

# Matias Riccitelli 'Old Vines From Patagonia', Rio Negro, Merlot 2016



## Awards

Gold, SWA, 2019

Opulent and deeply textured, this complex and intense wine has lovely herbal aromatics of lavender and rosemary complemented by wild dark fruits and hints of chocolate.

### Producer Note

Matias Riccitelli is the son of renowned winemaker Jorge Riccitelli. Having worked at some of the most prestigious wineries in Argentina and several vintages around the world, Matias used his experience, knowledge and passion and set up his own winery in 2009. His vineyards cover 50 hectares located in three selected sites within the premium growing region of Lujan de Cuyo, Mendoza. This is a young and dynamic project in which Matias is seeking to express the full potential of Argentine terroir.

### Vintage

2016 was a cool vintage marked by high rainfall. Low temperatures throughout the season imparted the fruit with an intense concentration of aromas.

### Vineyard

This Merlot was sourced from forgotten vines that are 60 years old. This rediscovered vineyard is situated along the Rio Negro's riverside in Allen, Rio Negro, Patagonia. Situated on the 39° latitude south, the sunlight exposure can be intense, but the nights are cool. These diurnal temperature swings, encourage a longer ripening period and flavour concentration in the berries. The ungrafted vines are grown in sandy, clay loam soils and are cultivated traditionally with a Vertical Shoot Positioning training system and are irrigated via flooding.

### Winemaking

The grapes were harvested at optimal levels of maturity. Carefully sorted, the berries were transferred into small concrete vats with indigenous yeasts. Cold maceration lasted for five days, followed by fermentation at controlled temperatures of between 26° to 28°C. A long post-fermentation maceration lasted for 20 days, ensuring the extraction of colour, flavour and structure. 50% of the wine was aged in first, second and third use barrels, while the remaining 50% was aged in French oak vats of 1,000 litres

### Tasting Note

Elegant aromas of wild dark fruits are layered with subtle hints of vanilla, chocolate and spice. Complex and rich on the palate, with smooth ripe tannins and a long, generous finish.

### Grape

Merlot 100%



Winemaker:	Matias Riccitelli
Region:	Patagonia
Sub region:	Rio Negro
Country:	Argentina
Alcohol:	14.5%
Body Value:	E (A is light, E is full bodied)
Residual Sugar:	1.8
Contains Sulphites:	Yes
Vegetarian/Vegan:	Yes/Yes
Milk/Eggs:	No/No
Organic/Biodynamic:	No/No
Product Code:	5851716A
Case unit of measure:	6X75CL
Formats Available:	75cl
Closure:	Natural Cork