

vintae

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IF WE WERE TO STOP DREAMING, WE WOULD NOT BE VINTAE

THE YEAR ENJOYMENT BEGAN AGAIN

Despite everything that has happened around us, 2021 will be remembered by Vintae as a year full of good things and great news. The same was true in 2020 (and we all know how difficult that year was), but the end of this outgoing year has signaled a return to normality. We have continued to expand and have created and launched new wines onto the market, always adapting to the circumstances of the moment. One of our driving forces is still innovation, and we continue to take firm steps to join in the task of elevating Spanish wine and vineyards to the prominence they deserve.

Nature has been kind to us in most areas this harvest, and I am confident that it will be one of the best vintages in recent decades. Personally, I can't recall an autumn like this one. Warm days, cool nights, a north wind, and no rain have made for ideal harvesting conditions in areas such as Rioja, Ribera, Navarra, and Toro for weeks. A dream reflected in the vineyards which have given us picture-postcard autumn landscapes.

In addition to harvesting good clusters, we have compiled a good selection of awards and high scores for our wines this year, which reaffirms our philosophy and demonstrates Vintae's consolidation. Decanter's selection of our Classica Gran Reserva Tinto 2004 as the best wine in Spain, with 98 points, fills us with pride because it is the result of many years of hard work and patient waiting. It is even more remarkable given the contest's strict methodology, which involves blind tasting and a panel of more than 160 judges, including 44 Masters of Wine and 11 Master Sommeliers. In addition to this great distinction, there are others at an international level, such as the recognition of our projects in Rioja and Ribera del Duero by Tim Atkin MW or the great ratings at national level, with good scores in the Peñín Guide or the ABC Wine Guide.

These outstanding results contribute to our primary goal of increasing the value of Spanish wine both within and beyond our borders. This is a change that we are promoting in collaboration with a large portion of the industry because at Vintae, we want to make wines that preserve our country's landscape, heritage, and wine making



history. One example is Viñedos El Pacto, our most recent release, which reintroduces authentic village wines, that defend the value of the land where they are grown. At the same time, El Pacto ensures a future for those Noah's Arks of biodiversity that are Rioja's old vineyards by working slower and more carefully, with complete respect for the natural environment.

We also made a commitment to the rural environment in 2021 with the Clea Project, a new wine and economic support for a female entrepreneurship project to be carried out in the countryside. And it is everyone's job to populate empty Spain, and we feel that the wine sector should play a role in this effort. Whereas a factory can be located anywhere, wine is created in the vineyard and is organically linked to our villages.

Another responsibility that we took on with great joy and energy last year was to support and encourage a sector, the hospitality industry,

that had been hard hit by the pandemic. Several campaigns and initiatives later, we are convinced that we must continue on that path, because it is #aquinoserindenadie (#nogivinguphere).

Great launches are planned for 2022, including the new Classica vintages, the Grandes Reserva de Rioja collection, which received 98 points from Decanter, and the first Gran Reserva Rosado; and the R+D+i flagship sparkling wines, which will finally see the light of day.

After such an incredible year, and despite all the challenges, the only thing left to do is to celebrate, to toast once more to continue dreaming, for without it, we wouldn't be us.

Long live wine and good people!

RICHI ARAMBARRI
CEO of Vintae



“2021 WAS A DREAM VINTAGE”

RAÚL ACHA WINEMAKER AND TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF VINTAE



According to Acha, the main areas where Vintae makes wine have almost not been able to believe how good the weather has been this year. This has led to perfect ripening, which provides wines that are “full of balance and aromatic perfection.” The negative note can be found in early areas such as Galicia and Priorat, where fungal diseases caused a large portion of the harvest to be lost.

How did the vegetative cycle go this year?

We started with a dry, calm spring, zero diseases. Things altered a little in June; we had record rainfall, and people in areas like Ribera and Toro, who aren't used to fungus, became uneasy when they discovered mildew and powdery mildew. Everything slowed down in July and August, with not a drop of rain in sight for two months. But September 1 arrived and the storms began, with new rainfall records in many areas.

In much of Rioja and Ribera del Duero a period of danger began, and the hot days with rain dragged on, very tropical weather, and the shadow of fear appeared, given the arrival of the dreaded diseases. In the vineyards that were already ripe it was disastrous.

Galicia's harvest was particularly problematic, as the white grapes nearing maturity were being botrytised. The same happened in areas of the Mediterranean or early plots in Rioja and Ribera. It has been a very complicated vintage there.

Fortunately, the same has not happened in other areas, why?

