

Eladio Pineiro 2015 Frore de Carme Albariño (Rias Baixas)

WineWise Code	SEP-FDC15
Country	Spain
Region	Rias Baixas
Color	White
Alcohol by Volume	13
Acidity	7
Residual Sugar	1.5
Annual cases produced	1277
Varieties	100% Albariño
Maceration Notes	film maceration
Fermentation vessel	Stainless Steel
Yeast	Native
Lees Contact or Stirring	1.2 years aged on fine lees in stainless steel (monthly batonnage)
Malolactic	Yes
Vineyard Name	Frore de Carme
Soil Type(s)	Loam
Vine age (years)	30
Farming practices	Bio-dynamic
Grape Picking	Hand-harvested



Notes from the producer:

Eladio Piñero founded Bodegas Mar de Frodes in 1983, after spending many years making Albariño wine, before the Appellation Rías Baixas was granted. In January 2003, due to events that have influenced the life of his family, he decided to sell his winery, only keeping the vineyards he owned. Supported by his family, Eladio decided to take a step forward, doing what really excited, and motivates him, and started making wines again. By showing their roots and history, he produced a red from Portuguese Alentejo, and whites from Albariño Rías Baixas, while having absolute freedom to create, and develop small amounts of real wine.

WineWise Notes:

Abandon everything you think you know about Albariño when you taste this wine, which was on the lees for fourteen months with monthly batonnage, then given extended bottle age before release. Think instead of recent releases of aged Muscadet, but then add a layer of fruit and density you will never get in that region, and the cognate becomes somewhere between Muscadet and Riesling, a land of milk and honey that you want to visit again and again.

My charming interpreter had little to do when I visited Eladio Piñero this May, because the irrepressible Eladio can reach an audience no matter what their level of Spanish. One of the founders of large scale Albariño production in Spain with Mar de Frades in 1983, he left it all behind when his wife fell ill in 2003, selling the winery and keeping only a few prized vineyards. Now he dedicates himself to making artisanal hand-crafted Albariño (also hand-bottled and hand labeled....you get the drift) in the prime vineyard area of the Salnés Valley. Additionally, and most unusually, they make red wine in Portugal's Alentejo, where they have a second home. His (fully recovered) wife Carmen designs the whimsical labels, he commissioned the unique and patented bottle shapes, everything is bio-dynamic except a few parcels in transition, and the wines are as original as they sound. Don't miss them, and don't wait - total production is about 5,000 cases.

