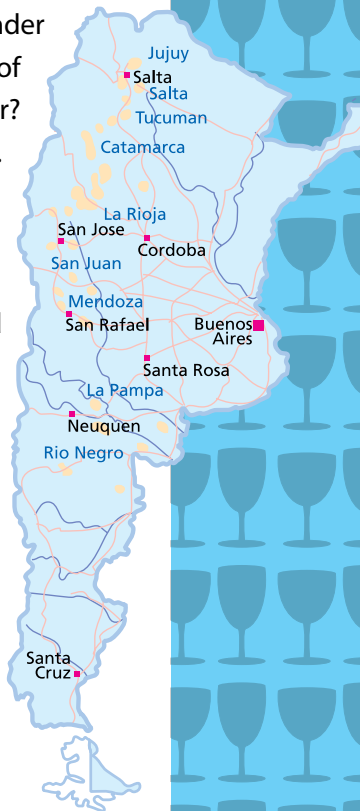


ARGENTINA

Now one of the fastest growing wine producers and U.K. wine markets and up to seventh in the league table of world producers. Why? There are exceptional natural climatic conditions. The country has the highest commercial vineyards in the world and warm days and cool nights are perfect not least for keeping pests and rot under control. Another advantage is value- the various financial crises suffered by Argentina have resulted until recently in a weakness against the pound so prices have been attractive. Argentina has also been able to make two grape varieties virtually its own property as single varietals, Malbec (red) and Torrontes (White). It took a much longer time for Australia with Shiraz Cabernet or New Zealand with Sauvignon Blanc to achieve a similar level of acceptance. The Torrontes wine is now becoming well known because it manages to combine a strongly aromatic flavour with a dry finish and a good affinity with food. Malbec is a minor mixer in Bordeaux but has become a star in Argentina with soft but savoury blackberry tastes predominating.

Elementos ...we were bowled over by the quality of all four wines given their price.

When we first tasted our Elementos range, our wine team agreed unanimously to put them on our list. The wines are made under the supervision of Peter Bright, perhaps the most famous of the Australian 'flying winemakers'. What is a flying winemaker? Thirty years ago, world winemaking was incredibly parochial. A Bordeaux vigneron was heard to remark mischievously 'Do they make wine in Burgundy'. Now it is far more international- Frenchmen go to California and to Australia and New Zealand for added experience. Similarly Australians come to the Old World not only to study but to advise. A 'flying winemaker' literally flies in and out to give his views at key times in the growing season.



The Elementos Shiraz Malbec was one of nearly one hundred Argentine red blends tasted by Decanter Magazine in November 2008. The wine was praised for its inviting aromas, excellent concentration of fruit and its long aftertaste. Equally importantly, it was chosen as the Best Value wine tasted at a price more than three pounds greater than the HBC sales price! What value is that? The name and unique presentation derive from the four elements depicted above.



RED

| | Taste Guide | Trade Sales Price |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Casa Solera Bonarda Malbec This blend of Argentina's two most popular red grape varieties produces a soft, spicy and rounded wine. | C | £3.79 |
| Elementos Shiraz Malbec Powerful ripe black fruit with barrel aged complexity giving a touch of creamy spiciness. Super length of flavour and highly rated in Decanter 2008. | C | £4.09 |
| Santa Luisa Syrah A wine with all the spiciness and ripe blackberry flavours we associate with Syrah (Shiraz). Tightly structured with soft tannins. | D | £4.53 |
| Rincon Privado Cabernet Sauvignon The wine shows classic Cabernet blackcurrant and cigar box elements to the full. The powerful fruit flavours make attractive drinking especially with food. | D | £4.83 |
| Don Cristobal Sangiovese Brightly coloured, the aromas and flavours are very fruity and bring to mind cherries and fresh plums. Very well balanced with a refreshing moreish finish. | C | £5.83 |
| Don Cristobal Malbec Intensely violet in colour with lots of blackberries and some spiciness in the mouth. Partial ageing in French oak rounds the wine off well. | D | £5.83 |
| ROSE | | |
| Elementos Shiraz Rosé A lively rosé with tempting raspberry flavours, made by the famous flying Aussie winemaker Peter Bright. | 2C | £4.09 |
| WHITE | | |
| Casa Solera Chenin Blanc Ideally suited to Argentinian conditions, the Chenin is honeyed but fruity, crisp and very easy drinking. | 3 | £3.79 |
| Elementos Chardonnay Viognier Excellent example of San Juan wine blending. The scents and flavours of apricots and peaches balance perfectly with the fresh acidity to give a rich, complex finish. | 2 | £4.09 |
| Elementos Torrontes Fabulous rose and peach aromas while the palate is refreshingly zingy so leaving a lingering but voluptuous aftertaste. | 2 | £4.09 |
| Don Cristobal Chardonnay Elegant New World Chardonnay with apple-green colours and flavours together with hints of more exotic tropical fruits. | 2 | £5.83 |
| Don Cristobal Verdelho The Verdelho grape originated in Portugal and is now very trendy in Australia and South America. This wine is a good example of fresh clean and crisp Verdelho fruit with well balanced acidity. | 2 | £5.83 |
| Finca El Retiro Late Harvest - available only in 50cl bottles One of the best value dessert wines we have tasted. Very meticulous picking and vinification results in a mouthful of raisins, quince and honey with a silky finish. Made from late-harvest Tocai, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. | 5 | £8.06 |

