The Vena Cava Estate

Founded: 2005 by Phil and Eileen Gregory

Winery Location: The winery is located in the center of Valle de Guadalupe in the ejido of El Porvenir, approximately 10 miles from the Pacific.

Winemaker: Phil Gregory (born in England, now a Mexican citizen, lives in Valle de Guadalupe)

Vineyard Details:

- Valle de Guadalupe – estate vines – 900 ft (Cabernet Sauvignon, Barbera, Syrah, Zinfandel, Cinsault, Mourvèdre and Tempranillo). Soil is calcareous. 9.8 acres are under vine.
- Valle de San Vicente – 525 ft (Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot). Sandy soils on an alluvial plain.

Notes:

- Vena Cava is a boutique winery founded in 2005 on the principles of passion and quality over quantity. While they didn't start out intending to make "natural" wines, the more they learned, the more this seemed like the only interesting route forward. Today they are among the standout wineries in Mexico making exceptional wines in a "natural" style.
- All of the wines of the Crystal Ship line are made with organic grapes, fermented with native yeast, see no corrections, fining or additives, and are bottled unfiltered with only a minimal amount of sulfites.
- While Vena Cava has its own estate vineyards, they have focused their business model on creating deep relationships with the best growers and the best vineyard sites. Only 20% of their wines come from estate-owned grapes.

Total production: 20 wines (10 regular and 10 rotating experiments), 2,000 cases



2021 Cabernet Sauvignon – Vena Cava

Tasting Notes and Drinking Window:
Vena Cava may be best known for pushing boundaries with its amber and natural wines, but this Cabernet Sauvignon shows just how well Phil handles a classic. A slightly later harvest and steady summer temperatures in 2021 let the fruit ripen evenly, giving a more elegant, fruit-forward Cabernet than usual. Fruity and savory, with lively acidity keeping it all in balance and 12 months in French oak adding polish, this is a Cab built for the table. As the label says: buena comida, buenos amigos!
300 cases made
Drinking window: now – 2029

Vintage:
2021

Blend:
100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Producer:
Vena Cava

Winemaker:
Phil Gregory – British, lives in Mexico

Vineyards:
Valle de San Vicente – Llano Colorado vineyard at an elevation of 160 m (525 ft), planted in red clay soils.

Winemaking:
Harvested September 28, 2021, at 23° Brix, a bit later than usual. Fermented with selected yeast in food-grade tanks over 3 weeks, with one punch-down a day for gentle extraction of color and flavor, then stabilized in stainless steel. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels of different uses from several coopers. The wine was clarified and filtered in three passes (9, 2.5 and 0.8 microns) before bottling.
Sulfites: 35 ppm at bottling

Farming:
Organic, Sustainable

Alcohol:
13%