



Spain: Update on Wines from Ribera del Duero and Other Regions from the Duero.

LUIS GUTIERREZ | 30th June 2021 | Issue 255 End of June 2021

Vintage	Wines Name	RP Ratings
2018	Terreus	98
2018	Mauro VS	96
2017	Mauro VS	94+
2019	Mauro	93
2018	Mauro	94
2019	Mauro Godello	93
2016	Cartago	96
2018	San Román	94+
2017	San Román	93
2019	San Román Garnacha	94
2018	San Román Garnacha	93
2019	San Román Malvasía	93
2018	Prima	92
2018	Garmón	94



BODEGAS
MAURO



98

points

TERREUS PARAJE CUEVA BAJA

Vintage 2018



The 2018 Terreus Paraje de Cueva Baja was cropped from a cool vintage when the vineyard saw some snow and a slow ripening of the grapes, which were harvested on the 16th of September under perfect conditions. It fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and daily pump-overs, followed by malolactic in barrel and 20 months in French barrique. There is a lot of purity in this wine, and it shows the effect of the cooler year. They are increasing the percentage of used barrique, and the oak feels better integrated. It's a very serious wine, with depth, complexity and persistence. I think there's more and more effect from the limestone soils in the wine (texture!) as the élevage marks the wine is a softer way. This is among the finest vintages of Terreus. 10,066 bottles produced. It was bottled in September 2020.

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BODEGAS
MAURO



96

points

MAURO VS

Vintage **2018**



I also tasted the 2018 VS, from a cooler and rainier year than 2017 and with an absence of frost, delivering a healthier crop with good natural concentration, finesse and harmony. This wine is sourced from two vineyards, and the grapes were fermented by vineyard in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and matured in French oak barrels for 26 months. This is very young and primary, with harmonious tannins but in need of time in bottle to deliver what's inside. As with the other 2018s, this has complexity and depth; the wine is juicy, and the tannins are not hard. There is great balance and superb aging potential. 43,362 bottles produced. It was bottled in February 2021.

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BODEGAS
MAURO



94+

points

MAURO VS

Vintage 2017



The 2017 VS was cropped from a dry year marked by spring frosts that reduced the yield and resulted in their earliest harvest to date. However, the effect of the frost here was different, as they didn't suffer the big frost of the night of the 28th of April; the frost here was on the 1st of May and was not as severe (-2 degrees Celsius), so the grapes were from the first generation, not the second like in some places in Ribera del Duero. They picked the second week of September to preserve the freshness of the grapes and did a short maceration and soft vinification. It's a selection from two 70-year-old vineyards in the village of Traspinedo and Tudela, and it matured in French oak barrels for 26 months. If 2017 was an atypical year, this is atypical within that: the wine is lighter, more aromatic and open with lots of finesse and elegance. It's very approachable and one of the few VS bottlings that delivers instant gratification. A real triumph for the vintage. 43,292 bottles produced.

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BODEGAS
MAURO



93
points

MAURO

Vintage 2019



2019 was a mild and dry year with 20% less rain than 2018. The 2019 Mauro was selected from their 90 hectares of organically farmed vineyards and fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts. It is mostly Tempranillo with a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah that adds freshness and floral aromas. It's a lighter and more approachable vintage than 2018, a more immediate wine, more approachable but in a way less complex. 300,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in April 2021 after 15 months in French and American oak barrels and foudres.

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BODEGAS
MAURO



94
points

MAURO

Vintage 2018



I tasted two vintages of some of the wines, which makes for a very interesting comparison of the character of each year. The 2018 Mauro, from a cool and rainy year, is fresher than the 2019 I tasted next to it. It's a blend of 90% Tinto Fino or Tempranillo and 5% each Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah from certified organic vineyards, and it fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and matured in French and American oak barrels and foudres for some 15 months. It's serious and a bit closed, going in a way to the style of the Mauro from yesteryear, perhaps a little more floral and aromatic. It feels younger and less developed than the 2019. It's powerful and has finesse and balance, with depth and complexity. 300,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in May 2020.

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BODEGAS
MAURO



93

points

MAURO GODELLO

Vintage **2019**



The one white here, the 2019 Godello was produced with grapes from the Bierzo zone, also in Castilla y León, but far away from their reds. They planted a massal selection in different vineyards in the village of Villafranca del Bierzo at 700 meters in altitude on very poor sandy soils with decomposed slate. It fermented in 500-liter oak barrels, where the wine matured with the lees for nine months. The wine has 14% alcohol and a pH of 3.2. It's the most approachable and fruit-driven of the years they have produced. It's quite round, with white and yellow fruit, and didn't go through malolactic fermentation. The oak is neatly folded into the fruit, and it's tender and polished, quite easy to understand. 8,713 bottles were filled in July 2020.

