology student **Valentina Puga**.

The first wine the Puga family released is one of their most successful: L'amitié. The name was

## 'To make wine here, winemakers must relish a challenge'

chosen, Paco explains, both as a celebration of friendship and as an expression of gratitude for the years the family has lived in the Calchaquí Valleys. For the Puga family, this is a special place: a dynamic winemaking community and a society rooted in an ancestral respect for nature. L'amitié's French bottle design pays homage to Paco's time as a student in Burgundy –

underscoring Salta's connections with the wider wine world, and its well deserved place in the worldwide wine community.

## A promising future

Salta may be a small wine-growing region, but its distinctive character makes it impossible to ignore. Each year, more producers choose to settle here to learn from the winemaking community and craft their own expressions. As a new generation of winemakers and fresh ideas continue to make their mark, the region remains a forerunner in exploring the potential of extreme winemaking.



Altitude brings extreme daily temperature variation



# A terroir making its mark – key Salta wines to try

A snapshot of the characterful styles and expressions that this dramatic region has to offer



Salta accounts for less than 2% of Argentina's land under vine – but continues to have an outsized impact on the country's wine scene

PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: STYLE XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

To explore the wines of Salta is to discover an enchanting corner of Argentina where a dramatic natural landscape and winemakers' expertise combine to create distinctive vinous expressions. Here, vineyards withstand the extreme conditions found at high altitudes – from 1,530m to 3,111m elevation – combined with a dramatic diurnal range and long daylight hours.

Although its winemaking history dates back to the beginning of the 19th century, Salta only accounts for 1.75% of Argentina's total area under vine – making it all the more impressive that Salta has become an essential part of the national wine scene.

The secret lies in a fascinating combination of tradition and innovation: from the famed Cafayate Valley, where 80% of the region's vineyards are located, to the high-altitude valleys of Molinos, Colomé and Cachi, where small producers are harnessing the potential of extreme terroirs with exciting results.

Malbec is the most widely planted grape here, and takes on great intensity and character in these latitudes. However, the classic reds of Salta are more often elegant blends of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon with dashes of Tannat, Merlot and Cabernet Franc – as can be discovered in the selection that follows. Meanwhile, varietal wines are also making their

mark, with grapes such as Criolla Chica, Garnacha, Tannat and Petit Verdot all deservedly earning acclaim.

For whites, Torrontés is the regional star, delivering floral aromas and a vibrant freshness that pair perfectly with Salta's famous empanadas in both still and sparkling styles.

Every wine from Salta tells a story: of dramatic heights, prized traditions, stunning landscapes and dedicated winemakers. Today, Salta's producers are exploring contemporary styles, whilst at the same time staying true to their roots.

The selection of wines that follows is a mere snapshot of the unique styles and expressions that this unique region has to offer.

## Salta wines to try


**Burbujas de Altura, Torrontés Brut Nature 2022**

[burbujasdealtura.com.ar](http://burbujasdealtura.com.ar)

In Cafayate (1,800m elevation), Tania Høy produces this bottle-fermented sparkling Torrontés with a pale yellow hue, lively bubbles and peach, tropical fruit and almond notes. Creamy and vibrant with a persistent, yeasty finish. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 13%


**Vinos Adentro, Gran Nevado Torrontés 2023**

[vinosadentro.com](http://vinosadentro.com)

Christian Götz's Torrontés from vineyards at 2,700m elevation in Cachi is pale yellow with floral, citrus and spicy notes. Full-bodied yet refreshing, this is an essential choice for Torrontés enthusiasts. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 13%


**Bodega Puna, Malbec 2024**

[bodegapuna.com.ar](http://bodegapuna.com.ar)

Bodega Puna, situated in Cachi, produces wines from vineyards perched at 2,500m elevation. The 2024 Malbec reveals a ruby hue with ripe red fruit aromas overlaid with spicy and balsamic nuances. On the palate, it's robust and fruit-forward, boasting firm tannins. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.3%


**Gualinchay, Unhito 2022**

[twitter.com/gualinchay](https://twitter.com/gualinchay)

Situated in Tolombón, Gualinchay produces wines from its vineyard at 1,750m elevation. The Unhito Malbec, soon to be released, encapsulates a contemporary style with vibrant fruit, freshness and impressive palate intensity. **Drink** 2024-2027 **Alc** 14%


