

It has been our distinct privilege for many years to work with the great Eladio Pineiro, a man of outsize personality, huge curiosity, unending inventiveness and exceptionally high standards. From his pocket-sized winery nestled in an unassuming house commanding expansive views of the Ria de Arousa estuary



below, he turns out a succession of wines that bear little resemblance to anything else in Rias Baixas. With the aid of his two in-house artists, he also ensures an aesthetic look that underlines this originality of approach. This conspectus of labels for his flagship Envidiacochina gives you a flavour.

On our most recent visit last year, we were presented with a couple of innovations so irresistible that we begged Mónica Nogues, the national agent, to let us bring them in, even though they are not currently in her portfolio.

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### **PEZIUM – 2016 Frore de Carme      1 bottle aged on land, 1 bottle aged underwater**

What Eladio can do with Albariño simply beggars belief. He makes no fewer than four still versions of the grape, each subjected to its own highly specific regime of lees aging to strikingly different effect. “Top of the line” has always been Frore de Carme, a wine given 14 months *sur lie* with frequent batonnage, followed by extensive bottle age. Yes, 2016 is the current vintage!



Perhaps inspired by the magnificent marine view from his house, and undoubtedly piqued by reports of experiments elsewhere with aging wines under water, Eladio decided to age a portion of the production in the cold waters of the broad estuary outside. Any scepticism that might have existed about the importance of the effect of this different environment, with its subtle movements and constant temperature, are banished in face of the evidence furnished by these two bottles. We won't attempt to describe the differences, nor suggest which version is “superior”. We would just urge you to discover them for yourself, for you will rarely have a chance to gain such an original perspective on a wine again.

Each two-pack is an attractive package complete with marine detritus.

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