Richards’ picks: best Chilean whites

**Bodegas Re, Velado, Casablanca 2012**
96/100
£52.95 AG Wines, Berry Bros & Rudd, Christopher Keiller
The second version of this epic white Pinot Noir is even better than the first (2009). Its delightfully yeasty, savoury, intense style is both unique and inspiring. **Drink 2016-2035 ALC 12.5%**

**Calyptira, Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc, Cachapoal 2012**
93
N/A UK [www.calyptira.cl](http://www.calyptira.cl)
Bold oak-aged Sauvignon reminiscent of top Graves. Richly layered flavours of tangerine, cloved cream and orange blossom underscored by vivid acidity. Accomplished and ambitious. **Drink 2016-2022 ALC 13.5%**

**Errazuriz, Las Pizarras Chardonnay, Aconcagua Costa, Aconcagua 2014**
93
£45 Hatch Mansfield Released in 2016, this is beautifully subtle yet complex. Brooding notes of red apple and woodsmoke on a savoury, profound, elegant palate. **Drink 2016-2025 ALC 13%**

**Casa Marin, Miramar Vineyard Riesling, Lo Abarca, San Antonio 2015**
91
N/A UK [www.casamarin.cl](http://www.casamarin.cl)
Very young and slightly inscrutable but seamless in its laser-like focus and elegant texture. Give it time and this wine’s mineral-inflected, apple-and-lees style should unfurl. **Drink 2017-2024 ALC 12.5%**

**Errazuriz, Wild Ferment Chardonnay, Casablanca 2014**
91
A stylish and savoury, Puligny-esque Chardonnay showing toasted nuts and lemon pith. Fruit is a touch sweet on the finish, but it’s very moreish and good value. **Drink 2016-2019 ALC 13%**

**Laberinto, Cenizas de Laberinto, Sauvignon Blanc, Maule 2015**
91
N/A UK [www.laberintowines.cl](http://www.laberintowines.cl)
An invigorating, mineral-laden style of Sauvignon Blanc that flirts with austerity and will benefit from some time in the bottle. Hints of smoke, gooseberry and roasted peppers. **Drink 2017-2024 ALC 12.5%**

**Casa Marin, Casona Vineyard, Gewurztraminer, Lo Abarca, San Antonio 2014**
90
N/A UK [www.casamarin.cl](http://www.casamarin.cl)
Lush and exotic without being overpowering. Wonderfully...
### 2009 Calyptra Assemblage Gran Reserva

A Proprietary Blend Dry Red Table wine from Cachapoal, Rapel Valley, Chile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Reviewer</th>
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<th>Current (Release) Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wine Advocate #213</td>
<td>Luis Gutierrez</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Drink: 2014 - 2019</td>
<td>$45 (45)</td>
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<td>Jun 2014</td>
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The 2009 Assemblage Gran Reserva is a blend of mostly Merlot and Syrah grown at high altitude (close to 1,000 meters) in the Alto Cachapoal Valley. It's an impressive wine with the Atlantic notes of the Bordeaux variety, an herbal, fresh side, and the meaty, smoky and black pepper tones of the Syrah, plus the light and the brightness of fruit of the Alto Cachapoal in the shape of blue fruit. This is not a shy wine either, but it has a silky texture and good freshness (nobody would think 2009 is a warm vintage tasting this wine), fine, sophisticated tannins and great persistence and length. It has already started developing some bottle bouquet, some musky, spicy truffle and mushroom notes. The plus of this wine is that it's easily recognizable as Alto Cachapoal. Drink now-2019.

Calydra wines are produced by winemaker Francois Massoc (of Clos des Fous fame) in Cachapoal, a valley which in the Mapudungun language means "crazy river." It's owned by a plastic surgeon who was advised by a friend, Ignacio Recabarren (who today works for Concha y Toro), on the plantation of the vineyards. This is a relatively small operation that produces about 50,000 bottles per year. The vineyards are planted at high altitude and produce very fresh wines; Recabarren knew what he was doing! I tasted one white and one red with Massoc and was so impressed with them that I requested samples of the rest of the wines, and they didn't disappoint me either! I had problems spitting these wines. My only concern – other than the prices – is that they feel more French than Chilean, but you should write this name down, in capital letters, I'd say.

No known American importer.
The 2010 Chardonnay Gran Reserva has a golden color and a nose of yeast and lees. A little reductive a la Coche-Dury, with echoes of toasted sesame seeds and ripe yellow fruit, the wine is ripe and big, in a Burgundian style, more Meursault than Puligny. It is a big wine indeed, full-bodied, with intense flavors, not shy at all, wearing its 15% alcohol with elegance and flair. This impressive Chardonnay fermented in inox and aged in oak barriques for two years, but it has the stuffing to take that aging without problems. A chalky minerality, almost saline, provides good freshness. An ambitious XL Chardonnay that delivers. Drink now-2017.

Calyptre wines are produced by winemaker Francois Massoc (of Clos des Fous fame) in Cachapoal, a valley which in the Mapudungun language means “crazy river.” It’s owned by a plastic surgeon who was advised by a friend, Ignacio Recabarren (who today works for Concha y Toro), on the plantation of the vineyards. This is a relatively small operation that produces about 50,000 bottles per year. The vineyards are planted at high altitude and produce very fresh wines; Recabarren knew what he was doing! I tasted one white and one red with Massoc and was so impressed with them that I requested samples of the rest of the wines, and they didn’t disappoint me either! I had problems spitting these wines. My only concern – other than the prices – is that they feel more French than Chilean, but you should write this name down, in capital letters, I’d say.

