

Las Colinas del Ebro 2010

Syrah Garnacha



Winery: Bodegas Abanico

Region: Terra Alta D.O.

Grapes: 60% Syrah and 40% Garnacha

Winery: Las Colinas del Ebro are a new line of wines inspired by the high altitude vines near the river Ebro, one of the great rivers of Europe and a profound influence on the landscape and history of northern Spain. Because of its strategic importance, the towns and hills of the Ebro staged the bloodiest battles of the Spanish civil war in the summer of 1938 and any visit to this region in southern Catalonia leaves one with an indelible sense of those tragic events. More cheer-

fully, this area is now a hot-spot for quality wine production and gastronomic creativity.

The team responsible for these new wines are managing director of Bodegas Abanico, Rafael de Haan and technical director of Celler Batea, Luis Martin. They believe that the D.O. Terra Alta has a bright future as a region for quality wines and that the 2006 vintage was the right moment to start this new project.

For both the white and red wines there was a search for vines aged over 100 years for the Garnacha and more than 30 years for the Syrah. Rigorous care of vineyards and small yields of flavourful grapes yields wines of the highest quality with a fruity, modern character which are still representative of their origin.

Wine: Made from 25 year old Syrah and 35 year old Garnacha fruit that was hand harvested. Each variety was fermented and aged separately. The wine is made from only free-run juice and both varietals saw a short time in French oak barrels to add complexity and soften the tannin structure prior to blending.

Reviews:

“Deep purple in color, blue fruits, mineral, and a hint of game inform the nose of this medium-bodied, up-front offering. Ripe, complex, and well-balanced, this tasty effort will drink well over the next 4 years.”

87 points *Wine Advocate* issue 194 May 2011

“Vivid ruby. Aromas of blackberry, cherry, sassafras and violet, with slow-building smokiness and a hint of musky underbrush. Pliant and deep in dark fruit flavors, with a firm mineral spine adding focus and structure. Finishes on a sweet dark fruit note, with very good persistence and an echoing smoky note.”

89 points *International Wine Cellar* issue 18 Sept/Oct 2011



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