



This year, Chile was the venue for the 13th edition of the World's Best Sommelier Competition. This event took place between April 10th and 15th and was organized by the International Sommelier Association, the Chilean Sommelier Association, and Wines of Chile. The chosen site was the recently inaugurated W hotel, which received over 200 of the top Sommeliers from 53 countries.

The winner of the competition was Englishman Gerard Basset, who already held multiple prizes such as the Master Sommelier, Master of Wine, and a Wine MBA.



During this event, a group of nine people, hailing from Spain, Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, and Chile visited the Chocalán Vineyards. Among them was the President of the Spanish Sommelier Association.

After talking about our valleys and processes, there was an opportunity to uncork the bottles and begin the long awaited tasting under the direction of our oenologist, Fernando Espina. The tasting was characterized by a friendly and close atmosphere, where each could share their opinions and commentaries.

We began with the lighter wines, on this occasion it was the Malvilla whites: a **2009 Riesling**, a **Sauvignon Blanc 2009** that gave us something to talk about, and finally a **2008 Chardonnay** that impressed with its green and marine notes.

At the continuation the red wines were presented: from our Selection line, the **2009 Carmenère** was chosen. Then came the turn of the Reserves: the **2007 Syrah**, the day's favorite, praised by all and described as a "slice of Syrah" and the **2007 Cabemet Franc**. We closed with the Grand Reserve wines: the **2006 Blend**, a complex and interesting wine, of which they said that "it almost drinks itself". To finish off the tasting: a **2007 Malbec**, with impressive aromatic intensity and its own identity, different from the typical Argentinean Malbec.

Once the tasting had ended, we shared a barbecue "a la Chilena" from our outdoor grill where they could spend some shared time with our work team. All in all, a great day, and for them, we hope an agreeable experience.

