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TASTING REPORTS

Land of Contrasts

A wealth of *terroirs* drives the diversity of Chilean wine, from world-class Cabernets to distinctive values

By Kim Marcus May 31, 2020



Big, powerful and richly flavored red wines have long been the force behind Chile's success. Deeply rooted in the country's winemaking culture, these are the bottlings that dominate the ranks of my annual reviews. Yet over the past decade or so, there has been a push to expand the geographic boundaries for grape growing and to broaden the varietal mix of the wines. The goal is to recast the image of Chile in a crowded winemaking world.

NEYEN

In the region's scenic Apalta district, where granite- and clay-based soils predominate, look for the refined Clos Apalta Viñedo Apalta 2016 (94, \$160), which is nearly two-thirds Carmenère, and the ripe **Viña Neyen de Apalta Espíritu de Apalta Colchagua Valley 2015 (92, \$60)**, a 50/50 split of Carmenère and Cabernet Sauvignon.