**Inimaginable Wines, Inimaginable Malbec 2022**

[@inimaginablewines](https://www.instagram.com/inimaginablewines)

Crafted by Claudio Maza in Cachi (2,600m elevation), this modern Malbec offers floral and fruity notes over a minty backdrop. Aged in 500L barrels, it's fresh, balanced and structured, with fine, firm tannins. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.5%


**Bodega Nueve Cumbres, Abvndia 2022**

[nuevecumbres.com.ar](http://nuevecumbres.com.ar)

Nueve Cumbres, in the heart of Cachi, crafts elegant high-elevation wines. This Bonarda-Malbec blend brims with ripe black fruit, currants and spices, layered with subtle smoke. Juicy tannins and a minty finish enliven the full-bodied palate. **Drink** 2024-2027 **Alc** 14.7%


**Bomba Wines, Pájaro Loco Red Blend 2023**

[bombawines.com.ar](http://bombawines.com.ar)

Crafted by Carolina Martín in Cafayate, this 80% Malbec and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon blend, fermented with native yeasts, is well-balanced with fruity, spiced character. Full-bodied on the palate and bursting with flavour. **Drink** 2025-2028 **Alc** 14.5%


**El Esteco, El Esteco Old Vines Criolla 2023**

[elesteco.com.ar](http://elesteco.com.ar)

Available from *Enotria & Coe* Criolla Chica (Listán Prieto), brought to the Americas in the 1500s, is still grown in small quantities. From a vineyard planted in 1958, this bursts with cherry candy, subtle herbs and exotic freshness. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14%


**Finca Chaskañawi, Kuntur Cabernet Franc-Malbec 2023**

Finca Chaskañawi is an innovative project crafting wines from Cafayate Valley grapes. This red blend unites two of the region's key varieties, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, delivering a complex wine with vibrant fruit, Earl Grey tea, eucalyptus, menthol and a smoky oak finish. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.5%


**Stone Winery Salta, Mastaba 2022**

[fincasancarlos.com.ar](http://fincasancarlos.com.ar)

Stone Winery Salta, an emerging producer based near Cafayate, debuted its Mastaba line in 2020 under winemaker Daniel Heffner. This 2022 Malbec typifies modern valley reds, with red fruit dominance balanced by herbal and spicy notes. Fresh and expressive with a vibrant finish. **Drink** 2024-2026 **Alc** 14.5%


**Tierra Colorada, Desvarío Tannat 2022**

[@bodegatierracolorada](https://www.instagram.com/bodegatierracolorada)

From Chimpa, near Cafayate, this Tannat – a variety on the rise here – offers ripe red and black fruit, liquorice, cassis and mountain herbs. The palate is vibrant and textured, with round tannins and a smooth, fruit-driven finish. **Drink** 2024-2026 **Alc** 14.8%


**San Pedro de Yacochuya, Yacochuya M. Rolland Malbec 2022**

[yacochuya.com.ar](http://yacochuya.com.ar)

A benchmark Argentine Malbec crafted by Michel Rolland from Yacochuya's 2,000m-high vines. Intense and savoury with mountain character, seamlessly blending power with Bordeaux-like precision. **Drink** 2024-2030 **Alc** 14.5%


**Bodega Tacuil, RD Malbec-Cabernet 2023**

[tacuil.com.ar](http://tacuil.com.ar)

This unoaked blend from the remote Bodega Tacuil highlights the purity of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. Energetic and juicy with distinct high-elevation character, it reflects the raw, bold character of the Calchaquí Valleys. **Drink** 2024-2029 **Alc** 14.5%


**Bodega Valle Arriba, Valle Arriba El Pucareño Malbec 2023**

[vallearriba.com.ar](http://vallearriba.com.ar)

From Pucará, this barrel-free Malbec is a pure expression of its Calchaquí terroir. Fermentation using native yeasts produces a vibrant wine with remarkable freshness, tension and enduring energy. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.5%


**Bodega Amalaya, Amalaya Gran Corte 2022**

[amalaya.com](http://amalaya.com)

