

# BODEGA CATENA ZAPATA



## NICOLAS CATENA, DECANTER MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD DINNER IN LONDON;

Nicolas, his wife Elena and daughters Laura and Adrianna enjoyed the award dinner in London on September 16, held at the Argentine Embassy. A special dinner was prepared by Michelin star chef Jean - François Rouquette of the Park Hyatt Vendôme in Paris. Previous winners Angelo Gaja, Serge Hochar, Anthony Barton, Michael Broadbent and Hugh Johnson attended as well as Baron Eric de Rothschild (Lafite), Christophe Salin and Catena Zapata importers from around the world.

Guests also included Oz Clarke, Sara Kemp, the host, and her leading staff from Decanter, and renowned journalists from UK and Europe - Beverley Blanning MW, Anthony Rose, Jane McQuitty, Niels Lillelund and Bengt - Goran Kronstam among others. Nicolas & Laura also hosted celebrations throughout the US - Boston, September 21; New York, September 22; Washington DC, October 1; San Francisco, October 18 & Miami, October 21.

Decanter Man of the Year Award Dinner in London:



Anthony Barton, Michael Broadbent, Serge Hochar, Nicolás Catena, Hugh Johnson & Angelo Gaja



Boston Award Gala.



Frank Shobe, Nicolás Catena, Laura Catena & Richard Driscoll. (NY)

- **Steven Spurrier, Decanter consultant editor:** "The Catena wines were beacons for quality in Argentina from the very start and, due to the passion, foresight and cultural dedication of Nicolás Catena, they remain so today."
- **Francis Ford Coppola, Rubicon Estate:** "Nicolás Catena has such a zest for life and love of wine - but also great wisdom. It's a pleasure to offer my admiration and congratulations to him."
- **Baron Eric de Rothschild, Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite):** "Nicolás Catena is a man of vision, of high intellect, always curious about others and about how the world is developing. He has been instrumental in changing the Argentinian wine scene more than anybody else, pushing it towards high quality..."

## NICOLAS CATENA DECANTER MAN OF THE YEAR ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

**Nicolas Catena:** "As we began to study the fine nuances of high altitude viticulture, it became clear that another factor would influence our definition of terroir - sunlight intensity. As we worked with higher altitude vineyards, we discovered that the sunlight was markedly more intense. After planting vineyards in many different areas of Mendoza, it became clear that each altitude and latitude define a unique terroir - a singular combination of temperature and sunlight intensity that produce completely different wines. After many years of trial and error, of research and investigation in our vineyards, we have finally discovered the ideal latitude and altitude with the best combination of temperature and sunlight intensity which

produces our best wine.

I have had to plant many vineyards throughout my life, enduring more failures than I care to remember, in order to make this one enlightening discovery. But as many of you know, this is the nature of a farmer's life".

Watch the entire speech at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Sv9mBsyfBM>



Laura Catena, Nicolás Catena, Adrianna Catena y Elena Catena.

## LAURA CATENA'S WORDS AT THE CELEBRATION

**Laura Catena:** "The enormity of this honor, the Decanter Man of the Year 2009 awarded to my father, only became clear to me when I saw him sharing the table at Decanter's award ceremony in London with previous award winners... Angelo Gaja, Serge Hochar, Anthony Barton, Michael Broadbent and Hugh Johnson.

I could remember like it was yesterday the mid 1980's when my father would come visit me while I was an undergraduate at Harvard in the United States and he would tell me of his dream to make an Argentine wine that would stand with the best of the world. On more than one occasion we were drinking Gaja's Sori Tildin.

I wished my father luck, I truly did, but even I -his biggest fan, his own daughter-- had my doubts that this would be possible. Would any of you have imagined in 1985 that we would be here today celebrating this great honor?

I was particularly touched by my father's acceptance speech when he said that he was accepting the honor on behalf of our region, Mendoza. And this is where our special kind of luck comes in. Because I truly believe that in every great story, there is always a

bit of luck involved.

As my father said, we wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the gift of terroir given to us by Mendoza, the precious land where we were born.

With its poor alluvial soils, its cold nights, its high altitude sunlight, its marvelous soil to grow Malbec in, Mendoza is heaven for winemaking.

Thank you Mendoza and thank you Decanter for making my "Papa" 2009 Man of the Year.

Watch the entire speech at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwRTtntv75s>



Laura Catena.



## ABOUT DECANTER MAGAZINE:

Decanter was founded in 1975 and today is Europe's leading wine magazine. It is read by wine lovers in 92 countries and is considered as the most authoritative magazine on the world of fine wine. Regular contributors include Hugh Johnson, the world's leading wine writer, Michael Broadbent, founder of Christie's wine auctions, Steven Spurrier, regarded as the world's greatest palate and a raft of other experts in their field.

## NICOLAS CATENA HONOURED AS DECANTER MAN OF THE YEAR

Interview by Adam Lechmere

<http://www.decanter.com/news/news.php?id=289524>