Because luck was on our side, and from the end of September onwards, the weather stabilized. We went from a humid tropical weather to dry anticyclonic weather. In other words, cold nights and warm days with relatively low humidity. Let us just say that things began to take a turn for the better. On examining the forecasts everything predicted anticyclones, from Rioja to Ribera, a major portion of Toro, Navarra, and

the Garnacha regions in Aragón... Between October 5 and October 22, we had some great days.

That's the winemaker dream.

So true. Normally, during harvest, you live in fear of what will happen in the next three days or a week, whether you should harvest or not... but this year, you waited and saw that everything was fine because the dry weather was guaranteed. The cold nights, in addition, have helped keep the alcohol content under control. There were afternoons when temperatures in certain plots began to rise, but the nighttime temperature drop compensated for this. It was a textbook vintage, with the added benefit of harvesting when and where we pleased. A dream harvest. Let's see when another one of these returns.

What has been the drawback?

Aside from Galicia and Priorat, where harvesting has been extremely difficult, it has been a slightly short harvest due to a lack of water in the summer, as well as a dry spring. But this is offset by the great balance achieved.

What will be the profile of the 2021 vintage?

There will be power, complexity and a lot of balance, because we have harvested a very healthy grape. We will have good acidity, high alcohol content and full wines. Thanks to the healthiness of the grapes, there will be a great aromatic perfection, they will be very clean wines.

After so many harvests behind you, how do you manage your daily routine during this period?

I enjoy it to the fullest because, on one side I have everything that is being harvested, while everything that has already been picked is in fermentation in the winery, and on the other side what I enjoy the most is walking through thousands of vines and seeing how they are maturing, how the moment of full maturity is approaching little by little. Additionally, some days are spent harvesting the family's own grapes, which we all love immensely... It's pure adrenaline, with the rush of suddenly realizing you have no idea what time it is or what day it is, and that's when you really enjoy it. It also has its negative side, which is that the family suffers. You realize this when you arrive one day and eat dinner with the children, and it's a novelty when they see you at night, because it may have been weeks since you shared dinner or breakfast with them, although they gradually come to understand.

VICTORIA GARCÍA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF BODEGA MAETIERRA I.G.P. Valles de Sadacia



This year we started on the usual dates, August 23, although ten days later than last year, because in 2020 we started unusually early. After two months of almost no rain, the grapes arrived in perfect condition

at harvest time, indicating that the vineyard had not been harmed by storms or fungal diseases. Except for a few high-temperature peaks, summer was not excessively hot, which compensated for the lack of water. The heavy rains in September had little effect on us because we were nearing the end of the harvest.

The alcoholic content will be slightly higher than in previous vintages, but the 2021 Libalis will be very balanced wines and aromatically rich, as always.

OCTAVIO MADURGA WINEMAKER OF BODEGA HACIENDA LÓPEZ DE HARO D.O.Ca. Rioja



The 2021 harvest has been marked by being a short harvest (of less quantity than previous years), and this has also brought an increase in the quality of the grape. The Denomination of Origin began between 7 to 10 days later than that of 2020. At Hacienda López de Haro we started even later, specifically on September 20, thirteen days after the 2020 start date, which was September 7.

While a rainy day in the middle of the harvest produced some fear and uneasiness about what would happen in the following days, the fact was that this water was a luxury for the vineyard, completing an extremely balanced ripening of the grapes. It is true that during the last few days of harvest, due to the heat and good weather, the alcohol began to rise slightly above normal, but the harvest had already been completed and the grapes' parameters were very balanced and vibrant.

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The wines are completely constrained by the grape's characteristics, and as a result, the wines of 2021 will be balanced in terms of alcohol content, acidity, and tannin content, highlighting the fact that this year's reds include some very robust and colorful wines. In white wines, we'll find pale colors (no oxidation occurred, as the white grape was harvested in an optimal state of sanitation), aromatic flavors, and a balanced mouth feel.



MARTÍN PADÍN

WINEMAKER OF BODEGA MATSU

D.O. Toro



 The 2021 vintage has been a fresh vintage, we had a fairly humid winter for this area and the plant has had water throughout the cycle, and the alcoholic and phenolic maturation has been very balanced.

Compared to last year, we have had colder weather, and the harvest has arrived 8-10 days later than 2020. We began with the white for La Jefa on 16 September and the reds for the remaining wines on 24 September. There has been less alcohol content than other years, but we found a great trade-off between alcohol and phenolic ripening.

 I think they are going to be much fresher wines than the last four or five years, and very balanced. This vintage will have a little less concentration, but due to their freshness and great balance, they will be wines with great aging potential. Although we haven't seen the entire evolution, what we've seen and are tasting from 2021 has a lot of fruit, freshness, pure elegance, round and smooth tannins... in short, very pleasant wines.

