

Arrocal Maximo 2016 (Red Wine)



This winery was founded by third generation winegrowers, Moises Calvo and Rosa Arroyo in 2002. In that wet and rainy vintage, a winery backed out of a contract to purchase their fruit. So, they harvested the fruit, thinned every bunch by hand (lots of botrytis) and borrowed a tank to produce their first wine. The original idea was to sell the wine in bulk, but they ended up bottling it and selling it under their own label; Arrocal. The vineyards were planted by the owners and a new winery was built and utilized for the 2005 vintage. The young estate vines are trained espalier in a Smart system and are drip irrigated.

Appellation	Ribera del Duero D.O.
Grapes	100% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo), from the single, 85-year-old El Portillo vineyard
Altitude / Soil	850 meters / Lime rich calcareous clay
Farming Methods	Practicing Organic
Harvest	Hand harvested from the small 4.5 hectare vineyard into small boxes
Production	After cluster sorting the grapes are destemmed and lightly crushed, fermentation with native yeasts in temperature controlled SS
Aging	Aged for 26 months in French Radoux blend oak barrels, 100% new
UPC / SCC / Pack	8437005780002 / / 6

Reviews:

"This is an obviously great wine, showing impressive density but also intricate detail and marvelous integration immediately after the cork is pulled. All of those attributes blossom even more as the wine opens with air, actually seeming to take on additional palate weight even as its tannins soften and the aromas and flavors broaden and blossom. There's considerable oak in the mix, but it never really shows as a distinct element, but rather as a source of spicy, toasty aromatic accents and flavor undercurrents. The fruit is so abundant that the combination of grape and wood tannins never becomes notably astringent, though this certainly calls for enjoyment with food in the years immediately ahead. I have no doubt that it will improve for a full 15 years from now, and then likely hold at that level for an additional span. This is not mere guesswork on my part, but rather a reliable extrapolation from its rock-solid stability from an open bottle over three consecutive days. At \$115, this is obviously a luxury purchase, but the wine's performance places it very near the apex of worldwide wine quality, at which point it offers more sheer beauty than almost anything sold for less than \$150."

97 points *Wine Review Online*; Michael Franz – May 18, 2021

"The Máximo bottling from Bodegas Arrocal is also a single vineyard bottling from old vines, as this wine hails from the vineyard of El Portillo and the Tempranillo here is eighty-five years of age! The vines are farmed organically, the vineyard sits at eight hundred and sixty meters above sea level and the soils are clay and limestone. The wine is fermented with indigenous yeasts, undergoes malo in barrel and is raised for twenty-six months in Radoux French oak cask prior to bottling. The 2016 Máximo is a touch riper than the 2016 Ángel bottling, coming in at 14.5 percent alcohol. The wine offers up a deep and nascently complex bouquet of plums, dark berries, Cuban cigar wrapper, chocolate, a nice touch of Tempranillo spice tones, smoke and new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and shows off lovely old vine creaminess in the mid-palate, with excellent focus and grip, budding complexity and a very long, suavely tannic and impeccably balanced finish. I like the oak signature of this wine, which is both nutty and spicy at the same time, without being overbearing to the stunning fruit here. This is a gorgeous wine, but like the Ángel Tinto, I have a gut feeling that there is still another level up in quality this wine could go if it were given the Pétrus treatment of only fifty percent new oak and malo in tank, to allow even more soil signature to shine through. That said, this is still brilliant wine! 2030-2080."

95 points *View from the Cellar*; John Gilman - Issue #92 March/April 2021

"This generous red is broad and dense, with berry compote, steeped cherry, espresso and loamy earth notes supported by suave tannins. Rich elements of mocha and licorice echo on the creamy finish. Drink now through 2033. 150 cases made, 30 cases imported."

93 points *Wine Spectator*; Gillian Sciaretta – September 30, 2021

