

Elias Mora Crianza 2018 (Red Wine)



This Bodega, situated in the famous village of San Roman de Hornija, was founded in 2000 by winemaker Victoria Benavides. The winery is named after the former owner of the vineyard, Elias Mora. The winery owns 16 hectares of vineyards and controls farming and harvest in a total of 70 hectares. Each of the dozens of plots are meticulously managed accounting for soil variation and vine age. The vines are planted in clay and limestone rich soils with abundant, large, surface stones. The arid, warm climate naturally limits production and produces concentrated grapes. Vines are trained in the traditional vaso or goblet shape, which yields ideal results but requires extra work, by hand, for harvest and pruning. Some of their best grapes are grown in the Senda de Lobo area which has 80+ year old vines.

The philosophy of the winery revolves around combining a respect for tradition and modern technology. Victoria focuses exclusively on Tinta de Toro the native clone of Tempranillo which has been grown locally, with no exposure to phylloxera, for over 2000 years. The wines are only ever in contact with natural products, oak, glass, natural cork. Finally, she seeks to respect vintage conditions knowing that each year will offer different qualities in the finished wine.

Appellation	Toro D.O.
Grapes	100% Tinta de Toro (Tempranillo), from 50-year-old, own-rooted, bush vines
Altitude / Soil	700 meters / clay over limestone with sand and pebbles on the surface
Farming Methods	Practicing Organic
Harvest	Hand harvested into small boxes at the end of September
Production	Whole berries undergo a 3-day cold soak, fermentation and malo-lactic conversion in stainless steel tanks
Aging	Aged for 12 months in 50% French and 50% American oak barrels, all second fill
UPC / SCC / Pack Size	8-55012-00098-8 / 18550120009883 / 6

Reviews:

"...The local strain of Tempranillo has evolved over centuries to cope with hot days in summer and very cold nights for much of the year, and is often not trained on wires but rather "head pruned" as low-yielding "bush vines." This 2018 Tinta de Toro from Bodegas Elias Mora is a prime example of the region's ability to produce bold and expressive wines. Blackberries, ripe plums, and hints of cherries are interwoven with a layer of clove, graphite and dark chocolate, contributing to the wine's complexity. The tannins are firm yet well-integrated, providing structure without being overpowering. There's no doubt that this wine has the structure and balance to age for at least a decade more. If drinking now, consider decanting to allow the wine to fully express its incredible depth and complexity."**93 points Wine Review Online**; Miranda Franco Feb 6, 2024

"Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of fruits of the wood and dark chocolate. Rugged tannins play host to flavors of black cherry, pomegranate, dark chocolate, clove and violet that endure into a long-lasting finish."**93 points Wine Enthusiast**; Mike DeSimone - Issue May 2023

"The Crianza bottling from Elías Mora is made from much older vines than the regular Tinto, with these bush-trained vineyards fully fifty years of age. The wine is aged in a fifty-fifty blend of French and American oak casks, but for this bottling, the barrels are one year of age. The 2018 vintage was a hot one in Toro, so this wine comes in at a full fifteen percent octane, but is impressively fresh and vibrant on the nose, wafting from the glass in a mix of black cherries, plums, chocolate, cigar wrapper, a superb base of soil and a combination of vanillin and spicy oak tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and quite suave in personality, with a plush core of fruit, good soil undertow, ripe, firm tannins and a long, complex and really quite well-balanced finish. This is a top flight example of Toro! 2030-2080."

93 points View from the Cellar; John Gilman – Issue #98 March/April 2022

"Sourced from 50 year old Tinta de Toro vines, this generous Toro offers a very fleshy texture with rich blue fruits that collide with wet stone, tilled soils and pencil lead flavors. Drink 2022-2032"

93 points OwenBargreen.com; Owen Bargreen - August 18, 2022

