## BODEGAS PONIENTE FINO

## **ORIGIN**

Spain, Andalucía, Jerez de la Frontera

WINE TYPE & VARIETIES
Sherry, with Palomino Fino

**SOIL** Abariza

AGE OF VINES TBA

VITICULTURE
Practicing organic

## **VINIFICATION**

From select soleras averaging over 8 years old. Not fined, only lightly filtered. The wine has rested two years in the winery before release. This wine was neither clarified nor stabilized, only lightly filtered before bottling

Following the arc of history, winemaker Alberto Orte along with his business partner Patrick Mata embraces his family's rich tradition of solera system wines from Montilla-Moriles to create this unparalleled project from El Aljibe. They had already started the winemaking company Compañía de Vinos del Atlántico and New York wine importer Olé Imports (now merged with a Portuguese partner as Olé & Obrigado).

Alberto Orte was born in Madrid but is now living in El Puerto de Santa María. He had been actively producing (unfortified) wine in the sherry region, Vara y Pulgar (Tintilla) and Atlántida (Vijariego Blanco) among others. Poniente sherries are the product of the thoughtful blending of precious, treasured soleras and criaderas from the 18th and 19th centuries, refreshed in the traditional method each year with wine from their own organically farmed estate vineyards (San Cristóbal, San José y El Aljibe) in the Pago Añina, one of three more known pago sites in Jeréz designated as Jeréz Superior.

The winery is an old casa de viña, located amidst the vines of El Aljibe, that dates back to the early 19th century. It takes its name from the well (aljibe) which used to provide water to the surrounding area. Located halfway between Jerez and Sanlúcar, it combines environmental elements of both cities. Since 2016 they are producing their own mosto, from a rigid selection of over 200 old clones of Palomino Fino, farmed organically. This mosto is fed once a year to the last criadera of the Fino, which in turn feeds the Amontillado and other soleras. San Cristóbal is an interesting plot as it includes more than 20 grape varieties, some of which largely forgotten, trained in the traditional pruning method vara y pulgar.

This fino comes from a system of four criaderas and one solera, with a median age of over 8 years. The wines used to refresh the fourth criadera comes from organically farmed estate vineyards in the Pago Añina, from a meticulous clonal selection of more than 200 ancient and mostly forgotten clones of Palomino. The first saca (bottling) of this wine occurred after 2 years resting in the winery before bottling and release.