Available from *Liberty Wines* A modern classic from Cafayate, combining Malbec (85%), Cabernet Franc and Tannat. Aromas of red fruit jam, spices and balsamic. Concentrated but fresh: firm tannins, full body and a long finish. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.5%


**Bodega Altupalka, Altupalka Malbec-Malbec 2021**

[altupalka.com.ar](http://altupalka.com.ar)

Crafted from two separate Malbec vineyards in Cafayate (1,750m) and Molinos (2,590m), Alejandro Martorell's expression exudes black fruit, balsamic and tobacco aromas, with a tense, savoury palate of remarkable depth and opulence. **Drink** 2024-2030 **Alc** 15.5%


**Francisco Puga y Familia, Contemporáneo 2021**

[@bodegalavaque](https://www.instagram.com/bodegalavaque)

Francisco Puga crafts this blend of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Merlot, expressing pristine Calchaquí fruit in a modern style that lives up to its name. The wine is juicy and savoury on the palate, with remarkable elegance – testament to its vibrant, polished style. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.2%


**Bodega Lavaque, Vallisto Malbec 2021**

[@bodegalavaque](https://www.instagram.com/bodegalavaque)

Available from *Ucopia* Pancho Lavaque's Malbec balances modernity with Salta tradition. Partial oak ageing enriches its red fruit, jalapeño and spice aromas; fleshy yet refined, it boasts velvety texture and persistent tannins. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 13.4%


**Bodega Dal Borgo, Almandino Cabernet Franc 2022**

[bodegadalborge.com.ar](http://bodegadalborge.com.ar)

In Animaná (at 1,700m elevation), Bodega Dal Borgo crafts modern, varietal wines reflecting their terroir. This Cabernet Franc offers black cherries, spices and pepper, with juicy tannins and refreshing acidity complementing an enveloping palate. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.8%


**Estancia Los Cardones, Tigerstone Garnacha 2022**

[estancioscardones.com](http://estancioscardones.com)

Available from *Corney & Barrow* In Tolombón, Alejandro Sejanovich crafts this vibrant Garnacha, a grape that is fast becoming the star of the Calchaquí Valley. Cherry, spice and fresh herbal notes, with soft tannins and a long, fruity finish. **Drink** 2024-2027 **Alc** 13.9%


**Bodega Etchart, Arnaldo B 2022**

[bodegasetchart.com](http://bodegasetchart.com)

Famed as an emblem of the Calchaquí Valley since 1990, this blend of Malbec (60%), Cabernet Sauvignon and Tannat exudes ripe fruit, spice and smoke. Deep violet in hue, it's full-bodied, round and elegant, with exceptional ageing potential. **Drink** 2024-2029 **Alc** 14.5%


**Bodega Miraluna, Miraluna Merlot 2021**

[miralunawines.com.ar](http://miralunawines.com.ar)

Based in high-elevation Cachi, Miraluna stands out with this Merlot, which reveals red fruits, tobacco and spice aromas. Barrel-aged for 12 months, it is balanced and vibrant, with firm tannins and a refreshing, balsamic finish. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 15%


**Bodega Nanni, Nanni Reserva Tannat 2021**

[bodegananni.com](http://bodegananni.com)

From Argentina's pioneering organic winery, this 12-month barrel-aged Tannat offers balsamic and black olive notes alongside ripe fruit and spice. The opulent, tense palate brings depth and intrigue. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.3%


**El Porvenir de Cafayate, Alto Los Cuis Malbec 2021**

[elporvenirdecafayate.com](http://elporvenirdecafayate.com)

Available from *Hispanmerchants & Boutinot* The most lauded release from this innovative, high-quality winery, from an exceptional Cafayate vineyard. Red fruit, pepper and lavender profile; deep purple, smooth yet vibrant, chalky tannins and a lively mid-palate. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 13.5%





### Sólo Los Locos Winery, Ponzosñosos Ogros Gran Corte 2021

@zs\_ponzonosos

Sólo Los Locos, in Tolombón near Cafayate, barrel-ages its Gran Corte for 18 months. This Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon blend, offers vibrant fruit, high-elevation character and spicy, minty nuances. Savoury, fresh and long on the palate. **Drink** 2024-2026 **Alc** 14.7%



### Vizcacha Wines, Viejo Vizcacha Malbec 2021

vizcachawines.com.ar

Alvaro Dávalos' modern interpretation of a high-elevation red combines Malbec from Angastaco and Seclantás with Cabernet from Cafayate. Twelve months in oak enhance its enveloping texture, juicy tannins and long, balanced finish. **Drink** 2024-2026 **Alc** 15%



### La Finca de los Viñedos Imposibles, Tenaz Malbec 2020

vinedosimposibles.com

Francisco Moreno's bold Pucará vineyards yield this powerful Malbec, crafted with Santiago Achával and Roberto Cipresso. Herbal notes and juicy red fruits dominate the palate, showcasing the region's rugged character.

