

En El Corazon de la Ribera del Duero

Ribera del Duero is one of Spain's most prestigious wine regions. Its name was derived from its proximity to the Duero River. The vineyards and wineries are located at both sides of the Duero valley. The river, a natural border for centuries, is surrounded by castles, churches and monasteries. It was the monasteries that grew most of the vineyards during the Middle Ages. Ribera del Duero was then an important wine producing region. Once known only as the home of Vega Sicilia it now boasts an alluring destination for wine tasting tours, numerous bodegas of outstanding quality, world's best, and most exclusive red wines.

The region was granted its DO (Denominacion Origen) status in 1982, and today has over a hundred wineries and more than 18,000 hectares of vines. No white wines are allowed under the DO. If you're searching for bold reds, look no further. Ribera del Duero answers the call with aromatic Tinto Fino wines that seduce with their intensity and balance. The region is generally known for its complex full-bodied red wines mostly made with 100% native tempranillo grape (though exceptions exist). The only other grape wineries under the Ribera del Duero DO allowed to blend with Tempranillo are Cabernet-Sauvignon, Merlot, Malbec and Garnacha.

Ever wonder why this region been so successful in the recent years? One of the reasons that the wines of Ribera del Duero manifest the Tempranillo grape so differently is the region's geography. The composition of the soil and also the altitude contributes to wildly fluxuating day-time/nighttime temperatures during the growing season that facilitate healthy ripening of the grapes by day and promote balanced acidity and aromatic complexity at night. Meaning, the grapes are exposed to very hot days and cool nights. This ensures ripeness whilst, at the same time, preserves the necessary acidity to produce long lasting wines and contributes to the vivacity of fruit and aromas.

Ribera del Duero wines have different styles and they are labelled depending on the aging process. They employ the same classification system whereby they are categorized according to the amount of time they've spent in oak:

- **Cosecha or Joven** which means young in Spanish: mostly unoaked, joven wines are typically fresh and fruity. "Joven Roble" and "Joven Barrica" are aged for only three to six months in oak and released soon after harvest. As a result, they are vibrant and meant to be consumed young.





Vega Sicilia is the Spain's "first growth" and the most prestigious wine estate. It was founded in 1848

by Don Toribio Lecanda, who arrived from Bordeaux with cuttings of local grapes (Cab. Sauvignon, Merlot and Malbec) and planted them, together with Spain's signature grape tempranillo grapes in the arid Ribera soils.

The winery began building its formidable reputation after 1890 under the ownership of Antonio Herrero Vasquez. The estate changed hands several more times before its acquisition by the current owners, the Alvarez family, in 1982.

Vega Sicilia has founded its success on its meticulous wine-producing practices: In the vineyard it applies low yields, aided by green harvesting, and a painstaking grape selection. In the winery, wines undertake a complicated series of rackings from huge barrels to new and old oak.

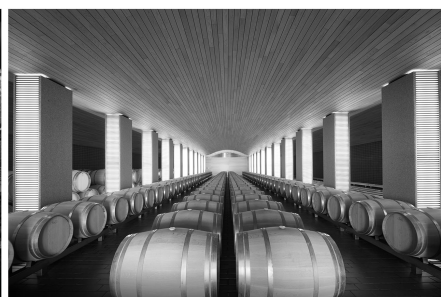
Despite the very prolonged barrel ageing, e.g. the 1970 Unico has over 16 years, the wine flavours are never dried out or overly oaky when mature, which is compelling evidence of the superb quality of its raw materials.

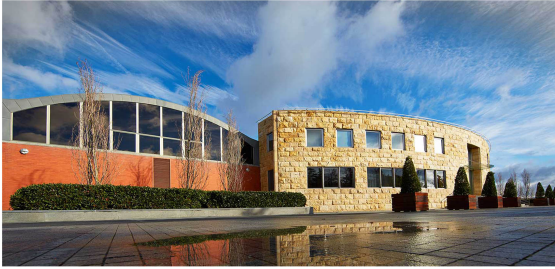
The Vega Sicilia range includes 3 cuvees: **Unico** ("unique") is the flagship, followed by **Reserva Especial** a blend of top vintages, both made up of Tinto Fino (80%), Cab. Sauv and little Merlot, and traditionally of 10 years ageing, then the **Valbuena** which is made from younger vines, it is only released after 5 years' ageing.



Our Unico vintages include: Unico 2002, 1960, 1962, 1970, 1973, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008.

The nearby Bodegas Alion estate is the innovative addition to Vega Sicilia's portfolio. It produces a high quality wine for drinking young. Vega Sicilia also owns the Hungarian Tokay estate Oremus, as well as the Toro Bodegas Pintia. X





It was a brilliant move of the Álvarez family to found Alión as an entirely new and modern-style Ribera wine estate, just a

few miles of Vega, both to set the highest standards for others to follow and effectively to take Vega Sicilia out of the picture and allow it to retain its unique, legendary status.

Alión is made by the same team as Vega, led by the gifted winemaker Gonzalo Iturriaga, but uses a more conventional élevage which results in a wine of immediate sensuous appeal, great elegance and finesse, at about half the price of Valbuena and a quarter that of Único. Alión and Pesquera, the former more elegant and aged entirely in new French oak, the latter more burly and aged in American oak are the two opposing poles of Ribera del Duero reds.



