

Alberto Orte

La Antigua Clásico Blanco

ORIGIN

Spain, Rioja, Hormilla

WINE TYPE & VARIETIES

Still white, with Viura,
Garnacha Blanca,
Tempranillo Blanco

SOIL

Red silica soil

AGE OF VINES

Around 55 years old

VITICULTURE

Practicing organic

VINIFICATION

14 to 18 months - depending
on vintage - in a blend of
80% French and 20%
American oak barrels; a
blend of new and used.
10% of the wine is aged
under natural flor: a thin
layer of native yeast
naturally forming on top
of the wine in barrel

It's hard not being fascinated by Alberto Orte — a man who is creating Spanish wine history through history, who is creating the future Spanish wine map through looking back in time. Alberto is without a doubt one of Spains most interesting winemakers.

Alberto grew up in Madrid where he also attended law school. During his time there an interest for wine emerged, perhaps sparked on one of his trips down to Cádiz where Alberto had family working with wine. Eventually Alberto earned a diploma in oenology, in that way continuing his family's wine legacy, whom have been wine producers since the late 1800's. Today Alberto lives with in Cádiz. This is one of the regions Alberto grows vines but he also does so in Valencia, Rioja, Galicia, and others.

Alberto is involved in many wine projects around Spain and wherever he goes the idea is the same. To create genuine wine of the land where it grows, and to the history part, of grapes that are indigenous to the place. All through respecting nature, practicing organic farming and sensible, hands-off winemaking. Alberto dedicates much of his time researching Spanish wine history through documents, writings and the memory of older generations. Especially one iconic piece of Spanish wine literature has proven to be very valuable: Simon de Rojas Clemente y Rubios documentations about varieties and their characteristics in Jerez from 1807.

Ever since Alberto set out on his mission he has been in search of truly great vineyards, sites that out-perform and gives the potential of producing the best wine in a given region. This work has involved identifying indigenous varieties and old vines grown organically in balanced, low-yielding, soils. Alberto is today one of the main figures and one of only a handful producers, as the likes of Raúl Pérez and Envinante, taking care of the old viticultural heritage Spain has; saving old varieties, recuperating old vineyards/regions as well as making wine based on terroir/site rather than blending them all together.

La Antigua Clásico Blanco is inspired by the white Rioja winemaking of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Made from heirloom clones of old-vine Viura, Garnacha Blanca and Tempranillo Blanco. Partially aged under flor, La Antigua Clásico Blanco showcases a style that is savory and umami-rich, paying homage to a time when wineries were allowed to add Fino or Manzanilla sherry to the wine to increase structure and stability.



VIN EST. 2012