



Wines for the Weekend

## Join The Club--Drink Malbec

Eric Arnold, 08.21.09, 04:00 PM EDT

**Argentina's signature wine delivers big flavor for less money.**

If there's one positive consequence of the slow economy, it's that it's forced people to drink [better bang-for-the-buck wine](#). Drinkers are seeking out bottles that deliver value for money. What they're finding is that it isn't necessary to hand over the ducats to have a solid experience, especially for a particular kind of wine: Argentinean malbec.

Thirst for this rich, powerful, fruity red is apparent. Argentina's wine exports--of which malbec makes up 33%--to the U.S. were up 39.2% from the first of the year to July, over the same period in 2008. Numbers are also up in Canada (67%) and the U.K. (7%). This might have to do with price. With relatively little effort you can find a drinkable bottle of malbec for \$5 or less. Not so for comparably priced European or American wines. But it's worth giving drinkers a little credit, since the odds of finding a tasty malbec are probably better than they are with any other wine grape, from any other country--at all price points. Just ask Charles Bieler, winemaker from Three Thieves Wines, whose head was still spinning when he met with us a day after he'd returned from a multi-day visit to Argentina's wineries. It wasn't travel exhaustion. From one winery to the next along the back-country road that runs through Mendoza, the premier wine-growing region there, Bieler found full-bodied, ripe reds everywhere he looked. Even more exciting, however, was how often he'd taste a great wine only to discover that it's made in massive volumes--which means wallet-friendly prices.

### **Charles Bieler's Malbec Picks Altos Las Hormigas (\$11)**

"Perhaps a little less more dense than some of the other wines I'm suggesting, but no less delicious," says Bieler. "It's a wine with freshness and balance along with the trademark malbec qualities of dark aromas of blackberry, cherry and chocolate."

To see the entire article please click here:

<http://www.forbes.com/2009/08/21/wines-malbec-argentina-lifestyle-wine-food-malbec.html>