

VIÑAS VIEJAS 2015 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 stunning 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 2015 *Propiedad* contains unique aromas of candied orange peel, ripe strawberries, marzipan, dried Mediterranean herbs and soft, toasted oak notes. Well-balanced and exceptionally smooth on the palate, the 2015 *Propiedad* is both feminine, floral and fruit-forward, with excellent oak integration, 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 3,300 9-liter cases were produced. *92% Garnacha, 8 % Blend of traditional indigenous Spanish varieties*

VINTAGE

2015 was rated as 'very good' by the D.O.Ca. Rioja's control board. Favorable weather conditions in spring and summer produced perfect growing conditions for the vines, as evidenced by an 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 2015, more than 300 million kg of fruit arrived at the crush pads in Rioja 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 Alta and Alavesa's farmers. Thankfully the sub-region of Rioja Oriental was affected less and a careful selection performed both in the field and at the winery by Palacios Remondo's superb winemaking team insured only the very best fruit went into tank for fermentation.

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 from the 1st-30th of October.

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 47 days, an initial blend was made and the wine was aged for 18 months in French oak barrels and *foudres*. The wine was then left unfiltered before bottling.

Wine analysis: 5.0 g/l (0.50%) total acidity; 3.54 pH; 14.78% 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 proven star of Rioja.