

Viña Ijalba 2020 Maturana Blanca

WineWise Code	SIJ-MAT20
Country	Spain
Region	Rioja
Subregion	Logroño
Color	White
Alcohol by Volume	13.33
Acidity	5.9
Residual Sugar	2.4
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	1000
Varieties	100% Maturana Blanca
Destemming	Complete
Fermentation vessel	Concrete
Fermentation duration	28 days
Aging method	Concrete 90%, New Barrique 10%
Aging duration (months)	3
Filtered?	Yes
Fining agents	Bentonite
Yeast	Spontaneous
Lees Contact or Stirring	once a week for 4 months
Malolactic	No
Added Sulfur	Yes, 75 mg/L
Vineyard Name	Sacristana
Soil Type(s)	Alluvial, Sedimentary
Elevation (meters)	550
Vineyard Aspect	North
Vine age (years)	24
Vine Yields hl/ha	43
Farming practices	Certified Organic
Grape Picking	Hand-harvested

Notes from the producer:

Viña Ijalba is the history of a family, as well as a commitment to the evolution of Rioja, from the day that Dionisio Ruiz planted his first vine in 1975 on an old gravel pit, which reproduced the natural conditions in which vines grow in La Rioja. And so began the pioneering road, innovative and clear, that Viña Ijalba has been travelling since then. Viña Ijalba has its own stories involving the transformation of gravel pits and open cast mines into new vineyards, and the recovery of rare indigenous varieties of Rioja vines that had almost disappeared.



WineWise Notes:

This was once the only Maturana Blanca in the world, grown on two hectares owned by Ijalba. But, as with the once similarly-unique Graciano, it has spawned imitators. And with good reason! It is actually the variety with the oldest known written citation in Rioja, dating from 1622. Faintly golden, opulently peachy on the nose, and then surprisingly stony and long on the palate, this is quite a character, that effortlessly withstands its classic burgundian treatment. As singular and obscure a wine as can be imagined!

At first glance this rather modern producer might seem to have little in common with its illustrious companion above, but in fact María José was pleased to hear we would be representing the property. Ijalba has set the standard for environmental awareness in the region, from its organic production to its extensive re-cycling and environmental certification for the winery. The vineyards were all planted in disused quarries, which perhaps explains the remarkable minerality they are endowed with, especially the bigger reds with bottle age. The estate's other distinction is the championing of the less-known varieties of Rioja such as the two Maturanas and Graciano. They have now unveiled some attractive new packaging to go with their never-ending efforts at improvement, spearheaded by long-time talented cellar master, Pepe, who absolutely excelled with his red wines in 2016.