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Birth of Latin America's First Maritime Vineyard

A New Chapter in Argentine Winemaking

Tuesday, September 3, 2024



In the windswept expanse of Patagonia, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the rugged landscape of Bahía Bustamante, a pioneering viticultural project is making waves—quite literally. The first maritime vineyard in Latin America, nestled just ten meters from the ocean, is set to become a significant player in the wine tourism industry. This unique venture, named "Vinos de Mar," represents an innovative

collaboration between Bahía Bustamante Lodge, Mendoza's Ver Sacrum winery, and renowned beverage entrepreneur Renato "Tato" Giovannoni.

The concept of a maritime vineyard, where grapevines grow in close proximity to the sea, is a novel one for Latin America. However, it is not entirely without precedent on the global stage. Vineyards in regions like the French Atlantic coast or Portugal's coastal areas have long taken advantage of the moderating influence of the ocean on climate, which can produce wines with distinctive mineral qualities and a pronounced sense of terroir. The "Vinos de Mar" project seeks to harness similar effects in the remote Patagonian context, adding a new dimension to Argentina's already diverse wine industry.

The vineyard, which began as an experiment in 2018, initially saw the planting of 2,000 vines, predominantly Semillón, with some Pinot Noir. By 2021, another 2,000 vines were added, including Albariño, a grape variety well-suited to coastal conditions, along with more Pinot Noir. The choice of these grape varieties is strategic—Semillón and Albariño are known for their affinity to cooler, maritime climates, while Pinot Noir thrives in environments where temperature fluctuations are moderated by the sea.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the "Vinos de Mar" project is the role of the Atlantic Ocean in shaping the character of the wine. The ocean's influence extends beyond its moderating effect on temperature. The saline air, the specific light conditions, and the soil composition—all factors impacted by the vineyard's coastal location—are expected to impart unique characteristics to the wine produced here. While the project is still in its early stages, these factors are anticipated to create wines that express a strong sense of place, with potential notes of salinity and minerality that are evocative of the maritime environment.

This approach to winemaking is not just about producing a beverage; it's about creating a product that tells the story of its origin—of the windswept coast, the vast skies, and the relentless ocean. As the vineyard matures, it will be fascinating to see how these environmental elements manifest in the final product.



Bahía Bustamante itself is a place of historical significance and natural beauty, making it an ideal location for this groundbreaking project. The area's history dates back to the 1950s when Spanish entrepreneur Lorenzo Soriano established the first seaweed harvesting camp in Chubut province. What was once known as "bahía podrida" or "rotten bay" due to the accumulation of seaweed became a thriving hub of seaweed collection, with up to 500 families involved in the industry. The seaweed, particularly gracilaria, was harvested for agar-agar production, a gelatinous substance used in various food products.

Over time, as the seaweed industry declined, Bahía Bustamante transitioned into a sanctuary for marine life and a unique tourist destination. Today, visitors to the Bahía Bustamante Lodge can immerse themselves in the pristine wilderness, exploring the area's rich biodiversity, participating in sheep farming activities, and enjoying biodynamic food production. The addition of a maritime vineyard adds another layer to the region's appeal, blending history, nature, and innovative agriculture in a way that few places in the world can match.

A Glimpse Into the Future

As of now, the vineyard remains in an experimental phase. The first full harvests intended for wine production are still a few years away, with the vineyard expected to be fully operational for tourism by 2025. Currently, visits to the vineyard are limited, and wine tastings are not yet available. However, guests at Bahía Bustamante Lodge can take in the sight of the vineyard and experience the unique juxtaposition of sea and vines—an experience that is rare not just in Argentina, but across the globe.

Looking ahead, the "Vinos de Mar" project holds the potential to redefine what Argentine wine can be. While Argentina is globally recognized for its Malbec from Mendoza, this maritime vineyard in Patagonia could introduce wine enthusiasts to new varietals and new flavors, shaped by the extreme conditions of the Patagonian coast. The success of this project could open the door for further experimentation with maritime vineyards in other parts of Latin America, potentially sparking a new trend in the global wine industry.

The birth of Latin America's first maritime vineyard is more than just a new venture in winemaking; it is a bold exploration of terroir, history, and the untapped potential of Argentina's diverse landscapes. As the vineyard at Bahía Bustamante grows and evolves, it will be a site to watch for wine lovers and adventurers alike, offering a taste of the ocean in every glass.