

JAVIER SAN PEDRO ORTEGA

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



Viuda Negra Las Levantadas 2021

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

Levantadas (raised) refers to the upper slopes of Javier's estate vineyards, a place where white varieties like this retain a high level of acidity while ripening evenly. The results are powerful and precise, while keeping a freshness and lift from the sourcing and light winemaking hand.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 80% Viura, 10% Tempranillo Blanco and 10% Malvasia

Vineyard: Higher slopes from the already high elevation area of Rioja Alavesa give this wine a bracingly vibrant character.

Winemaking: Fermented and aged in stainless steel with four months of lees contact

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

A cool but also dry year, with even and balanced ripening. September rain provided relief to most parts of Rioja.

TASTING NOTE

Fresh white peach and tangerine, with a pleasing structure built around the natural acidity in the wine.

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"Very pale color with smoky and creamy accents to the pure green apples, pears and nectarines. A medium-to full-bodied white with very bright acidity that cuts into the slight phenolic bite. Viura, malvasia and tempranillo blanco."