

VIÑAS VIEJAS 2011 PROPIEDAD

Viñas Tradicionales de Alfaro
D.O.Ca. Rioja | 100% Garnacha

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The Palacios Remondo winery is located in the eastern portion of Spain's oldest and best known winemaking region, the D.O.C. Rioja. The estate's flagship wine, *Propiedad*, is made from old-vine Garnacha that grows in five unique high-elevation vineyards resting on the rocky hillsides of *Rioja Oriental*. Produced in a vintage characterized as 'excellent' by the D.O.Ca. Rioja, the 2011 *Propiedad* contains matchless aromas of sweet aromatic herbs, Mediterranean forest floor, fresh cream, toasted oak and vine-ripened berries. Well-balanced and exceptionally smooth on the palate, the 2011 *Propiedad* is both feminine, fruity and floral, akin to the world's best Pinot Noirs. Containing well-integrated tannins and an incredibly long finish, this wine is meant to drink now or age up to ten years. Only 3,783 9-liter cases were produced.

100% Garnacha

VINTAGE

2011 was the third consecutive year of drought in Rioja, characterized by extreme winter and summer temperatures and below-average rainfall. The coolest July on record in over a decade helped to prevent exorbitant evaporation of the small amount of water left in the soil and vines. A warm and sunny August-September allowed the Palacios Remondo team to harvest their Garnacha grapes at their optimal ripeness. Upon completion of fermentation, Alvaro described his wines as showing signs of "wildness and timidity," properties of the austere weather conditions of 2011. Once in bottle, however these traits had melded into a stunning finished wine that shows "great finesse, elegance and aromatic complexity" - hallmark traits of a great vintage. A year once again deemed "excellent" by the D.O.Ca. Rioja, winemaker Alvaro Palacios feels his wines from the 2011 vintage possess a great Mediterranean character attributed to the land, sun exposure and high temperatures where his grapes are grown.

TRADITIONAL VINEYARDS

Located on the slope of the Yerga mountain, at an altitude of 2,100 feet, the Palacios Remondo vineyards are grown at some of the highest points of Eastern Rioja. The old Garnacha vines that are used for making this wine are 30- to 90-years-old and are located across five unique vineyards. The unique soil is comprised of sediments that stem from the Quaternary Era, consisting of volcanic ophite and sandstone pebbles, quartz and white carbonates. Very low in organic material, with excellent drainage and a moderated basic pH, the soil type has been known for producing high quality wines for hundreds of years. The vines are narrowly spaced, head pruned, never irrigated and only produce around 1 Kg of fruit per vine each year. Alvaro Palacios ensured that only the highest quality fruit was picked during harvest, which took place between October 15th and October 25th.

Valmira, Valfrio, Las Mulgas, Valviejo and Corral de Serrano - La Rioja Oriental, Spain

FERMENTATION & AGING

Hand-picked, old-vine Garnacha clusters were selected, first in the field and again on a sorting table at the winery, before being de-stemmed and put separately into 5,000 liter oak tanks for an alcoholic and malolactic fermentation using native yeasts. After a long maceration of 28 days, an initial blend was made and the wine was aged for 12 months in 50% new and 50% one year-old French oak barrels. The wine was then left unclarified and unfiltered before bottling.

Wine analysis: 5.7 g/l (0.57%) total acidity; 3.41 pH; 14.5% 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, reestablished the estate in 1945. Alvaro Palacios, born at his family's winery in Alfaro, became one of Spain's winemaking pioneers for his successes in Priorat and Bierzo and was recently voted Decanter Magazine's Man of the Year (March, 2015). In 2000, upon his father's death, Alvaro assumed responsibility for Palacios Remondo, and committed to taking the estate's quality to new heights. Under his inspired leadership, Palacios Remondo is now a rising star of Rioja.