



VIÑA AQUITANIA

CHILE



From 1981 to 1988, Bruno Prats and Paul Pontallier explored Chile to assess the overall potential of the country for wine-growing.

With their friend, renowned Chilean agronomist and oenologist Felipe de Solminihac, they searched and found a great location to produce high-quality wines.

While many existing vineyards were located on rich and flat soils, the partners chose to plant their vineyard from scratch on a poor and sloping land.

In 1990, they acquired 18 hectares in the « Quebrada de Macul » - historically the heart of the Maipo Valley vineyards – on the footsteps of the Andean Cordillera, near the city of Santiago and planted high quality varieties that benefited from unique climatic conditions.

Nowadays, 14 hectares are planted with Cabernet Sauvignon and 2 hectares with Syrah.

The vineyard, at an altitude which varies from 675 to 720 meters, is dominated by the Punta de Damas 3,000 meters high. It combines a poor sloping and well-drained soil with a sunny microclimate characterised by major differences in temperature between day and night which help preserve an exceptional intensity of fruit.

Between 1993 and 2000, the founders fine-tuned the vine-growing and the winemaking techniques while the vines were maturing.

Seeing the level of achievement which Paul Pontallier, Bruno Prats and Felipe de Solminihac had eventually reached, Ghislain de Montgolfier, a close friend of the partners, came on board in early 2003 and thus became the fourth associate or the “fourth musketeer” as he says.

The “Musketeers” are also pioneers in the Malleco Valley, 650km south of Santiago, where they started planted Chardonnay as early as 1995 to produce SOLdeSOL.

This region located at a latitude equivalent to New Zealand's Northern Island presents climatic conditions favorable to high quality vine-growing and to Burgundy grape-varieties in particular: Pinot Noir planted in 2003 has recently been added to the Viña Aquitania range.