

José Pastor Selections

IMPORTER OF FINE IBERIAN WINES

Grower Renán Cancino

Appellation Valle de Maule

Climate Mediterranean

Varieties País

Soil Granitic

Elevation Close to sea level

Vine Age 300+ years

Pruning En Vaso

Farming Organic

Production 900 cases

Huaso de Sauzal

Chilena 2016



The story of **Renán Cancino** and his path to natural winemaking is rooted in Chilean history and culture. His ancestors arrived in Chile from the Iberian Peninsula around the same time that *país* cuttings traveled from Spain to Chile and became a mainstay in winemaking across the region. Renán makes wine in the way he knows his ancestors made wine – without any additives. After receiving a degree in agronomy, he learned to make wine the conventional way: technically correct wines with very little sense of character. It was only after a major earthquake hit Central Chile in 2010 that he had to pull together with almost nothing for a cellar to make that vintage. With his hometown of Sauzal reduced to rubble, he had much bigger problems to deal with, leaving him no time to correct the wine, or even hardly pay any attention to it. In the end, he fell in love with this vintage and changed his path to making wine without any interventions. A man steeped in history, he does not call his wines “natural,” but rather “traditional” as an homage to the way his father and grandfather before him made wine. To honor these traditions, Renán ferments his wines in *rauli*, or Chilean wood barrels and uses a *zaranda*, a destemmer made of local bamboo.

Renán owns 5ha of vines on the western side of the **Maule Valley**. Soils here are varied; most of the vineyards Renán works with are based on granite. The climate is humid, maritime and rainy throughout autumn and winter. The Maule Valley is known as the viticultural heartland of Chile, although the majority of grapes grown there go to bulk wine production. The area is mostly planted to international varieties, but Renán works with very old *país* vines, and has also grafted carignan onto some of these *pie franco* *país* roots.

Chilena is made from 300-year old *pie franco* **país** grown on granitic soils near Cauquenes in the Maule Valley. The grapes are hand-harvested in early April, destemmed and spontaneously fermented in open-top vats without temperature control, then pressed and raised in used barrels for 1 year, and an additional year in bottle (without added SO₂) before release. Chilena is a savory and rustic red wine, brimming with dark fruit flavors and vibrant acidity.