



*Susana Balbo*

*Virtuoso*

## Late Harvest Malbec

### **The Philosophy**

After more than 2 decades of winemaking, Susana Balbo has a strong sense of what she wants from her wines. Susana strives for optimal balance, with layers of complexity coming from blends she creates from individually fermented and barrel-aged varietals. The wines are never heavy or dull. Power is never the object—finesse is. She wants people who drink her wines to feel that every sip from the glass is as exciting as the first. The Susana Balbo signature wines are the top barrel selections from her overall production, thus quantities are limited.

### **The Details**

Vintage:	2006
Varietal Composition:	100% Malbec
Vineyard Locations:	Lujan de Cuyo-Agrelo-Mendoza
Avg. Vineyard Elev.:	3,200 feet
Avg. Age of Vines:	11 years
Rootstock:	Ungrafted
Harvest Method:	Hand-harvested
Oak Regimen:	18 months in 100% new French barriques
Fining:	None
Filtration:	None
Alcohol:	14.7%
Residual sugar:	120 grams/liter
T.A.	6.9
Total Case Production:	150 cases (12 x 500 ml)

Dessert from the desert? Late harvest-style wines from arid Mendoza are incredibly rare due to the lack of moisture at harvest time, and RED dessert wines are almost unheard of. Fortunately, Susana has created a sweet, super-ripe Malbec dessert wine that is both incredibly balanced and totally seductive. Starting with very ripe Malbec grapes, she then used multiple delestage and pump-overs, long, cool fermentation through the winter in new French oak, and then aged it on the lees.

### **Tasting Notes/Food Pairing Suggestions**

It is lush and brimming with ripe black cherry and plum flavors with violets and a hint of spice. At only 14.7% alcohol and 120 grams/liter of residual sugar, it is the perfect after dinner wine and maybe one of the few dessert wines that truly goes well with chocolate desserts.

### **About the Name/Label**

The label features figurines from a silver Huarpe Indian necklace that Susana owns. The figures represent women's reproductive role as the connection between the past, present, and future. She also considers her role as winemaker to be the connection between the vineyards (past), the winemaking (present), and the finished wines (future).

**Suggested Retail Price: \$30**



**VINE CONNECTIONS**  
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