IÑAKI OLABERRI

WINEMAKER OF AROA BODEGAS AND LE NATUREL

D.O. Navarra



 Without a doubt, 2021 has been out of the ordinary. We went through two phases: the first was when we were in the midst of a severe drought and the rains arrived, causing changes in the evolution of the

alcohol content and acidity, but fortunately, the harvest of the early varieties proceeded without incident.

Then came a second, broader phase, with very good dry and warm weather, which allowed the grapes to hold perfectly on the vine until they reached good alcohol content, good concentration, and a very balanced alcohol content-acidity ratio, as in our Garnachas.

 The grapes arrived at the winery in good health, so we can expect high-quality wines. Those from that second phase of the harvest came in with a somewhat higher alcohol content, but very balanced, and aromatically very clean.

IRIA OTERO

WINEMAKER OF ATLANTIS

D.O. Rías Baixas, D.O. Ribeiro and D.O. Valdeorras



 This year began with a relatively early budding, with the vines budding as early as March. It began to rain heavily in mid-June, which caught the vines in full bloom and severely harmed them. Despite this, the

vines that recovered had no major fungal problems as a result of the summer drought. During the summer, there were few hours of sunlight and little heat, which slowed ripening. Finally, we had the usual harvest dates, which were around September 20 in Rías Baixas and Ribeiro, and September 10 in Valdeorra. However, we had a lot of rainy days in September, so we started, had to stop for a few days, then continued, or in some areas, we decided to wait a little longer. This was the case in Valdeorras, where the Godello was very stressed by the lack of water and received the rain willingly, hence we waited to collect it, aiming for it to maintain a good structure.

 After such a complicated cycle, we find very good wines with a lighter structure than in previous years. They have a little less alcohol than the previous vintages, but they are much better in terms of acidity and balance, and they are more fluid. What is true is that there have been 5 or 6 vintages of extremely hot weather and ever-increasing alcohol levels. 2021 reminds us of wines made a decade ago, which were more Atlantic and fresher.





R+D+i

SPARKLING WINE IN LA RIOJA

PEDRO BALDA
WINEMAKER AND DIRECTOR OF
R&D+i AT VINTAE

The 2021 vintage was very good, with progressive ripening throughout the vegetative period, which was very dry, resulting in grapes in perfect condition. We've had some very cool nights, which has favored aromatic ripening.

There has also been a lot of sunshine, which has been very beneficial, particularly in the extremely high areas where the sparkling wine vineyards are located. This year, we implemented new leaf stripping practices to increase sun exposure and aromatic intensity.

The harvest was two weeks later than in previous years, at the end of September, which is very late for

sparkling wines; in previous years, we started in the first half of September.

Aside from being a great vintage in terms of quality, we also achieved a normal crop yield, slightly increasing volume while outperforming other vintages in terms of quality.

This is a very good vintage because of its high acidity, ideal alcohol content for producing sparkling wines, and intense and high-quality aromas. This increased exposure to the sun through leaf removal allows us to make more aromatic base wines and improves the quality of the acidity, providing greater long-term stability with lively wines that will have great aging potential.



VINTAE MEDAL TABLE

In the last few months, we've amassed a sizable collection of high marks for many of our wines at both national and international levels.

The Decanter World Wine Awards 2021 crowned our **Classica Hacienda Lopez de Haro Gran Reserva Red 2004** as the best Spanish wine in the contest, awarding it **98 points**, the maximum score awarded in a blind tasting by a jury comprised primarily of Masters of Wine and Master Sommeliers. It will be released onto the market in 2022, along with its collection companion, the new **Classica Hacienda López de Haro Gran Reserva Rosé 2009**, which obtained 95 points. **Hacienda López de Haro Crianza 2018** received 91 points while 90 were given to **Hacienda López de Haro Rosé 2020** and **El Picaro de Matsu 2020**.

Los Bardos achieved good scores in the Tim Atkin MW Ribera Report, with 92 points for **Bardos Suprema 2018** and **Bardos Reserve 2018**, and 91 for **Bardos Romántica Crianza 2019**.

The Peñín Guide has awarded our Riojas outstanding marks: 93 points to **Classica Hacienda Lopez de Haro Gran Reserva Red 2001**, **Classica Hacienda Lopez de Haro Gran Reserva Blanco 2012** and the new wines from the Singular Vineyard: **Valdechuecas Viñedo Singular 2019** and **Riojanda Viñedo Singular 2019**. Another new release, the white wine from Viñedos el Pacto, **El Pacto del Alto Najerilla 2020** received 92 points from the prestigious Spanish guide.

And another top white released in 2021, **La Jefa de Matsu 2018**, has just received 93 points in the ABC Wine Guide, tasted and scored by Pilar Cavero.

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