

*Mendoza June 2019*

**HARVEST REPORT**  
2019

*Susana Balbo*  
W I N E S

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## HARVEST REPORT 2019

### A COOL, DRY VINTAGE WITH EXCELLENT QUALITY AND YIELDS.

EDY DEL PÓPOLO, VITICULTURIST & GENERAL MANAGER OF SUSANA BALBO WINES, RECOUNTS THE 2019 HARVEST IN MENDOZA.

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In general, this harvest was preceded by a spring that was colder and dryer than usual, which gave way to a similar summer.

Uco Valley saw an improvement from the meager harvests of 2016 and 2017, with a higher yield overall, although in some regions some grapes experienced setting failure. In Lujan de Cuyo, vineyard productivity remained equal or even higher than in 2018, while in our own estate in Agrelo yield was practically identical to that of 2018.

Although we had intensely warm weeks during January and February (more specifically the last week of January and first of February), we had a pretty benign summertime with little precipitation. Agrelo did experience strong showers in early February.

In the higher regions of Uco Valley some Malbecs showed setting failure, which resulted in lower yields. In the valleys and lower-altitude regions fruit-set was really good and yield results were also very positive, due to a spring season without major drops in temperature.

Veraison in general began later than usual, as part of a cycle that was long and uneven, and which experienced an overall delay of about 10 days.

The same happened in Agrelo, although the delay caught up at the end of the cycle, and harvest ended up happening around the yearly average dates.

The end of February came around with little rain, and March started off cool and with winter-like drizzles by the end of its first week.

I'll focus particularly in one region and one varietal: Gualtallary and Malbec.

This region experienced heavier rains than usual during November (we registered 151 mm in our vineyard). Afterwards, December, January and February were unusually dry, below the average yearly precipitations.

With Malbec we experienced high level vigour, with well-balanced vines and low production. This led us to expect a well-timed maturity, with a 10 to 15 day delay (as mentioned above) compared to last year.

March was dry and cool, which set up a good panorama for harvest.

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The grapes harvested during the third and fourth week of March will result in highly precise wines with great ageing potential.

Grapes harvested during the first two weeks of April were equally excellent, both in quality and health, and will make age-worthy wines.

Given that this vintage came with practically no rain and cool weather, acidity levels were optimal and sugar levels weren't very high (in Uco Valley), so those who delayed their harvests a bit will obtain excellent quality wines.

This year, we'll have wines with good (acceptable) alcohol levels and excellent acidity.

To sum up, I believe that, of this decade's vintages, 2019 will be a lot like that of 2013.

**EDGARDO DEL POPOLO**

