

ALBERTO ORTE

VALDEORRAS 'A PORTELA' BLANCO

ORIGIN

Larouco, Valdeorras, Spain

WINE TYPE & VARIETIES

Still dry white, Godello

VINEYARD

Single vineyard from mountain slope in Larouco, 500 m.a.s.l

SOIL

Mineral topsoil composes of slate and granite, clay subsoil

AGE OF VINES

TBA

VITICULTURE

Uncertified organic

VINIFICATION

Manual harvest, wild yeast fermentation, 14 months in stainless steel (2000 L) and French oak barrels (228 L)

OTHER

Today Valdeorras is mostly known for the production of white Godello grapes, however before the 1800s, this region was known for the production of red wine, specifically grapes like Merenzao (aka Bastardo and Trousseau), which are rare to find today

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. The examples of Alberto's fascinating work are many and equally unique. In the end of this sheet we will present specifics for the given wine. Alberto is today one of the main figures and one of only a handful producers, as the likes of Raúl Pérez and Envinato, 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. These people are in the forefront of bringing Spain into a new (or old so to speak) era of wine.

Godello, the flagship white grape of the DO Valdeorras, perfectly embodies its distinctive terroir. A Portela Blanco comes from DO Valdeorras, known as the "gateway to Galicia," a region historically noted by the Romans for its ability to grow olives so far north. Valdeorras enjoys a unique climate—warmer than its western neighbors, protected by mountains from Atlantic winds, yet cooler then Bierzo to the east, shielded from hot Continental air. The combination of altitude, soil, and moderate climate results in an elegant, mineral-driven Godello with vibrant fruit character and precise, refreshing acidity.

