

# Cueva del Monge 2008



**Winery:** Bodegas Vinícola Real

**Region:** Rioja D.O.Ca.

**Grapes:** 100% Tempranillo

**Winery:** This Bodega was started in 1992 by master distiller and winemaker, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez. The cellars are located in the village of Albelda de Iregua in Rioja Alta. They have a total of 25 hectares of vineyards in 4 different zones of Rioja Alta. Traditional, chemical-free viticulture is practiced, all grapes are harvested by hand and sorted again at the winery on a sorting table prior to crushing and fermentation.

**Wine:** This wine is produced through a selection of best plots of Tempranillo from the winery's extensive vineyards. 2008 started with a mild winter with abundant rainfalls. The summer was dry and by August it was possible to determine that ripening would be delayed. The weather provided a long harvest starting in late September and running into early November. The grapes came in very clean but with lower yields than in other recent vintages.

The grapes were destemmed and lightly crushed prior to fermentation in oak vats. Fermentation lasted 12 days at 82° F. Malolactic fermentation was undertaken in oak barrels followed by 12 months of aging in a combination of 50% each French and American oak barrels.

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## Reviews:

“Glass-staining ruby. Bright, expressive aromas of red and dark berries, potpourri, licorice and rose. Juicy, spicy and fresh, with deep raspberry and cherry flavors lifted by smoky minerality. Intense and nicely focused Rioja, finishing with lingering spiciness.”

**91 points** *International Wine Cellar* issue 1958 Sept/Oct 2011



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