**Drink** 2024-2029 **Alc** 14%



### Bodega Tukma, Tukma Gran Corte 2019

tukma.com

Available from Vinals Wine & Food

From Tolombón and Angastaco, this classy Malbec, Tannat and Cabernet Sauvignon blend offers red fruit, jalapeño, curry and herbal notes. Deep and opulent yet polished, with persistent character. **Drink** 2024-2026 **Alc** 14.5%



### Tordos Wines, Tordos Microvinificación Cabernet Franc 2021

@tordoswines

Bright ruby red in colour, this fragrant Cabernet Franc offers spicy and herbal nuances. Juicy and persistent, it's a compelling example of the variety's growing reputation in the Calchaquí Valley.

**Drink** 2024-2026 **Alc** 14.1%



### Bodega Agustín Lanús Wines, Sunal Salvaje Malbec Luracatao 2020

agustinlanuswines.com

Harvested at 2,730m in Luracatao, Agustín Lanús' Malbec displays mountain herbs and fresh red fruit aromas. Its sharp acidity energises the full-bodied palate, delivering vibrancy and a concentrated, rich core.

**Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14%



### Piattelli Vineyards, Cab Five Blend 2020

piattellivineyards.com/home

A sophisticated blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Ancellotta from Animaná (1,700m elevation). Garnet hue, aromas of black fruits, olives and tobacco. Juicy on the palate with fine tannins and an elegant, lingering finish. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.5%



### Viñas en Flor, Mejores Añadas Vino de Parcela Malbec 2019

vinasenflor.com

The latest Malbec from premium producer Viñas en Flor – a rising star in the Cafayate Valley – is a limited release from a specific parcel of vines, exuding sophistication and elegance: a classic regional style with refined fruit and spice. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.5%



### Vasija Secreta, Gata Flora Reserve Tannat 2021

vasijasecreta.com.ar

One of Cafayate's most historic wineries, Vasija Secreta preserves Salta's viticultural heritage. Its Gata Flora Tannat showcases intense fruit alongside balsamic notes. The textured palate impresses with tension and balanced acidity.

**Drink** 2024-2026 **Alc** 14.8%



### Bodega Domingo Molina, Rupestre 2020

domingomolina.com.ar

Available from Hispamerchants

A Malbec-based blend from vineyards high in the Calchaquí Valleys, aged for 12 months in oak. Black fruits, liquorice, cedar and spice. Full-bodied with polished tannins and a smoky, lingering finish. **Drink** 2024-2030 **Alc** 14.5%



### Bodega Colomé, Altura Máxima Malbec 2019

bodegacolome.com

Available from Liberty Wines

From a 3,111m elevation Payogasta vineyard, this Malbec (barrel-aged for 24 months) reveals red fruit, tobacco, mint, vibrant freshness and refined tannins. A remarkable, ageworthy example. **Drink** 2024-2034 **Alc** 14.5%



### Bodega Isasmendi, Isasmendi Estate Single Vineyard Assemblage 2014

bodegaisasmendi.com

Bodega Isasmendi's high-elevation blend (Malbec, Merlot and Tannat) exudes black fruits, balsamic notes and Provençal herbs. Intense yet velvety, its elegant structure reflects winemakers Jean Paul and Sylvie Bonnal's expertise. **Drink** 2024-2028 **Alc** 14.5%



# Discover the Salta Wine Trail

Take in stunning mountain landscapes, historic towns and warm local hospitality on the world's highest wine trail



Climbing into the Andes, the Salta Wine Trail takes in some of the world's highest vineyards

Located in northern Argentina, the province of Salta is home to one of the most stunning wine trails in the world, combining majestic natural landscapes with a renowned winemaking tradition. The journey into Salta's **Calchaquí Valleys** reveals a world of incredible terrains and unique flavours.

