

**NV Cruzat Cruzat Cuvee Reserve
Rose Extra Brut**

The NV Cuvee Reserve Rose Extra Brut is very pale pink-colored, with a very discreet nose where it is difficult to find the red fruit, as the toasty and yeasty aromas dominate. The palate shows more volume from a high percentage of Pinot Noir (90%) and is quite tasty and persistent. I'm not a great fan of sparkling pink, but I really liked this one. Drink now.

Bodega Cruzat was founded in 2004 by sparkling winemaker and winemaking professor Pedro Rosell, along with three partners: Gaston Cruzat, Pedro Boher and Fernando Rawling. The winery is located in the old winemaking region of Perdiel, south of the Mendoza River, at the foot of the Cordon del Plata mountain range. All the wines are made from high-altitude estate Pinot Noir and Chardonnay vines. The dosage is lower than what you usually find on the local market which provides for fresh wines. Argentina drinks quite a lot of sparkling wines, but they are not really big exporters of it.

Importer: Southern Wine Group, Bend, OR; www.southernwinegroup.com

- Luis Gutierrez (April, 2014)

**NV Cruzat Cruzat Cuvee Reserve
Extra Brut**

The NV Cuvee Reserve Extra Brut from fruit from Tupungato in the Uco Valley, a fresh, high altitude zone ideal for the production of sparkling wines, surprised me with its complex aromas of meat broth (something I always link to umami), no doubt more complex given the 24 months in contact with its lees. The palate is light to medium-bodied, with plenty of acidity and freshness that more than compensates the six grams of residual sugar. A great sparkling. The problem with all these non-vintage wines is how to differentiate lots produced through the years. Drink now.

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**NV Cruzat Cruzat Cuvee Reserve
Nature**

The NV Cuvee Reserve Nature is a blend of 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Chardonnay from Tupungato, but as with all non-vintage wines it is impossible to know if this is the same wine you might find in the shops or not. Anyway, I liked the bottle I tasted, where I found clean and precise aromas mixing fruit and yeasts, with good acidity and freshness. This is dry and calls for seafood. Drink now.

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