



# RAFAEL TIRADO

## ‘Winemaker of the Year’

-Tim Atkin (2023 Chile Report)

**Year Founded:** 1993

**Region:** Maule Valley, Chile

**Winemaker/owner:** Rafael Tirado

**Fun fact:** Over the course of his decades long career, he has made wine around the world, managed several mid-sized Chilean wineries, many of which are exported to the USA, and has become one of the most sought-after wine consultants in Chile.

-Organic-

As one of ten children, Rafael Tirado has long been prepared to navigate his way through life. Rafael purchased land in the Eastern Maule Valley in the front range of the Chilean Andes and planted his first estate vines in 1993 on volcanic ash over granite. He currently has five parcels totaling 18ha of vines. His vineyards are legally recognized to be located within the Colbun DO and currently is the only estate producer in the DO. Much of his vineyard is planted in various orientations, some of which are planted in the shape of a labyrinth. Rafael built a small gravity fed winery and a geothermal barrel and bottle room on the property, and currently produces estate wines under the Laberinto and Vistalago labels. We believe these wines to be some of the most classical expressions of terroir in all of Chile, and Rafael Tirado to be a beacon of artisan Chilean Wine.



### 2022 Laberinto Cenizas Sauvignon Blanc, Colbún



This hand harvested, single vineyard, 100% estate Sauvignon Blanc is from vines that Rafael Tirado planted himself in 1993. Fermented in 100% stainless steel which leads to a very juicy and refreshing wine. The grapes were macerated in the press for 4-6 hours at 11°C. Unoaked. Bright nose with Guava, passion fruit, and lemon leading to a mineral mid palate and soft undertones of crushed rock. The volcanic ash from the vineyard adds to this minerality and sustained finish.

**95 Points – ’22 Robert Parker** – *“Sharp as a knife and savory rather than floral or exotic, less varietal, complex, austere and mineral, with a rocky sensation. Textured and tasty, clean, long and nuanced, fresh and balanced, with the cool sensation of the cold nights. An amazing wine, one of the finest values in Chile.”*

**93 Points – ’21 Vinous** – *“A thirst-quenching white of notable freshness.”*



## 2021 Laberinto Arcillas País, Colbún

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100% single vineyard País planted in 1995. Native yeast. Aged in clay amphora and concrete tanks for 8 months on its lees. Fermented 18 days on skins. Unfined and unfiltered.

**93 Points – '21 Robert Parker** – *“Good freshness and mellow acidity and a surprisingly floral and aromatic nose, cool and fresh. It has a very fresh palate and an elegant mouthfeel, fine-boned and with fine tannins but with grip.”*

**92 Points – '20 Vinous** – *“The nose presents notes of sour cherry and strawberry plus hints of stalk and spice. Good structure for the variety, a freshness that lends balance, and a pleasant feel at the back of the throat.”*

## 2022 Laberinto Cenizas Pinot Noir, Colbún

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This hand harvested, single vineyard, 100% estate Pinot Noir is from vines that Rafael Tirado planted himself in 1998. Aged in used French oak barrels for 12 months. 3-day cold maceration before fermentation with a total maceration of 16 days. Unfined and unfiltered. The wine shows crushed red fruit of raspberry and strawberry with hints of eucalyptus. Undertones of wet forest floor and baking spices of clove and cinnamon come through on the finish. The oak is well integrated and lets the soft, sexy, terroir driven fruit shine.