**Cafayate**, the heart of the region's wine scene, is found at the southern end of the Calchaquí Valleys, a three-hour drive from the city of Salta. But there's no need to bring entertainment for the trip: along the way, the **Quebrada de las Conchas** (Gorge of Shells) nature reserve unfolds in a mesmerising series of ancient rock formations – including the famous Garganta del Diablo and Anfiteatro – in a sumptuous array of browns, reds, yellows and purples.

The charming town of Cafayate is famous for its vineyards set at between 1,580m and 2,100m elevation. Local wineries **Vasija Secreta**,

**El Esteco** and **El Porvenir de Cafayate** are all eager to share the history of Calchaquí wines with their guests. Further south, the town of **Tolombón** is home to noted producers such as **Estancia Los Cardones** and **Bodega Tukma**.

**‘The Salta Wine Trail is an opportunity to discover a different pace of life, a vibrant culture and a unique natural landscape’**

The adventure then continues north towards **Molinos** and **Cachi** along the legendary Ruta 40. Traversing the high-altitude valleys at over 2,380m, this road takes

you through the otherworldly lunar landscapes of **Quebrada de las Flechas** and on to the renowned wineries **Bodega Colomé** and **Bodega Tacuil**. Cachi, a quiet rural town, with its picturesque whitewashed architecture and small producers such as **Puna** and **Miraluna**, is the perfect place to rest and relax before setting out on the return journey.

The descent down the winding mountain ridge of **Cuesta del Obispo** and through **Los Cardones National Park** rounds off the trip with breathtaking panoramic views.

All in all, the Salta Wine Trail offers much more than delicious wines: it's an opportunity to discover a different pace of life, a vibrant culture and a unique natural landscape.

Along the Salta Wine Trail you'll find wineries that offer top-class accommodation in addition to exquisite tastings, fascinating tours and excellent restaurant options.





Adventurous wine lovers can journey high into the Andes

## WHERE TO STAY

### Patios de Cafayate – Bodega El Esteco

[patiosdecafayate.com](http://patiosdecafayate.com)

At the entrance to the town of Cafayate, Bodega El Esteco and Patios de Cafayate combine history and luxury in an atmospheric building that dates back to 1892. The boutique hotel has its own restaurant, Patios, run by local chef Virginia Marín, who creates gastronomic experiences focusing on the produce and flavours of northern Argentina.

### El Porvenir Wine Lodge

[elporvenirwinelodge.com](http://elporvenirwinelodge.com)

This charming wine hotel outside Cafayate has modern lodges overlooking the vineyards as well as comfortable rooms in the main house. The restaurant, Pausa, serves dishes specially designed to pair perfectly with the winery's bottlings, making for a complete experience that celebrates the soul of Cafayate.

### Piattelli Wine Resort

[piattelliwinesort.com.ar](http://piattelliwinesort.com.ar)

Those looking to relax in world-class luxury need look no further than Piattelli Wine Resort, situated just north of Cafayate. Located near the famed winery, the resort has 20 cabins with a private jacuzzi, spa, gym, swimming pools and the exclusive Aura restaurant, offering sophisticated service in a breathtaking mountain setting.

### Hotel Finca El Recreo

[fincaelrecreo.ar](http://fincaelrecreo.ar)

Owned by the Lavaque family, this historic 19th-century mansion in Cafayate has 12 well-appointed rooms, as well as a swimming pool in idyllic surroundings at the foot of the mountain. Finca El Recreo guarantees a restful taste of village life among its hundred-year old vineyards.



Cosy dining at El Porvenir Wine Lodge



Piattelli Wine Resort's luxurious pool

### Altaluna Boutique Hotel & Spa

[altaluna.com](http://altaluna.com)

In Tolombón, 15 minutes south of Cafayate, this historic hotel offers the epitome of relaxation: a peaceful natural setting with full spa services. Its luxurious rooms look out over the Bodega Tukma vineyards, while the restaurant delivers authentic, traditional Salteño flavours. Each month, visitors can take a truly special vineyard tour: on horseback, by the light of the full moon. Riders set out from the hotel gardens on Route 40, enjoy panoramic views of the valley, and return to the hotel for a moonlit *asado* (barbecue) paired with the estate's wines.



