

# Abadal Reserva 5 Merlot 2004



**Winery:** Bodegas Masies D'Avinyo

**Region:** Pla de Bages D.O.

**Grapes:** 100% Merlot

**Winery:** Masies D'Avinyo is leading the charge of quality wine production from this, one of the oldest vine growing regions in the world, el Bages, named for Bacchus the Roman god of wine. The vines are cultivated on carefully structured terraces, influenced by a Continental- Mediterranean climate, with low rainfall. This leads to highly structured wines that maintain a freshness and delicacy rarely found in such rich wines.

Vineyards are planted with native and French grapes, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay and Mando and Picapoll. A strong technical background is used in vineyard management, for example, specific total leaf area per mass of grapes to assure ripeness. This is combined with a detailed

interaction with each vintage. In warm vintages, new oak is purchased with lower levels of toast, in cooler vintages barrels with higher levels of toast are used. A combination of French, Hungarian and American oak is used in aging the wines.

Masies D'Avinyo's winemaker, Joan Soler, explains his philosophy as this: "I understand that wine is basically an agricultural product, therefore I look to achieve the best balance in our vineyards (not only in terms of production but also environmental terms by excluding the use of herbicides and by allowing the controlled growth of grass). In terms of winemaking, I have two goals, first to extract as much of the flavor of the grape into our wines, second to allow the aromas of our grapes to be primary in our wines. I look to exclude aromas from the winery or from excessive barrel aging."

**Wine:** Made from five different clones of estate grown Merlot from 5 different parcels of vineyards. The grapes were hand harvested and commenced fermentation on their skins in stainless steel tanks with piegeage for 7 days. This wine was aged for 12 months in 70% French, 20% American and 10% Central European oak barrels aged one and two years.

## Reviews:

"Spicy redcurrant and raspberry on the nose, with exotic Asian spices and minerals adding urgency. Brisk and sharply focused, offering lip-smackingly pure red berry flavors and good nervy minerality. A vibrant and precise wine that is balanced to age but is utterly delicious right now. There's a balance and delicacy to this that reminds me of pinot."

**91 points** *International Wine Cellar* issue 140 Sept/Oct '08



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