

BODEGA CHACRA

PATAGONIA - RIO NEGRO

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

March / April 2013



2011 Bodega Chacra Pinot Noir Cincuenta y Cinco Patagonia • 94 Points

(\$60) (13% alcohol): Moderately saturated medium red. Highly perfumed aromas and flavors of strawberry, peppery herbs, cinnamon, patchouli, orange zest and underbrush; reminded me of a top Dujac wine. Dense, ripe and spicy but virtually weightless, with outstanding focus and inner-mouth aromatic lift. There's a lovely core of sweetness here but the wine stands out today for its savory firmness. Finishes very subtle and long, with refined tannins. This retained its perfumed strawberry and spice character after 72 hours in the recorked bottle. Offers a strong argument for the pinot potential of Patagonia.

2011 Bodega Chacra Pinot Noir Barda Patagonia • 90 points

(\$25) Medium red, a bit pale at the rim. Reticent but ultimately highly perfumed aromas of strawberry, raspberry, flowers, pepper and herbs; showed a darker cherry cola note with aeration. Precise, juicy and seamless, with a savory saline touch to the redcurrant and raspberry fruit flavors. On the light side but subtle, energetic and long for pinot in this price range. This bottling can be fascinating in the better vintages, and 2011 is obviously a strong year here.



2010 Bodega Chacra Merlot Mainque Patagonia • 89 points

(\$40) Bright medium red. Spicy perfume of red cherry, redcurrant, licorice and herbs. A juicy, lively midweight, with bright acidity framing the flavors of redcurrant, plum and spices. Good tension and mid-palate energy here. This attractive cool-climate merlot finishes with tongue-dusting tannins and good lift.

| by Stephen Tanzer