

Casal de Arman 2016 Eira dos Mouros Red (Ribeiro)

WineWise Code	SCA-EMR16
Country	Spain
Region	Ribeiro
Subregion	Ribeiro do Avia
Color	Red
Alcohol by Volume	12.5
Annual cases produced	666
Varieties	50% Sausón, 40% Caiño Longo, 10% Brancello
Maceration Notes	Maceration of grape skins for 7 days in stainless steel.
Grape Picking	Hand-harvested

Notes from the producer:

Casal de Armán was founded in the late 1990's by the González family, who have been making Ribeiro wines since the 19th century. The winery property is an 18th century court, located in San Andres, Ribadavia Ourense, in Northwest Spain, Galicia, with an old manor house that has been converted into a country hotel. A family owned winery with 50 acres of its own vineyards in the historic valley of the river Avia, D.O. Ribiero. The Vineyards are terraced along the Avia's river banks with heights ranging from 650-1500 feet above sea-level. Terraces include previously abandoned "socalcos", some over 100 years old, which the family is in the process of recovering.

The Gonzalez-Vazquez brothers and sisters all work at the winery as winemaker, salesmen, restaurant management, etc. Together they own almost 50 acres of vineyards. This family is dedicated to cultivating indigenous varieties like White Treixadura, Godello, Loureira, Caino, and Souson.

WineWise Notes:

There is a passing resemblance to the wines of Gaillac in these dark-toned, not-too-polished Ribeiro reds. This is entirely authentic, a vivid, juicy wine with a long finish of sour cherries. For connoisseurs of the original.

This new discovery comes from the González family, who had been making Ribeiro wines since the 19th century, but created this winery twenty years ago. In common with the best wines of the region, their vineyards are relatively high up, keeping the acid and freshness these varieties (hand-harvested Treixadura, Godello, Loureiro, Brancellao, Caiño and Sousón) require. The installation itself is hugely impressive. A grand 18th century hacienda meticulously restored and offering spacious and luxurious accommodation and a fine restaurant. It commands the Avia River valley, with its vineyards, terraced and otherwise, on all sides. The wine-making facility is compact but well-designed, having been built into a hillside, enabling gravity-feeding for all processes. The estate is on a constant mission to expand its holdings, with the aim of eventually reaching 40 hectares (24 are planted at present). They are particularly interested in older plots, some of which feature destroyed terraces that they are laboriously rebuilding. But they also do not shrink from uprooting wooded parcels, especially if they are planted to the dreaded mimosa, which has such an inimical effect on the vineyards. A spirit of exploration prevails, with compelling experiments in orange and amphora wines.

