



# LA MONTESA

2014

*D.O.Ca. Rioja (Baja) | 88% Garnacha & 12% Tempranillo*

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Named after a hillside vineyard located on the northeastern slope of the Yerga mountain in eastern Rioja, *La Montesa* is a blend of the indigenous grape varieties that grow on the Palacios Remondo estate. Described by Luis Gutiérrez of Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate as being an 'elegant, streamlined wine that is tasty with great freshness,' the 2014 *La Montesa* showcases great balance and all of the lush, red berry and orchard fruit flavors that one expects when drinking an exceptional, Mediterranean Garnacha-based wine. Perfect when enjoyed by-the-glass on its own, *La Montesa's* multi-faceted flavor profile - including ripe nectarines, pomegranates, blood oranges and fresh strawberries, infused with hints of sweet spice - will pair well with any kind of cuisine.

## VINTAGE

2014 was the thirtieth vintage rated as 'good' by the D.O.Ca. Rioja's control board. Favorable weather conditions in spring and summer produced perfect growing conditions for the vines, evidenced by excellent canopy development and plant health towards the end of veraison. Harvest began towards the middle of September and gradually accelerated until the first week of October, when 'the most intensive harvesting period in Rioja' usually takes place. During this period in 2014, more than 300 million kg of fruit arrived at the crush pad and the grapes' excellent health prompted optimistic forecasts for the majority of wines. By all accounts it was on track to be a 'great' vintage, but poor weather during the second half of harvest resulted in outbreaks of grey rot, causing severe problems for many of Rioja's farmers. An intense selection both in the field and at the winery was required in order to make sure only the best fruit went into tank for fermentation. Considered to be a 'good' year for red wines, curiously, the control board unanimously found the 2014 rosés and whites to be of exceptional quality, most likely due to the fact that the varieties that make up these wines are all typically harvested first.

## VINEYARDS

Located at an altitude of 1,800 feet, Palacios Remondo's vineyards are grown at some of the highest points in Rioja. As the estate's flagship wine, named *Propiedad*, was not made in this vintage, all of the estate's 29-70 year-old head-pruned and trellised vines went into making the magnificent 2014 *La Montesa*. Each of the vines, owned by winemaker Alvaro Palacios in Rioja, are hand-harvested, grown organically, and very narrowly spaced (3,000 plants per HA) in soil that is comprised of sediments that stem from the Quaternary Era. Consisting of clay and a stony-calcareous subsoil, covered in stones and with excellent drainage, the area is very low in organic material and with a moderated basic pH, the soil is perfect for growing high quality fruit. By dry-farming and dropping close to 40% of their grapes, the Palacios Remondo team ensures only the highest quality fruit is picked during harvest, which took place from the 8<sup>th</sup> of October to the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

La Montesa, Rioja Baja, Spain

## FERMENTATION & AGING

Estate-grown Garnacha and Tempranillo clusters were selected first in the field and again on a sorting table, before being de-stemmed and put separately into stainless steel tanks for a spontaneous alcoholic and malolactic fermentation. After a long maceration of 35 days, an initial blend was made and the wine was aged for 12 months in new and used 90% French and 10% American oak barrels. The finished wine was left unclarified, unfiltered and was first bottled in Spring of 2016.

*Wine analysis: 5.3 g/l (0.48%) total acidity; 3.55 pH; 14.35% alcohol by volume*

## HISTORY

The Palacios Remondo winery history stretches back five generations when the D.O.C. Rioja was first gaining notoriety as one of the premier winemaking regions of the world. José Palacios Remondo, father of renowned winemaker Alvaro Palacios, founded the Palacios Remondo estate in 1945. Alvaro Palacios, born at his family's winery in Alfaro, became one of Spain's winemaking super-stars for his successes in Priorat and Bierzo and was recently voted Decanter Magazine's Man of the Year (March, 2015).