

Aptus 2019 (Red Wine)



Winemaker, Miguel Ángel Peñalba Martínez, has lived in Ribera del Duero for his whole life. He studied Chemistry, wine making and business and has been managing over 250 hectares of grapes for more than 10 years. He has transitioned many of these vineyards from traditional agriculture to organic practices and continues onward to biodynamic management of these sites.

He produces two wines from vineyards that he controls, incorporating biodynamic practices in all aspects of farming and harvest. All of the grapes are sourced from villages around Aranda del Duero and include historic varieties that are now exceptionally rare in the area including Albillo, Garnacha and Monastrell. Grapes are harvested into small boxes so that they arrive to the winery intact and in the best possible quality.

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| Appellation | Ribera del Duero D.O. |
| Grapes | 95% Tempranillo, 5% Garnacha and Monastrell |
| Altitude / Soil | 800 meters / sand and gravel with clay at lower elevations |
| Farming Methods | certified organic methods; biodynamic farming (not certified) |
| Harvest | hand harvested on Sept 30 and Oct 1 in relation to the lunar calendar and with respect to biodynamic "fruit" day |
| Production | 3-day cold maceration, fermentation with native microbes for 8 additional days with skins, malolactic conversion in barrel |
| Aging | Aged between 6-8 months in used, 80% French and 20% American oak barrels. |
| UPC / SCC / Pack | 8437009198124 / 18437009198121 / 12 |

Reviews:

“This wine is not about fireworks, but rather about purity of fruit, which it achieves at an extremely high level. I’ve written before (many times, but I’m not done) that young, modestly-oaked Tempranillo from Ribera del Duero is among the world’s most delicious and versatile wines, in addition to being the most transparent of all Spain’s renditions of its premier red variety—and a great value on top on all of that. This is an object lesson in everything you just read, and I encourage you to put my claims to the test by tasting this, with the promise that if you don’t like it (and can pass a lie detector test to that effect), I’ll come mow your lawn for the rest of the summer. Medium-bodied but with lots of fresh, dark-cherry fruit aromas and flavors, this is highly expressive, but fruit-driven in its expressiveness, with only wispy touches of spice and oak derived from the 8 months that this spent in barrique (or barrica, in Spanish). There is essentially no oak tannin to make the finish astringent, and just enough ripe, fine-grained grape tannin to offer grip in the finish and keeping this from seeming “grapey” or unstructured. This is undeniably delicious. I’d suggest you not even bother trying to fool a lie detector, but go for it if you wish; my mower is ready.”

92 points *Wine Review Online*; Michael Franz – August 24, 2021

