

# NEW FACES FROM Chile







"Chile is one of the most dynamic wine countries in the world today.

The excitement is led by young, travelled winemakers

who are pushing boundaries and exploring cooler areas,
producing fresher, diverse and more sommelier-driven styles"

Alistair Cooper MW, wine consultant, writer and educator

"The team at Corney & Barrow exemplify that rare knack of nurturing wine growers whose authenticity is only outshone by their quality"

Olly Smith, wine writer and broadcaster

"The most exciting thing about Chile right now is the movement towards individuality in the wines. It's often (although not exclusively) the smaller producers spurring this movement and it's to these lesser known names that the wise watcher of Chilean wines must look to find the gems in the rough, the trailblazers and the classics of the future"

Peter Richards MW, wine writer and broadcaster

"I believe that the great change for wine in Chile is that it has accepted the small producer. Not only as a grape producer, who sells grapes, but as responsible for their own product. That is a recent phenomenon, which did not exist before and that I believe has given an incredible richness to wine"

Patricio Tapia, Descorchados wine guide



### CORNEY & BARROW'S

### Characterful Chilean wines with a sense of place

It feels like Chile's time, a turn in a different spotlight. Good old Chile... champion of the fighting price category, unbeatable for the quality, consistency and value of its varietal wines. And that's all fine, but there is a whole lot else to discover from this extraordinary wine-producing country.

The last few years have seen a dynamic shift, as producers of all shapes and sizes, both new and old-established, strive to push the limits of Chile's winemaking horizons, both geographically and philosophically. Diverse in origin and aspiration, these producers share common ground in their pursuit of wines of character and a 'sense of place' – that oh-so European notion of *terroir*. With growers working tirelessly to rediscover the country's rich viticultural heritage, revive ancestral varieties, and scope out new regions and sites, the Chilean wine industry today could not be more vibrant. This was also why we decided it was time to dive further into Chile.

For a wine buyer, one of the greatest challenges – and thrills – is to find true gems: producers and wines with a certain star quality. This is the arena where Chile now shines, and at affordable prices too! A buying trip to Chile last October provided fresh insights into the many different faces of this impressive wine country. I revisited areas I know well but also discovered more remote regions and landscapes, spent time with long-term suppliers – now old friends - but also made new acquaintances, tasting many hundreds of wines along the way.

This was an eye-opening trip that reinvigorated my perception of Chile and its potential. The fruits of that whirlwind tour are in this booklet.

Rebecca Palmer
Associate Director and Buyer

- 1. Inocente Carmenere Viña Laurent
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### LAY OF THE LAND

# Chile's exciting wine regions and its textures in a snapshot

Chile's landscape holds contrasts between ancient hills and steep-sided valleys, dense forests and deep lakes, snow-topped mountains and meandering rivers. There are vines everywhere, some first planted in the 1500s by the Spanish conquistadors, others the result of European migration in the 19th and 20th centuries. This is a land with a rich history, whose natural attributes and culture have spawned a fascinating wine industry.

Corney & Barrow's new Chilean range reflects this scene. Among the wines we have added are those from Idahue Estate in the newly granted D.O. Licantén, an extraordinary feat of engineering from La Ronciere. We celebrate Chile's viticultural heritage in ancestral varieties Pais and Moscatel, brought to the Itata Valley by the conquistadors and re-imagined today by the Massoc brothers and Viña Laurent. Meanwhile in the remote Maule, the Maturana brothers are experimenting with age-old techniques with their orange skin-contact Torontel, and Garnacha aged in amphorae. Chile can do the classics with aplomb: the nobility of the Bordeaux varietals shines in deft hands and well-chosen sites. Don't miss Viña Nahuel's Cab Sauv from 80-year-old vines in Colchagua.

These are just a few of the new faces of Chile, people passionate about their land and their craft, with the vision and determination to create wines with individuality and a sense of place. All these wines are exclusive to C&B in the UK.







