

J. BOUCHON

J. BOUCHON WINEMAKERS SHINE IN RECENT PRESS



Decanter

South America's Top 10 Winemakers

Julio Bouchon | Chile: Bouchon

Trained as a journalist rather than an oenologist, Julio Bouchon says that he's not really a winemaker. 'I've only ever worked in my family's winery, so my CV is very poor, too.' And yet walk with him around the family estate in Maule and it's clear that he's right when he says, 'wine is flowing in my blood'.

Bouchon has only been running the business for three years, but is taking it in a radical new direction. 'We realised that we were Bordeaux-oriented, but our place has nothing to do with Bordeaux. I decided that we needed our own identity.'

The result has been a switch to mostly dry-farmed Semillon, Carignan, Malbec and País, grapes that have a history in Chile's Secano Interior region. País – grown out of 'conviction' rather than because it's fashionable – is a focus. The vines are wild, more than 100 years old, and curl around tree branches in their search for sunlight. To pick the grapes, Bouchon's team has to use ladders.

Like most of the new generation of producers, Bouchon only uses foudres, cement tanks and amphorae to ferment and age his wines. 'I haven't bought a new barrel yet. I don't want to copy Bordeaux.'

Published March 23, 2019



Tim Atkin MW

2019 • CHILE REPORT

Young Winemaker of the Year
Christian Sepúlveda, J. Bouchon

