



2016

## *Valtomellosol D.O.Ca. Rioja (Oriental) | 100% Viura*

### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

The only white wine made by famed Spanish winemaker Alvaro Palacios, *PLACET Valtomellosol* is limited-production, estate-grown wine made from the indigenous Spanish grape variety, Viura. *Placet*, meaning "consent", is beautiful straw gold in color, with enticing aromas of orange blossoms, white pears, golden apples, and freshly-baked brioche. Full-bodied, with perfectly-balanced acidity, this wine contains succulent flavors of white peaches, creamed honey and soft minerality, along with subtle hints of chamomile and fennel. A wine Alvaro Palacios feels has 'wonderful depth and purity,' this outstanding wine is truly enjoyable when served alone or with any kind of food. Only 2133 6-pack cases were produced.

### VINTAGE

2016 began with an exemplary winter that had low temperatures, fog and little rain, giving way to an exceptionally dry spring. Summer rainfall reached up to 55 mm in the month July, which was the only hydric relief the plants received during the vines' evolutionary cycle. August and September were once again extremely dry, with higher-than-normal temperatures. Thankfully, cool nights retained the plants' vitality and prevented the habitual descent of the grape's acidity, delivering vivacious and cheerful wines. Garnaca, with its useful adaptation to aridity, continued its slow and methodical maturation, providing the winery upon harvest with grapes that were small size and contained 'an extraction characteristic of the most mythical of vintages.'

A vintage which Alvaro Palacios describes as 'fulfilling the expectations caused by the last blows of the El Niño weather phenomenon,' 2016 exhibited low production and extraordinary quality, with a moderate alcohol levels and a higher acidity that was coupled with greater concentration than in previous vintages. A vintage which Alvaro believes will 'lead us down a long and languid path,' the Palacios Remondo wines should age well in bottle and beautifully demonstrate 'the life and the sublime acidity that can be found in a wine produced in a year of intense drought.'

### VINEYARDS

Located on the slope of the Yerga Mountain, at an altitude of 1,800 feet, Palacios Remondo's vineyards are grown at some of the highest points in Rioja. The 30-year-old head-pruned vines are hand-harvested, grown organically, and very narrowly spaced (3,000 plants per HA). Soil is comprised of sediments that stem from the Quaternary Era, consisting of clay and a stony-calcareous subsoil, covered in stones, with excellent drainage. Very low in organic material and with a moderated basic pH, the soil is perfect for growing high quality red and white grapes. By dry-farming and dropping close to 40% of their fruit, the Palacios Remondo viticulture team ensures only the highest quality Viura is picked during harvest, which occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October.

### FERMENTATION & AGING

After a manual selection is performed in the field and again on a sorting table at the winery, clusters are put into a cold press for an eight hour maceration period of contact with the skins, before being de-stemmed. The first-press juice is then fermented in traditional 2,000-liter oval oak vats at very low temperatures, using native yeasts. Upon completion of the spontaneous alcoholic and malolactic fermentations, the wine was then aged *sur lie* for 11 months in large French oak ovals with select soft pump-overs and then both fined and cold stabilized before bottling.

*Wine analysis: 5g/l total acidity; 3.32 pH; 13.5% 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, 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).