No known American importer.
2010 Calyptra Pinot Noir Gran Reserva
A Pinot Noir Dry Red Table wine from Cachapoal, Rapel Valley, Chile

Source  Reviewer  Rating  Maturity  Current (Release) Cost
Wine Advocate #213  Luis Gutierrez  94  Drink: 2014 - 2020  $45 (45)

The nose of the 2010 Pinot Noir Gran Reserva is akin to a Grand Cru Burgundy. The grapes had to be first class, as the two years in new oak go completely unnoticed – which also says something about the quality of the barrels themselves – as the aromas are an elegant combination of maraschino cherries, blood oranges and curry with a spicy, herbal tone that makes me think of stems. The palate is supple, with marked flavors, good acidity, length and balance. It displays the archetypal notes of the variety, flowers (violets and roses) and small red berries, that bittersweet sensation and clean, subtle acidity. This is delicious. One day I’ll slip a bottle of this into a blind Burgundy tasting... Simply superb! This is a real bargain. Drink now-2020.

Calyptrea wines are produced by winemaker Francois Massoc (of Clos des Fous fame) in Cachapoal, a valley which in the Mapudungun language means “crazy river.” It’s owned by a plastic surgeon who was advised by a friend, Ignacio Recabarren (who today works for Concha y Toro), on the plantation of the vineyards. This is a relatively small operation that produces about 50,000 bottles per year. The vineyards are planted at high altitude and produce very fresh wines; Recabarren knew what he was doing! I tasted one white and one red with Massoc and was so impressed with them that I requested samples of the rest of the wines, and they didn’t disappoint me either! I had problems spitting these wines. My only concern – other than the prices – is that they feel more French than Chilean, but you should write this name down, in capital letters, I’d say.

No known American importer.
### 2010 Calyptra Pinot Noir Gran Reserva

**A Pinot Noir Dry Red Table wine from Cachapoal, Rapel Valley, Chile**

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Calyprta wines are produced by winemaker Francois Massoc (of Clos des Fous fame) in Cachapoal, a valley which in the Mapudungun language means “crazy river.” It's owned by a plastic surgeon who was advised by a friend, Ignacio Recabarren (who today works for Concha y Toro), on the plantation of the vineyards. This is a relatively small operation that produces about 50,000 bottles per year. The vineyards are planted at high altitude and produce very fresh wines; Recabarren knew what he was doing! I tasted one white and one red with Massoc and was so impressed with them that I requested samples of the rest of the wines, and they didn't disappoint me either! I had problems spitting these wines. My only concern – other than the prices – is that they feel more French than Chilean, but you should write this name down, in capital letters, I'd say.

No known American importer.
2009 Calyptra Solvita Late Harvest
A Sauvignon Blanc Sweet White Dessert wine from Cachapoal, Rapel Valley, Chile

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The 2009 Solvita Late Harvest is produced with Sauvignon Blanc grapes, but the clean and delineated nose would take you to Sauternes with its elegant aromas of dried apricots, honey and beeswax. It also has creaminess and spiciness from the oak aging – incredibly enough, the wine was aged in new oak barrels for 18 months, but nobody would guess, because of the superb integration of the wood with the fruit. The palate is round and sweet, with enough underlying acidity to lift it up, and comes through as elegant and balanced. Ideal with fruit desserts. This has the balance to age, maybe for a very long time. Drink now-2020.

Calyptre wines are produced by winemaker Francois Massoc (of Clos des Fous fame) in Cachapoal, a valley which in the Mapudungun language means “crazy river.” It’s owned by a plastic surgeon who was advised by a friend, Ignacio Recabarren (who today works for Concha y Toro), on the plantation of the vineyards. This is a relatively small operation that produces about 50,000 bottles per year. The vineyards are planted at high altitude and produce very fresh wines; Recabarren knew what he was doing! I tasted one white and one red with Massoc and was so impressed with them that I requested samples of the rest of the wines, and they didn’t disappoint me either! I had problems spitting these wines. My only concern – other than the prices – is that they feel more French than Chilean, but you should write this name down, in capital letters, I’d say.

No known American importer.
2009 Calyptra Zahir
A Cabernet Sauvignon Dry Red Table wine from Cachapoal, Rapel Valley, Chile

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<tr>
<td>Wine Advocate #213</td>
<td>Luis Gutierrez</td>
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<td>Drink: 2014 - 2018</td>
<td>$80 (80)</td>
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The red 2009 Zahir is pure Cabernet Sauvignon from different parcels of vines at high altitude produced in a simple way and aged in new oak for 24-26 months. The barrels are crafted by winemaker Francois Massoc (yes, you have read it correctly, he produces the barrels for all his wines, as he was a barrel maker in the past) and respects the wine very much. It has a fresh and flashy nose with some brightness of blue and red fruit, unlike any other Cabernet I’ve tasted, except for the one from Aristos (one of Massoc’s projects) that is sourced from the same vineyard. It also has floral notes with plenty of balsamic aromas and a silky texture. Soft and fresh, with good acidity, it is pleasant and gulpable. A Cabernet of strong personality. 3,500 bottles were filled. Drink now-2018.

Calyptora wines are produced by winemaker Francois Massoc (of Clos des Fous fame) in Cachapoal, a valley which in the Mapudungun language means “crazy river.” It’s owned by a plastic surgeon who was advised by a friend, Ignacio Recabarren (who today works for Concha y Toro), on the plantation of the vineyards. This is a relatively small operation that produces about 50,000 bottles per year. The vineyards are planted at high altitude and produce very fresh wines; Recabarren knew what he was doing! I tasted one white and one red with Massoc and was so impressed with them that I requested samples of the rest of the wines, and they didn’t disappoint me either! I had problems spitting these wines. My only concern – other than the prices – is that they feel more French than Chilean, but you should write this name down, in capital letters, I’d say.

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