# VIÑA LAURENT

Independent boutique winery producing Chilean wines with a French accent

Damien Laurent grew up in the Bordeaux countryside and spent school holidays helping his grandfather to fill wine barrels. After oenology school, he returned to manage the family estate Château L'Escart with his Chilean wife Lorena. Twelve years later, they decided to follow their dream back to Chile, to start their own venture.

Attracted by the beautiful landscape and viticultural potential of the Maipo Valley Damien and Lorena planted their first vineyard there in 2008. While the estate is not officially certified organic, they follow organic methods, eschewing chemical treatments. Meticulous in their viticultural practice, they tend their vines with kid gloves, aiming to create a balanced ecosystem in their own vineyards as well as those of their partner growers in southern Chile.

In 2011, the couple designed their own functional winery, where they vinify in small volumes, working with a range of different grape varieties from small parcels. They ferment with indigenous yeasts in a combination of open-topped barrels and small oval tanks, aiming to express the innate character of each varietal and terroir.



### Polemico Pais 2018

Produced from 150-year-old ungrafted bush vines in Chile's southern Itata Valley, the cradle of Chilean wine production from the time of the conquistadors. Polemico combines novelty and heritage in a fragrant, supple expression of the little-known Pais grape.







"Damien and Lorena tend their vines with kid gloves, aiming to create a balanced ecosystem in their vineyards"



### Inocente Carmenere 2018

A quintessential expression of Carmenere, from the heart of the Maipo Valley. Rich, structured and satisfying, with aromas and flavours of black cherries and leather.











# VIÑA NAHUEL

Low intervention old-vine Cab Sauv, European-inspired with a Chilean twist

Carefully crafted in tiny batches, Daniel Wiederkehr's wines combine the best of two very different worlds – a certain European classicism gleaned from his winemaking experience back home in Switzerland, together with the Chilean character of his newly adopted homeland.

Viña Nahuel is a personal venture for Wiederkehr, a Swiss native and former banker who had long held the dream of making his own wines. He trained as a viticulturalist and oenologist in Switzerland. Then, having fallen in love with Chile, he jumped at the chance to buy 6 hectares of land in the Colchagua Valley and moved to Chile in 2010 to set up his winery.

The estate is located about 200km south of Santiago, between the Andes and the Pacific. Daniel named it in homage to the native puma that roams the Andes. Working in harmony with nature and following strict organic practices, he farms his 80-year-old bush vines according to the phases of the moon. After being fermented in stainless steel tanks, 25% of the wine goes into French oak barrels. The wines are unfined and unfiltered, to preserve aromatics and texture.



# "A garage winery with 80-year-old bush vines, producing Cabernet Sauvignon of great varietal purity"

### Chak Cabernet Sauvignon 2015

Chak means 'together' in Chile's native language, a reference to the fusion of Bordeaux and Chile influences. Made from ancient bush vines in the Colchagua Valley, this is a rich, but elegant wine with notes of blueberry, smoke and herbs. It shows the classic fine tannin structure of Cabernet and a lasting finish.





vega







# MATURANA WINES

Hand-made wines from heritage grapes grown in Loncomilla, Maule Valley

Chile's major earthquake in 2010 was catastrophic for much of the wine industry. Like so many others, José Ignacio Maturana saw his family house and vineyards destroyed by the quake. As a result, he was forced to rebuild his business, and took the decision to focus on premium wines that would reflect their 'terroir'. With that in mind, José Ignacio, former chief winemaker at renowned winery Casa Silva, travelled to Burgundy in 2011 to produce wine during the Chilean winter. There, he immersed himself in the techniques used in the region, aiming to understand from within how small producers were working traditionally to make high-end wines.

Back in Chile, he and his family started to produce unique wines that they hoped would display a sense of place and represent a way of life. They created Maturana Wines, a project drawing on vines which are at least 70 years old, and worked by hand according to organic principles. In the winery, fermentations take place naturally and at their own pace. The objective is to produce wines with the fruit expression and character of their native origins and vintage.



