



# 2017 IDUS DE VALL LLACH

D.O.Q. PRIORAT

## WINEMAKER'S NOTES

*Idus de Vall Llach* is the result of a close collaboration between the Vall Llach estate and eleven independent grape growers who cultivate old-vine Cariñena and Garnacha on the rocky hillsides of Priorat. These ancient vineyards, located near the towns of Porrera and Torroja, produce the quintessential Priorat character of this wine. The head-pruned, tiny "bonsai" vines yield tiny, naturally concentrated grapes that produce intensely dark-cherry colored wines with incredibly complex aromas and flavors. The 2017 *Idus* is multifaceted, with alluring aromas of red forest fruit, fleshy black plums, hints of forest herbs, wood smoke and dark minerals. Wide on the palate, the wine is both powerful and fresh for an old-vine Priorat; displaying good acidity, round tannins and an incredibly long finish. A wine that may be enjoyed now or aged for up to 30 years, the estate recommends opening their wines a half hour before consuming and serving between 55-60°F. Only 600 9L cases were produced. *68% Cariñena and 32% Garnacha*

## VINTAGE

The 2017 vintage in DOQ Priorat turned out to be a balance between climatic extremes. Rainfall above average at the beginning of the growing season and spring was then answered by very hot temperatures following veraison and the lack of rain during July and August. The early ripening that resulted was moderated during the month of September, though, when light rains, dry wind from the north and a significant drop in temperatures favored a slower and more balanced maturity of the grapes' concentration, which had been quickly accelerated during the hotter months. Harvest started early, in the second half of September and was finished between October 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Overall, it can be said that the 2017 vintage in DOQ Priorat produced healthy and exceptional grapes, and wines that are very pure and direct aromatically, described by winemaker Albert Costa as 'mature, structured wines that are concentrated and elegant and with good acidity...characteristics that are all ideal for long bottle aging.'

## THE SEVEN VINEYARDS

**Priorat families & vineyard names:** *Arbes* de familia Perez, *Mas d'en Caçador* de familia Vidal, *Les Planetes* de familia Tarran, *El Trosset & La Sentiu* de familia Bonilla, *Franquet* de familia Franquet, *Trosset* de familia Estrada and *Aubaguetes & El Solá* de Familia Pascual.

**Elevation:** 990-1,500 feet

**Slope:** 70-90%

**Size:** 35 total acres

**Number of vines planted:** est. 3,000 vines/acre

**Production per vine:** 200-500 grams only

**Vineyard planted:** ≥50 years-old

**Harvest:** manually harvested between September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> 2018, in small 10 Kg bins. Harvest is meticulous and each block is visited several times so that only the ripest clusters are brought into the winery for fermentation.



## FERMENTATION AND AGING

**Upon entry into the winery:** In order to ensure optimum grape quality, all vineyard blocks and all varieties are manually harvested and vinified separately.

**Vinification:** After de-stemming, alcoholic fermentation takes place between 25-29 °C in 2,500L and 5,000L stainless steel tanks over 17 days, with daily manual punch-downs. Post-fermentative maceration lasts 5 days, and is followed by a soft press, after which 50% of the wine goes through malolactic fermentation in stainless steel tanks, 50% in barrel.

**Ageing:** Aged in fine grain, 225- and 300-liter second-year French oak barrels with a light and medium toast for a total time of 14 months.

**Bottling:** May 2019

**Wine analysis:** 4.7 g/l (0.47%) total acidity; 3.55 pH; 15.5% alcohol by volume

## HISTORY

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.