

Viña Ijalba 2016 Graciano (Rioja)

WineWise Code	SIJ-GRA16
Country	Spain
Region	Rioja
Subregion	Logroño
Color	Red
Alcohol by Volume	13.7
Acidity	5.5
Residual Sugar	2.8
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	2000
Varieties	100% Graciano
Pumpover or Punchdown?	Punchdowns and Pumpovers
Destemming	Complete
Fermentation vessel	Oak Upright
Fermentation duration	15 days
Aging method	New Barrique 50%, Used Barrique 50%
Aging duration (months)	10
Filtered?	No
Fining agents	None
Yeast	Native
Lees Contact or Stirring	10 months
Malolactic	Yes
Added Sulfur	Yes, 55 mg/L
Vineyard Name	Matamala
Soil Type(s)	Alluvial
Elevation (meters)	400
Vineyard Aspect	South
Vine age (years)	32
Vine Yields hl/ha	35
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:

Ijalba's mission statement is to resurrect the traditional grapes of Rioja, and this wine from their 20 hectares of Graciano (the largest holding in the world) has been the flagship since they premiered the varietal bottling in 1995. Growers moved away from Graciano because of its inconveniently low yields, but the high acidity and intoxicating perfume of the grape are a huge part of what makes Rioja blends distinctive. The 2016 is liquorous and suave, with melted tannins. One cannot help but notice how many imitators this forerunner now has.

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.