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SAN ROMÁN
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS



96

points

CARTAGO PARAJE DEL POZO

Vintage 2016



The 2016 Cartago Paraje del Pozo comes from a 45-year-old vineyard of Tempranillo or Tinta de Toro with some 10% of other varieties and matured in barrel for 30 months. This is a long-distance runner, a wine designed for the long haul, serious and with great balance. It's one of the finest vintages of Cartago since the initial 2012. It's ripe, powerful and concentrated, with lots of tannins and a touch of iron and blood. It's a classical old style Duero that should repay time in bottle. In this high-yielding year, the wine feels more fluid and fresher. Despite all that, the wine is quite tight but has good depth. Like many of the wines I tasted this time, this is the finest vintage to date, rounder and deeper. All of these wines have a very marked style. 4,916 bottles were filled in June 2019.

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SAN ROMÁN
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS



94+
points

SAN ROMÁN

Vintage 2018

The 2018 San Román was produced with Tinta de Toro grapes from a cool and wet year that delivered a healthy crop. The grapes are from different organically farmed vineyards in the villages of Morales de Toro, Pedrosa del Rey and San Román de Hornija and were vinified by plot in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts. It matured in a combination of French and American oak barrels for 24 months. This is very young, and compared with the polished 2017, it feels raw. But 2018 has to be one of the finest vintages here; the oak is quite dominant and tannic, but the freshness and balance will make it develop beautifully in bottle. It has ripeness and black fruit and is spicy, with a touch of licorice and ink. This wine has a lot of everything! It's one of the years with more acidity since they started here in 1997. 112,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in February 2021.

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SAN ROMÁN
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS



93

points

SAN ROMÁN

Vintage 2017



I tasted two vintages of their flagship and eponymous wine, starting with the 2017 San Román, from one of the driest years of the decade, resulting in a very early harvest that started in late August in San Román de Hornija. This comes from a selection of over 40-year-old ungrafted and head-pruned vines on stony soils with clay and limestone in different villages of the appellation. It fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and matured in 225- and 500-liter French and (30%) American oak barrels for 24 months. There was no frost in 2017 in their zone of Toro; despite the warm year, they had rain during the harvest that slowed things down, and the wines are perhaps lighter than 2018. It's not a warm or classical vintage, at least for San Román. It's approachable and has abundant but fine tannins, polished, quite unusual, more elegant than powerful. All these wines feel quite oaky when young, so if you don't want them like that, you should give them a few year in bottle. 98,900 bottles produced. It was bottled in February 2020.

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SAN ROMÁN
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS



93

points

SAN ROMÁN MALVASÍA

Vintage 2019



2019 was a low-yielding vintage, and the 2019 Malvasía is the third vintage of this white from San Román that is produced with Malvasía Castellana grapes, which are not as aromatic as other Malvasía varieties. It comes from a 60-year-old organically farmed vineyard called El Pinar on sandy soils where they also apply biodynamics. It fermented in 500-liter oak barrels, where the wine matured for 10 months with two bâtonnages per month. It has moderate alcohol and a very healthy pH. It's not a very floral variety and is more like the Doña Blanca, somewhat austere and shows the soils where it's planted. 2019 follows the line of 2015, with a little more freshness, and the wine is ripe but without excess. It has some aromas of dried herbs and spices and is clean and more expressive and open than the previous years, approachable but serious. It has a harmonious palate with integrated oak and with a salty touch on the finish. It's very balanced and elegant, subtle rather than exuberant. 2,400 bottles were filled in July 2020.

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SAN ROMÁN
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS



92

points

PRIMA

Vintage 2018



The entry-level red is the 2018 Prima, and it's from a cool and rainy year that delivered a good crop and was picked from September 12th. It's a blend of Tinta de Toro (a.k.a. Tempranillo) and 15% Garnacha and other varieties, and it fermented in 12,500-liter stainless steel vats with indigenous yeasts and matured in oak barrels and foudres for 14 months. It's creamy but has more integrated oak, as they now don't use any 225-liter barrels anymore. This has an approachable profile that is aromatic and floral, and it's juicy and has a succulent palate. It's fruit-driven and polished by one year in bottle. This has to be one of the finest Primas to date. 200,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in May 2020.

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Garmón Continental



94

points

GARMÓN

Vintage 2018



The only wine they produce here, the 2018 Garmón is pure Tempranillo from different villages with a continental climate, old organically and biodynamically farmed vineyards that are not certified. It fermented by village with indigenous yeasts and matured in 225-liter French oak barrels for 20 months. This reflects the cooler character of the year, and they maybe used a little more used oak (50/50). The wine is fresher, has a lot more acidity and is aromatic and open, with a better balance without losing structure. This is the finest wine they have produced so far, and they told me this is the kind of wine they wanted to make in Ribera del Duero, the Mauro style with finesse and elegance. It brought me to the character of the wines from yesteryear, rustic but with elegance, full of character and with energy and aging potential. 50,120 bottles produced. It was bottled in September 2020.

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