### Naranjo Torontel 2018

This is an 'orange' wine - so-called as a result of 8 months' skin contact with the pinkish skins of Torontel grapes. Made from ancient 80-year-old vines grown in Loncomilla, deep in the Maule Valley, Maturana Wines produce this tangy, aromatic wine in tiny qualities.







"Minimal intervention to retain fruit expression and the character of each vintage"





### Garnacha 2018

This fresh, smooth Garnacha is made from ancient vines grown in Loncomilla in the Maule Valley. Dry-farmed and hand-harvested by small family growers, the selected berries are vinified according to ancestral winemaking techniques, including 10 months' ageing in amphorae.





Vegan







# MASSOC FRÈRES

Reviving 'criolla' grapes in southern Chile, to make 'wines with humanity'

Massoc Frères was founded in 2015 by the French brothers François and Jean-Paul Massoc, with the idea of reviving the heritage grapes of Chile's remote Maule, Itata and Bio-Bio regions. In this new venture, the brothers work directly with small traditional vinegrowers in these areas, who have been tending the so-called 'criolla' grapes (first planted by the Spanish colonisers) for generations.

Wines with humanity' is the adopted motto of the Massoc brothers, underlining the absolute value of human input in the process of wine production, from the growers in the vineyards to the winemakers in the cellar. Francois and Jean-Paul have developed strong relationships with local growers, offering their expertise in modern oenological practice while respecting local traditions. In this way, they are helping preserve ancestral vineyards and to further the cause of wine production in the south.

La Gringa Moscatel is made from 80-year-old vines in the Itata Valley. They yield small quantities of ultra-concentrated juice, translating into a wine full of aromas and flavours.



"'Wines with humanity' is the adopted motto of the Massoc brothers, underlining the absolute value of human input in the process of wine production"

### La Gringa Moscatel 2017

This dry, aromatic Moscatel with aromas of frangipani blossom and a tropical touch, lifted by citrus notes. Fresh on the palate, it has zesty flavours, a creamy texture and a long saline finish. Made from one hectare of 80-year-old bush vines in the Itata Valley.





Vegar







### LA RONCIERE

Pioneers in the newly created Licantén D.O., a cooler oasis for terroir-driven reds

Viña La Ronciere was founded in 1949, but only much later in 2017 did its owners – brothers José Antonio, Andres and Alejandro Orueta – conceive of Idahue Estate. This pioneering project, undertaken in awareness of climate change and the need to seek out cooler growing sites, is located in Licantén, a coastal sub-region of the Curicó Valley.

Focusing only on red varieties, the Orueta family aim to produce fresher, *terroir*-driven wines. Idahue Estate is dedicated to the production of small quantities of high quality reds from classic French varieties. The estate covers 200 hectares of rolling hills with many different orientations. Due to its unique microclimate and ancient metamorphic soil, Licantén has been recognised as a new denomination of origin (D.O.). So far Idahue Estate is the first property to be established here.

This amazing project involved a detailed study of the specific microclimates and soils in the area. Precision viticulture and the latest winemaking tech is helping the brothers to achieve wines of the highest quality. Fully committed to long-term sustainability initiatives, Idahue Estate is certified under the Wines of Chile Sustainability Code.



### Licantén Idahue Estate Malbec 2017

This is a distinctive style of Malbec, displaying notes of loganberries, leather and spices. The palate shows intense concentration of fruit, with a mineral, graphite undertone. It has firm, ripe tannins, high acidity and a graceful, long finish. The wine matures for 10 months in new French oak barrels.







"Due to its unique microclimate Licantén has been granted its own D.O. in Chile"



### Licantén Idahue Estate Cabernet Franc 2017

This is an elegant Cabernet Franc with notes of cherries, violets and cinnamon spice. The palate shows intense concentration of fruit, with a touch of toffee and spearmint. Tannins are ripe, lifted by lively acidity, and the finish is long. The wine matures for 10 months in new French oak barrels.









