Discovering the Wine Regions of South America

Maipo Valley, Chile

Maipo, is Chile's oldest wine region, it is divided into a number of subregions. Red varieties are favoured, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon, and some of the wines produced are very good.

Accounting for roughly three-quarters of all the vine plantings, the Mendoza area is situated in the west of the country. The vineyards extend from the foot of the mountains up to about 4000 feet above sea level, with the highest, cooler vineyards being more suitable for white varieties. The majority of wine, produced from low quality vines, is destined for jug wines or grape concentrate, but there are more and more plantings of internaional varieties.

Mendoza, Argentina

Mostly because of the climatic conditions the best Brazilian wines are those that desire high acidity such as; espumantes (sparkling wines) produced using the classical method, champagnes (Pinot Noir/ Chardonnay), whites (Gewürztraminer) and reds (Gamay and Pinot Noir), light and fruity. They can be attractive wines and they are made for immediate consumption.

Tannat is indubitably Uruguay's best variety. It is made in a broad variety of styles: everything from fruity roses to sturdy, cellar-worthy reds. Some producers age their wines in large old barrels, some favour stainless steel or epoxy-lined cement, and a few are experimenting with smaller French and American oak.

Viñedo de los Vientos, Uruguay

Sources
General: ESRI 2005-06,
Images: www.kontiki.org, www.thewinedoctor.com, www.google.com
Wine Information: www.gringoes.com, www.bbr.com

Projection: GCS South American 1969
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