

JAVIER SAN PEDRO ORTEGA

The Cantabrian foothills of Rioja Alavesa, where Javier sources much of his fruit



Viuda Negra Crianza 2019

Rioja DOC, Spain

ESTATE

Javier San Pedro Ortega is a fifth-generation farmer and winemaker in Laguardia, the Rioja Alavesa's most emblematic village. Rather than wait to take the reins of his family's winery, he decided in 2014 to strike out on his own with nothing more than a bank loan and some inherited vineyards. The status and pedigree of his wines were quickly recognized, with some calling him "destined to become one of the great Rioja winemakers." (Ferran Centelles, JancisRobinson.com)

WINE

Sourced from around the famed town of Laguardia in Rioja Alavesa, the Viuda Negra Crianza is a well-defined Tempranillo that demonstrates the remarkable sense of place Javier pulls from all his wines. Jubilant in style, as Javier likes from his Crianza's, the wine still manages to show a remarkable level of complexity due to 30+ year old vines from higher elevation vineyards.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Tempranillo from 30+-year-old vineyards

Vineyard: 30+-year-old vineyards from around the town of Laguardia in Rioja Alavesa. Higher elevation and a mix of exposures create a lifted style in the final wine.

Winemaking: Fermented in stainless steel and aged for 14 months in mostly used French oak

Alcohol: 15%

VINTAGE

A particularly good year, with Wines from Spain calling it "one of the best vintages of the decade". The year was warm and relatively dry, with slightly reduced yields providing concentration.

TASTING NOTE

Black cherry jumps out in front, with notes of cinnamon and fresh earth following right behind. Firm but not overbearing tannins provide a foundation for the rich flavors in this Crianza.

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"A exuberant and fruit-forward nose, full of red plums, strawberries and some licorice spices. Medium body with a smooth delivery of bright cherries and sleek tannins. Lots of immediate appeal."