Founded in the year 2000 and built by the family Mata, Conde de San Cristobal winery is owned by the prestigious business partnership Grupo

Vinícola Marques de Vargas in Rioja Alta. The vineyards and winery are located close to Penafiel on the Pago de Valdestremero Estate, renowned for centuries for the partnership is consistent with that of its Rioja and Rias Baixas wines - to produce the highest quality wine, made from grapes grown on estate owned vineyards, in limited production. This project gives the Grupo Vinícola Marques de Vargas a strong presence in the three most prestigious wine growing regions in Spain.



Our vintages include: Conde de San Cristobal 2012 and Conde de San Cristobal Raices Reserva 2009.





Located in the heart of La Horra among some regions' most acclaimed vineyards, Bodegas La Horra (a project

from the larger Bodegas Roda) is a winery that is placed in one of the most emblematic town in the wine region.



Agustin Santolaya, owner of both Bodegas Roda and La Horra explained that the town and its surroundings form the heart of the Ribera del Duero where the tempranillo grape reaches the expression that he wants-- race, life and finesse at the same time, besides aging potential.

Two wines are elaborated in Bodegas La Horra: Corimbo and Corimbo I. Corimbo are wines coming from vines of 25 years. On the other hand, Corimbo I are wines from vines of over 50 years.



Other Ribera del Duero wines to watch from del Duero wineries are Antonio Izquierdo from **Bodegas Izquierdo**, Celia from **Bodegas Vizcarra**, Pago de Carraovejas, and Aalto.



**BODEGAS
IZQUIERDO**

VIZCARRA

PAGO DE CARRAOVEJAS
FINCA Y BODEGA

A
**BODEGAS
AALTO**

With all the wines mentioned, Ribera del Duero is indeed a land of treasures and continues to be amongst the most interesting and compelling wine regions in Spain. It was the unique terroir here that first proved that this oftentimes harsh and arid region was capable of producing exquisitely expressive reds that would become renowned worldwide.

Credits: Christine Faith L. Lopez | © 2016 Txanton Torre Wine & Olive Oil Co., Inc.

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- **Crianza** must have been aged in barrel for at least 12 months and cannot be released until at least two years in oak barrels after the harvest. These wines usually have well-balanced tannins with a medium-to-full body.

- **Reserva** must have been aged three years, with a minimum 15 to 18 months year in oak barrels. After at least one year in oak barrels, Reserva wines are bottle-aged in winery cellars, producing wines that are ready to drink after around three years – they are more intense, richer, and have a longer finish.

- **Gran Reserva** are wines aged for a minimum of five years, with a at least two years in oak barrels, followed by additional bottle aging. These are complex, structured, balanced, and the biggest examples of Ribera wines that are only produced in the best vintages.

Txanton represents the greatness of Ribera del Duero wines through the following exclusive brands which are: Emilio Moro, Cepa 21, Vega Sicilia, Alion, Conde de San Cristobal, and Bodegas La Horra.



EMILIO MORO BODEGAS

The history of the winery has links with the wine world going back to three generations. Situated in Pesquera, a wine are of time-honored traditions, where some of the flagship wines of Ribera del Duero appellation are now made. One advantage that the Emilio Moro winery has in its vineyards is that some of them have belonged to the family for many years and have the purest clone of the indigenous Tempranillo varietal.



Tempranillo



Garnacha



Malbec



Merlot



Cabernet- Sauvignon



They produce five different wines, all red and 100% Tinto Fino. **Finca Resalso** is the young wine from the winery which symbolizes the expression of their youngest vineyards; **Emilio Moro**, named after its creator, is the 'alma mater' of the winery. Made from vines between 15 and 25 years old, it is a point of reference to the spirit of Ribera del Duero; **Malleolus** which came from a Latin word 'majuelo' which means young vines. To produce this wine, they select grapes from vines of between 25 and 75 years old, both bush and trellis trained. It is definitive of the Tinto Fino (or Tempranillo) variety; **Malleolus de Valderramiro** are grapes made from the Valderramiro vine plot which has three vineyards of 85 years of age. The aim in elaborating this wine is to maximize the role to the "terroir"-- great balsamic intensity and opulence; and **Malleolus de Sanchomartin** are grapes made from the Sanchomartin vine plot situated on a hillside on the right bank of the Duero River. It is a terroir of aromatic persistence, expressive, and very personal.

With the type of wines that they produce, it only goes to show that each bottle has its own moment. The seriousness of its wines, their aromatic potential, their fullness, and smoothness in the mouth are some of the few things that set them different among the other wineries in Ribera del Duero.



CEPA 21 ^{BODEGAS}

The name of the winery and its wine, expresses the nexus between the traditional 'cepa' or grapevine and the modern 21st Century. Bodegas Cepa 21 is one of the most renowned wineries in Ribera del Duero. The Moro family, along with some of its closest friends, was the founder of this great winery who managed to unite the traditional and the avant-garde in a dual commitment to quality wine and wine tourism. The philosophy behind these wines is forward-thinking and they are fashioned in a bright and modern style.

Our vintages include: Hito Rosé, Hito Red, and Cepa 21, and Malabrigo.

