

Vall Llach

2010

Idus de Vall Llach

D.O.Q. PRIORAT

· WINEMAKER'S NOTES ·

Idus is the result of a close collaboration between the Vall Llach estate and owners of *trossos*, or small vineyard blocks, who cultivate old-vine Cariñena and Garnacha. These ancient vineyards, located near the towns of Porrera and Torroja, Priorat, produce the essential Priorat character of this wine. The head-pruned, tiny “bonsai” vines yield naturally concentrated grapes that produce a stunningly inky red wine with complex aromas and flavors. An elegant and modern Priorat that surprises with its soft mineral tones and rich, dark fruit flavors, the 2010 *Idus de Vall Llach* is balanced and structured, with both a soft and persistent finish. Meant to drink now or age for up to 30 years, this wine should be opened a half hour before consuming and served between 55-60°F.

45% Cariñena, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Garnacha, 10% Merlot and 12% Syrah

· V I N T A G E ·

Vintage 2010 began with a long, cold winter, during which enough snow and rain fell to maintain an important hydric reserve all the way through the later period of bud-break. The rain continued into the spring months, producing a vigorous vegetative cycle that lasted throughout flowering in the middle of June. Despite the abundant rainfall, however, both the vines' flowers and leaves remained disease-free all the way to harvest, thanks to the moderate evening temperatures and warm, windy days that graced Priorat from the end of spring to the beginning of fall. After a healthy fruit set, veraison also began later than normal, giving way to a nice and slow phenolic maturation – perfect conditions for producing wines of exceptional quality from the typically sweltering, rocky hillsides of Priorat. Harvest began in Porrera towards the end of September and finished during the second week of November, where each individual vineyard block was harvested only when it had reached its optimum ripeness. From a “quiet, slow and cool vintage,” the 2010 wines from Celler Vall Llach should be exceptional upon release and will age gracefully over the next several years.

· V I N E Y A R D S ·

The old vines that make up this wine are located in areas with enviable conditions due to their picturesque surroundings, hours of sunshine and elevation above sea level. Their rocky slopes are impressive to the eye, and prevent any kind of mechanical farming, which mandates an intimate and exclusive relationship with the wine grower. Selected from the choicest vineyard blocks each individual year, this wine is guaranteed to possess some of the best fruit that can be found in the Porrera and Torroja regions of Priorat.

· F E R M E N T A T I O N A N D A G I N G ·

A pre-fermentation cold maceration took place for three days before alcoholic fermentation began. De-stemmed grapes were fermented in 1,000 and 2,500 liter stainless steel tanks between 25-29 °C over 14-18 days, with daily manual punch-downs. In order to ensure optimum grape quality, all vineyard blocks were harvested & vinified separately; over 90 different micro-fermentations were performed. Post-fermentative maceration lasted 15 days, followed by a soft press. Fifty percent of the wine then went through malolactic fermentation in tank and 50% in barrel before the wine was aged in fine grain, 225 and 300 liter first-and-second year French oak barrels with a light toast. The barrels were racked once during the total aging time of 16 months and the wine was bottled in April of 2013.

Wine analysis: 5.0 g/l (0.50%) total acidity; 3.50 pH; 15.5% alcohol by volume

· H I S T O R Y ·

From its inception, Celler Vall Llach has been governed by a rigid adherence to two guiding principles: rigor and quality. The winery was founded in 1992 by the famous Catalan singer Lluís Llach and his childhood friend, notary Enric Costa. Today Enric's son, Albert Costa, serves as the winery's principal winemaker and managing partner. Located in Porrera, one of the twelve villages that form the Qualified Designation of Origin (D.O.Q.) Priorat, about an hour and half southwest of Barcelona, this winery seamlessly fuses history and innovation, resulting in high quality wines that are appreciated the world over.