# EDWARDS FAMILY VINEYARDS

Pinot Noir with a Burgundian accent from cooler-climate
Colchagua Costa

Agua Santa Pinot Noir is a new project, specially blended for C&B in partnership with the Edwards Family.

The remote Agua Santa ('holy water') vineyards lie in Pumanque in Colchagua Costa, just 30km from the Pacific ocean. Here, in the weathered coastal mountains older even than the Andes, the delicate Pinot Noir grape benefits from exceptional growing conditions.

The unique combination of ancient soils, luminous sunshine and cooling ocean breezes yield grapes with astonishing varietal purity.

Its elegant fruit profile, with notes of cherry and forest floor, sense of freshness and fine tannin structure pays homage to the grape's Burgundian origins.

"A new project, specially blended for C&B in partnership with the Edwards Family"

# Agua Santa Pinot Noir 2018

This wine's succulent cherry fruit, subtle spice and forest floor characters show impressive varietal typicity. Classically structured, with more than a nod to the grape's Burgundian heritage, this is a smooth, supple Pinot Noir with fine supporting tannins and a long finish.





Vegar







# VIÑEDOS MARCHIGÜE

Distinctive Sauvignon Blanc from coastal Curicó, cooled by Pacific breezes

Los Camachos is a new project for Viñedos Marchigüe, the fruit of a small vineyard located just 13km from Chile's beautiful lake Vichuquén and 22km from the Pacific ocean, in Curicó Valley.

The particular microclimate here draws out the grape-growing season, featuring warm days and cool nights, ocean mists and luminous sunshine. In these conditions, the Sauvignon Blanc grapes develop complex aroma precursors and a fine acid structure.

The team at Viñedos Marchigüe pay meticulous attention to detail in the vineyard, using careful canopy management techniques to ensure the grapes reach full maturity in pristine condition.

Vine growers for many generations, this long-established family business is undergoing significant development, newly reinvigorated under the dynamic leadership of Pablo Reyes.

"A mere stone's throw from lake Vichuquén and the Pacific, single-vineyard Los Camachos yields elegant Sauvignon Blanc"

### Los Camachos Sauvignon Blanc 2019

This is a distinctive Sauvignon Blanc, grown around the beautiful lake Vichuquén in the remote Curicó Valley. Coastal breezes rolling in from the Pacific help cool the vineyards, yielding an expressive wine, with delicate citrus aromas, elegantly textured on the palate, both refined and refreshing.





Vegar







# VIÑA ARBOLEDA

Hand-crafted, premium varietals, revealing the fresh expression of Aconcagua Costa.

Viña Arboleda is the private project of the Eduardo Chadwick, dynamic doyen of the Chilean wine industry and pioneer of the Aconcagua Valley. This region lies 100km north of Santiago and is named after the mighty Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America, also the name of a river that runs down to the Pacific.

Arboleda means 'grove of trees', the name chosen in homage to the 1450 hectares of native forest that surround the vineyards, effectively a nature reserve.

Here, the Arboleda team craft single-vineyard wines that reveal the purest expression of each unique terroir, matching specific grape varieties to distinct sites.

The Chilhué vineyards, where Arboleda's delicate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes are grown, lie just 12km from the Pacific. Constant ocean breezes temper the climate here, yielding wines with character and balance, expressive yet elegant.



### Arboleda Pinot Noir 2016

An elegant, expressive Pinot Noir from cool climate Chile. The nose shows a classic array of Pinot Noir characters spanning cherries, rosehips and earthy, leafy notes. The palate shows classic chilean purity of fruit and delicate mineral notes, supported by refreshing acidity and chalky tannins.







"Chadwick's pioneering cool-climate project yields elegant wines with a distinctive Chilean purity"



### Arboleda Chardonnay 2017

An exercise in poise, this wine is styled in the image of white Burgundy. It has a subtle white blossom perfume, supple orchard fruit laced with delicate vanilla cream, then a hint of fresh nectarine and minerals. A refined wine, reflective of its unique, distinctive site just a stone's throw from the Pacific.





Vegan





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