89 pts

Stephen Tanzer's
International Wine Cellar

2003 Viña Alicia

Malbec

Good ruby-red color. Sappy, liqueur-like black raspberry aroma lifted by a mineral pungency. Sweet, fat and creamy in the mouth, with the flavor of raspberry liqueur following through. Conveys an impression of strong extract from low yields. As ripe as this is, it's not at all pruney. Finishes ripe and long. From fruit harvested in April. Drink this now or hold it for a couple of years.

89+pts

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2002 Viña Alicia

Cabernet Sauvignon

Deep red. Pungent, varietally expressive aromas of currant, plum menthol, leather, baking spices, and nuts. Sweet, lush and dense; this is fat with fruit. The sweet currant flavor is complemented by menthol and truffle. Finishes quite long, with building tannins. Still could use a year or two of cellaring.

89+pts

Stephen Tanzer's
International Wine Cellar

2003 Viña Alicia

Morena Cabernet Sauvignon

Good full red. Rather tight on the nose, hinting at currant, licorice and tobacco leaf. Then fat, sweet and dense but a bit youthfully aggressive. Quite powerful and bound-up today, with the tannins in need of cellaring. Finishes with a note of licorice.

92 pts

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2003 Viña Alicia

Brote Negro

Good ruby-red. Super ripe, slightly liqueur-like aromas of black raspberry, minerals, licorice, pepper and sweet spices. Super concentrated and densely packed; liqueur-like but not sweet, almost like dry port. Very powerful, young wine, finishing with big broad tannins and superb persistence. The "black shoot" (the shoots are actually black at the beginning of the season) comes from a mutation of malbec, planted at an altitude of 1,700 feet in Las Compuertas. The average age of the vines is 95 years. This is the second bottling for this vintage. Just 1,000 bottles were made in 2003.

91+pts

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International Wine Cellar

2003 Viña Alicia

Nebbiolo

Full ruby-red. High-pitched aromas of currant, licorice, minerals and dried flowers. Intensely flavored, super-concentrated and quite penetrating, with sharply focused flavors of dried cherry and licorice. Youthfully tight, firmly structured wine with a very long, tannic, smoky aftertaste. According to the Arizu's, this is the only 100%-nebbiolo wine made in Argentina and it comes from three clones that pre-date phylloxera.

92+pts

Stephen Tanzer's
International Wine Cellar

2003 Viña Alicia

Cuarzo

Deep, saturated ruby. Wild, penetrating aromas of blackberry liqueur, black cherry and minerals. Densely packed and super sweet but given great verve by vibrant acidity; the sugar/acid balance is exhilarating. Still an infant and completely primary. Finishes with great reverberating length: you can't scrape this stuff off your palate. Incidentally, my early look at the 2004, which had been bottled a week prior to my visit, suggest that this vintage is equally outstanding for Cuarzo.