



# Domus Aurea

## **An Iconic Cabernet Producer from Chile**

Located in Chile's Central Valley, just outside Santiago, Domus Area enjoys single vineyard status for its 45 acres. Actually part of the sub region Maipo Valley, it is a warm-but-not-hot growing area that benefits from the rocky alluvial soils of the Maipo River. It receives less rainfall than most of the other Chilean growing regions, a fact that benefits its' mostly Cabernet and red varietal vines.

The rocky, infertile soils of Clos Quebrada were planted to Cabernet Sauvignon in the 1970s. Owner Ricardo Peña teamed up with famed enologist Ignacio Recabarren to make wine from the estate's 25 ha vineyard. In 1996 Domus Aurea saw its first vintage and immediately won acclaim. In 2002, Frenchman Jean Pascal Lacaze became lead winemaker, and Patrick Valette, another Bordeaux enologist, joined as winemaking consultant.

Domus Aurea is recognized as one of the great wines of Chile. On the gravelly slopes of their 75-year old vineyard, owners Ricardo and Isabel Peña and winemaker Jean-Pascal Lacaze produce their award-winning wine. Committed to extremely low yields, their vineyards are divided into five blocks that follow the depth and stoniness of the soil, which are further divided into upper, middle and lower rows. The harvest is not determined by block or row, but vine-by-vine. The winery utilizes open-top fermentation and personalized oak aging cycles, selecting the best plots with the best fruit for extended barrel aging. The wine is deep intense garnet in the glass with a nose of black currants and blackberries. An attractive eucalyptus note mixed with fresh cigar, cedar and spicy vanilla followed by a layer of blueberries, mineral and spice finishing with smooth, refined tannins. Domus Aurea vintages routinely score 90+ each and every vintage.

The Peñalolen Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard produces excellent low-yield fruit and was established next to the Domus Aurea vineyard 35 years ago. The operation is managed by the well respected and talented winemaker, Jean-Pascal Lacaze, with his deft hand and expertise in producing memorable Bordeaux influenced wines. Peñalolen truly is a family-owned, boutique property committed to making wines of distinction. The Cabernet Sauvignon is a complex and velvety wine with abundant fruit of wild berries and cassis, and a refined whisper of eucalyptus and tremendous length.

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