Altaluna offers horseback tours

### Estancia Colomé

[bodegacolome.com](http://bodegacolome.com)

In Molinos, Bodega Colomé and its hotel, Estancia Colomé, form one of the Salta Wine Trail's most famous stops. High among the clouds at 2,285m elevation, its vineyards surround a visitor complex, an exclusive luxury lodge and a restaurant run by renowned chef Patricia Courtois. Founder Donald Hess' other passion was art, and Bodega Colomé is also home to the James Turrell Museum. Turrell's artworks are constructed from light and space itself, so this gallery was purpose-built to the artist's own specifications. The area's extraordinary natural light gives the artworks special power and intensity as they harness the Andean sunrise and sunset.



The historic Bodega Colomé

PHOTOGRAPHS AMALAYA WINE BAR / BODEGA TUKMA / EL PORVENIR WINE LODGE / PIATTELLI WINE RESORT



PHOTOGRAPH BODEGA DALBORGO

Tasting in the shade of the vines at Bodega Dal Borgo

## WHERE TO EAT

### Bodega Dal Borgo

[bodegadalborgo.com.ar](http://bodegadalborgo.com.ar)

This family winery has cemented its place as a favourite stop for visitors to Cafayate. Its dishes capture the essence of local cuisine, served in a welcoming atmosphere. Make sure to visit at sunset to enjoy the stunning views over the vineyards.

### Viñas en Flor Bodega

[vinasenflor.com](http://vinasenflor.com)

Just a 10-minute drive from the centre of Cafayate, this is one of the newest wineries in the Calchaquí Valleys. The buildings and facilities combine tradition with modernity in striking style, while the restaurant offers classic dishes from the region, embodying the flavours of high-altitude cuisine.

### Brea Cocina

[@brea.cocina](http://@brea.cocina)

Brea Cocina is the restaurant of Bodega Tierra Colorada, located among its vineyards in Chimpa, a short distance east of Cafayate. The restaurant offers guests the opportunity to truly taste the Salta terroir – though its wines, heritage and food. The concept is simple: authentic flavours, family recipes and home-grown produce from the organic vegetable garden, enjoyed in beautiful natural surroundings. Brea Cocina is open Wednesdays to Sundays, by reservation only.

### Bad Brothers

[@badbrotherswineexperience](http://@badbrotherswineexperience)

Winemaker Agustín Lanús' bar in the town of Cafayate allows guests to enjoy excellent food while exploring the different characters of high-altitude wines. A favourite of tourists and locals alike, the restaurant organises themed nights with DJ sets and activities such as blending challenges using wines made by Lanús.

### Amalaya Wine Bar

[amalaya.com](http://amalaya.com)

On the southern outskirts of Cafayate, at the very foot of the mountains, Bodega Amalaya is one of Salta's more modern options, and is much sought-after by tourists. The recently opened wine bar includes a terrace that looks out over the vineyards, providing a panoramic view of Cafayate that makes the perfect backdrop to a glass of wine and array of tapas. Combined with the bar's soundtrack of great music, it makes Bodega Amalaya the perfect spot to round off the day.

### Bodega Puna

[bodegapuna.com.ar](http://bodegapuna.com.ar)

In Cachi, one of the most enchanting towns in the Calchaquí Valleys at 2,600m altitude, one finds Bodega Puna. Its charming restaurant combines traditional Salta recipes with influences from the different cultures that have settled in the region, while the Puna Wine Bar is a relaxed, informal space with an ample range of wines and snacks.



Charcoal-grilled empanadas at El Porvenir

### Retoño Restaurante

[@retono.restaurante](http://@retono.restaurante)

One of Argentina's oldest producers, the historic Bodega Nanni has now opened its own boutique restaurant. In the heart of Cafayate, Retoño Restaurante is a calm oasis in the bustling city centre. In its cosy surroundings, diners can enjoy traditional Calchaquí dishes. The empanadas are not to be missed, and pair perfectly with expressions from the winery's nearby vineyards – the producer has been certified organic since 1996.



Wine pairings bring local cuisine alive





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