

VIÑAS VIEJAS 2012 PROPIEDAD

Viñas Tradicionales de Alfaro
D.O.Ca. Rioja

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 'Very Good' by the D.O.Ca. Rioja, the 2012 *Propiedad* contains enticing aromas of ripe plumbs, fresh orange peel, warm Mediterranean herbs and vine-ripened berries. With well-balanced acidity, the wine is incredibly silky and soft on the mid-palate. Feminine, fruity and floral, akin to the world's best Pinot Noirs, the 2012 *Propiedad* contains round tannins and an incredibly long finish. Meant to drink now or age up to ten years, only 1,746 9-liter cases were produced.

92% Garnacha and an 8% blend of other indigenous, traditional Spanish varieties

VINTAGE

Winemaker Alvaro Palacios describes the 2012 vintage as being 'Mediterranean in character,' as it was marked by periods of extreme heat and high temperatures. The month of August was the third driest (and summer in general, the fourth hottest) on record since 1961. Irregular rainfall led to an irregular ripening in the vineyards and non-native varieties, which are the worst suited to this type of weather, suffered the most in Rioja. Traditional varieties fared the best, especially when cared for by vineyard management teams that had the expertise and patience to wait for the late October rains. Alvaro Palacios stated that a delayed harvest in his vineyards helped 'round out the phenolic ripeness' of his grapes, resulting in 'concentrated and vigorous wines, that show finesse, elegance and unique sensory nuances, which slowly, sensually and shyly expanded during the process of oak aging.'

TRADITIONAL VINEYARDS

Located on the slope of the Yerga mountain, at an altitude of 2,100 feet, the Palacios Remondo vineyards are grown organically 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 planted in a East-northeast orientation to the sun. 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 1.5 Kg of fruit per vine each year. Alvaro Palacios ensured that only the highest quality fruit was picked during harvest, which took place between the 15th and 30th of October.

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 and *foudres*. The wine was then left unclarified and unfiltered before bottling.

Wine analysis: 5.5 g/l (0.55%) total acidity; 3.55 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.