



Crios

DE
Susana Balbo

SYRAH-BONARDA

The Philosophy

After two decades of winemaking, Susana Balbo has a strong sense of what she wants from her wines. From every harvest, she creates the grandest possible wines under her Susana Balbo label. To achieve this, she makes a rigorous selection of the finest barrels prior to making her final blends, dividing them into the parents (reserve level wines) and offspring or "crios". Wines under her Crios label display ripe fruit flavors, excellent balance and concentration, and are meant to be enjoyed in their vibrant youth. They are also an incredibly good value. And like Susana's own crios (a boy & a girl), this Syrah-Bonarda is extremely lovable and fun to be around.

About the Grapes

Syrah is the well-known grape of France's Rhone Valley and Australia's Shiraz. Not well known outside Argentina, Bonarda is surprisingly second only to Malbec in red grape plantings. Its origins are in Italy's Piedmont region where it represented 30% of all pre-phylloxera plantings. In Mendoza, yields can reach 12 tons per acre (though with little flavor concentration). The key to producing great Bonarda is finding very old vines growing in the warm, sandy soils of eastern Mendoza, then limiting vigor through severe pruning and irrigation techniques. Luckily, Susana's husband, Pedro Marchevsky, owns and manages such a vineyard.

The Details

Vintage:	2005	Oak Regimen:	9 months in 50% 1-year French & 50% 1-year American oak barrels
Varietal Composition:	50% Syrah – 50% Bonarda		
Vineyard Locations:		Fining:	None
	Syrah – La Verde, Mudo Nuevo (Rivadavia)	Filtration:	None
	Bonarda – Los Campamentos (Rivadavia)	Alcohol:	13.5%
Avg. Vineyard Elev.:	2,300 feet	pH:	3.5
Avg. Age of Vines:	39 years	T.A.	5.01
Rootstock:	Ungrafted	Total Case Production:	10,000 cases
Harvest Method:	Hand-harvested		

Tasting Notes/Food Pairing Suggestions

Dark reddish/purple color. Intense aroma of black raspberries. This medium-bodied, very lively wine has loads of ripe red plum and black raspberry flavors with a slightly spicy character and a long, juicy finish. This 2004 vintage has a depth of flavor and intensity on the palate that is almost unheard of for wines at this price. It's a winner both before and during a meal. Certainly enjoyable in its youth, but will age beautifully. A fun wine to try with a wide range of red wine-friendly foods, and one that will delight even the most pretentious connoisseur.

About the Name/Label

Crios means "offspring" (as in children). Susana selected a word to express the notion that these are wines that haven't quite "grown up" to the same level of quality and maturity as her more expensive Susana Balbo Signature wines, but they receive the same loving care and attention throughout the winemaking process. The label features a series of three connected and overlapping hands, an image inspired by a Mayan artifact. The three hands represent Susana and her two children.