

Cueva del Monge Blanco 2008



Winery: Bodegas Vinícola Real

Region: Rioja D.O.Ca.

Grapes: 70% Viura, 20% Malvasia, 10% Garnacha and Moscatel

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: Grapes for this wine are grown in highest and coldest plots of Rioja Alta producing very aromatic grapes. There is a special variety of moscatel planted in several of their oldest plots, due to the tradition that Moscatel was used by the ancient winegrowers for

drying for their own consumption as raisins around Christmas.

The grapes are lightly crushed and destemmed prior to being held in stainless steel tanks for 24 hours for skin contact and aroma extraction. The must is then drained and skins are lightly bladder pressed followed by static fining of the must. 20% of the must was fermented in stainless steel tanks. The remaining 80% of the wine was racked to new barrels for alcoholic fermentation lasting between 30 and 40 days with daily batonnage. Following fermentation the wine was racked and returned to barrels for a further 2 1/2 months of barrel aging. Total time in barrel for the 2008 vintage; 4 months.

Reviews:

“Bright gold. Complex, toasty aromas of lemon curd, sultanas, orange peel, talc, nutmeg and vanilla. Ripe, juicy and deep, with sweet orchard and citrus fruit flavors balanced by dusty minerals. Dense, supple and impressively concentrated, with excellent finishing power and lingering minerality. This could handle the richest fish or poultry preparations.”

91 points *International Wine Cellar* issue 158 Sept/Oct 2011



Selected by Aurelio Cabestrero®

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