

WINERY PROFILE: COLOMÉ



Donald Hess' vision and passion for high quality mountain wines continues from The Hess Collection, Mount Veeder - Napa Valley, to his redevelopment of Bodega Colomé in Salta, Argentina.

Founded in 1831, Bodega Colomé is one of the oldest working wineries in Argentina. The core of the vineyards includes (pre-phylloxera) Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon vines imported in 1854 from Bordeaux, France and planted on their original roots, along with Argentina's signature white grape, Torrontés. The home vineyard at finca Colomé (about 150 acres) is bio-dynamically farmed and the other three vineyards are sustainably farmed. These practices support Donald's vision of living in harmony with the earth. The vineyards range from 5,500 to 8,500 feet above sea level in the Salta Province and are believed to be the highest altitude vineyards in the world.

Colomé produces three wines, all with the concentrated fruit characteristics of high-altitude grapes. Colomé Torrontés is a refreshing white wine with floral notes that is made from Argentina's signature white grape, Torrontés. Colomé Estate Malbec is a black fruit, terroir-driven wine representing the unique character high altitude Argentine Malbec. Colomé Reserva Malbec is a small production wine only made in exceptional years and is powerful, dark and intense.

Estancia Colomé is a luxury rural boutique hotel that sits among Colomé's vineyards. The nine-suite hotel is surrounded by the beauty of the Andes Mountains and provides a refuge to enjoy the Colomé experience. Also on the grounds is the James Turrell Museum, which unites Donald Hess' passion for wine and art. The museum features works from Turrell, an internationally-acclaimed light and space artist, whose art plays with the perception and the effect of light within a created space.

Randle Johnson, winemaker for the Hess Collection Winery's Artein brand, is also Director of Winemaking for Colomé. He brings extensive experience in producing exceptional fruit from mountain vineyards and has contributed significantly to making award winning wines that garner international acclaim.