

The Santo Tomás Estate

- **Founded:** 1888 by Francisco Adonegui and Miguel Olmart
- **Region and grape source:** The winery owns most of the land in Valle de Santo Tomás, (including the 150+ year old vines of the Único vineyard) as well as 20 hectares of land in the hamlet of San Antonio de las Minas in Valle de Guadalupe.
- **Vineyard elevations and grape origins:**
 - **Valle de Guadalupe** - Estate vineyards 900 ft (granite and clay soils)
 - **Valle de Santo Tomás - Estate vineyards** 500 ft (variable. High on the slopes it's mainly granite composed of large granite stones while down in the valley it's sandy soils high in iron and other minerals).
- **Winemaker:** Cristina Pino (Spanish born, now a Mexican citizen, lives in Valle de Guadalupe)
- **Notes:**
 - Cristina Pino is one of the most highly respected winemakers in the region and a perfect example of the many strong women that are a primary driving force behind the quality and elegance dominating the wines coming out of the region.
 - Santo Tomás is the oldest winery in the Baja region. Jesuit missionaries first established vineyards, (now privately held) in 1791 in this valley, just 5 years after the US signed its Constitution. Over a century later, in 1888 the land was purchased by Francisco Adonegui and Spaniard Miguel Olmart and became Mexico's first large scale commercial winery.
 - The largest landowners in the 5 valleys of northern Baja, Santo Tomás has access to some of the best fruit available. The quality and balance of their wines is a signature of the estate.
 - Since Christina took over in 2019 she has been covering to lower yields, increased quality, and working towards fully organic farming.

Total production: 22 wines, 130,000 cases



2023 ST Merlot - Santo Tomás

Tasting Notes and Drinking Window:
 The 2023 ST Merlot follows in the footsteps of the delightful 2022 and offers what is another clean and pure expression of this variety left to show all of its elegant and smoothly textured fruit. Somehow much of the US began to shun this most fragrant and expressive of varieties and it's encountering wines like this that are likely to bring their attention back. A gem for the price from the estate's vineyards in Valle de Santo Tomás.

Drinking window: Upon release - 5 years

Vintage:
 2023

Blend:
 100% Merlot

Producer:
 Santo Tomás

Winemaker:
 Christina Pino - Spanish, lives in Mexico

Vineyards:
 Santo Tomas is the largest land owner in the region and this Merlot comes from a selection of the younger vines spread throughout the holdings. The range of soil types is vast but here they are mainly working with sandy soils that have some iron rich clay mixed in as well.

Aging:
 Fermented and aged in stainless steel tanks

Farming:
 Sustainable

Alcohol:
 13.3%