



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS

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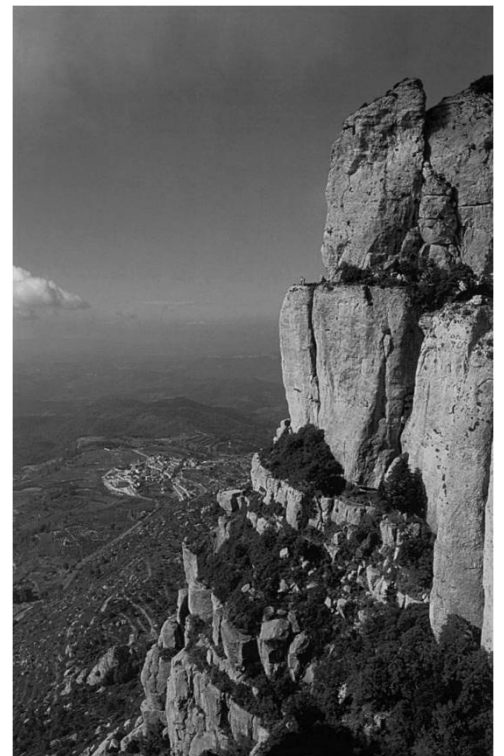
The International Wine Review

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Report # 28: The Wines of Priorat



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Celler de L'Encastell 2008 Roquers de Porrera

93+

Roquers de Porrera is a beautiful blend of 40% Cariñena, 40% Garnacha and 20% Merlot and Syrah. Aged in 50% new French oak for 16 months, it exhibits a dark ruby purple hue and aromas of black cherry, minerals, chocolate and spice. On the attack it reveals a velvety texture, superb balance, and a long finish. A terrific wine that should age well for more than a decade.

Clos Erasmus 2009 Priorat

96

The 2009 Clos Erasmus is a blend of 85% Garnacha and 15% Syrah sourced from 26 year old vines. It is medium-ruby in color with delicate spicy minerals on the nose. It is refined and elegant with pure red berry fruit flavors with black fruit nuances on the palate, excellent balance and medium-high acidity. It is powerful yet elegant-- a fist in a silk glove.

Clos I Terrasses 2009 Laurel Priorat

92

The 2009 Laurel is composed of 80% Garnacha, 10% Syrah, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. It displays a ruby red color and offers aromas of red berries, minerals and a touch of earth on the nose. Aged for 23 months in 70% new barrels, it is soft, silky and elegant on the palate with young gripping tannins on the finish. Refined and charming. Sourced from 5-year old, low-yielding vines from the Clos Erasmus estate and aged in French oak barrels.

Clos I Terrasses 2008 Laurel Priorat

93

The 2008 Laurel is ruby red and offers more mature and earthy flavors than the 2009 vintage. It is also rounder and softer on the palate but retains a good backbone of acidity and tannic structure. Overall, it is a refined and elegant wine with delicious red and blackberry fruit flavors.

Cellers Ripoll Sans 2005 Closa Batllet "2 Vinyes" Priorat

91

This is a magnificent 100% Cariñena sourced from two very old vineyards, 90 and 60 years of age from two different micro-climates. The wine is deep purple in color with amazing concentration of pure fruit and mineral notes. Fermented in 100% new oak (open barrels) and aged for 15 months in barriques with battonage, it is very ripe yet elegant on the palate and on the finish. **Superb.**

Cellers Ripoll Sans 2005 Closa Batllet Priorat

89

The 2005 Closa Batlelet offers black raspberry and prominent minerals on the nose. It is velvety smooth on the palate with good concentration of plum fruit and spice, tannic grip and a long persistent finish.

Cellers Ripoll Sans 2008 Closa Batllet Black Slate Gratallops Priorat

90

Black Slate is composed of 46% Garnacha, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot and 2% Syrah. Sourced from scorched hillside vines of the village of Gratallops, it exhibits raspberry and plum with prominent minerality and earth on the nose. It is light on the palate, focused and beautifully structured with soft round tannins on the long finish.

Cellers Ripoll Sans 2007 Closa Batllet Priorat

90

A blend of 65% Cariñena and 35% Garnacha, this very drinkable wine offers ripe and lush fruit sourced from 90 year old vineyards. Aged for 15 months in French and American oak, it is a delicious blend that offers ripe plum aromas and flavors with a very soft and round palate. A beautiful wine.

Familia Nin-Ortiz 2009 Planets de Nin Priorat

89

Planets de Nin is a blend of 70% Garnacha and 30% Cariñena. The youthful 2009 exhibits a medium light ruby hue and red-fruit aromas. Rustic in character at this stage of development it is slightly dry on the mid palate and has a tannic finish. Given time, it will likely come around given the high quality of the 2008 bottling.

Familia Nin-Ortiz 2008 Planets de Nin Priorat

91

The 2008 Planets de Nin has a medium light ruby color with aromas of red berries. It is soft and elegant on the plate with earth, red berry fruit flavors, good balance and acidity. The tannins are round with light grip and the finish is long and persistent.

- Familia Nin-Ortiz 2008 Nit de Nin Priorat** **93**
 This very special wine produced by winemaker Esther Nin is sourced from 80 to 100 year old vines of the Mas d'En Cacador vineyard in Porrera. Elegant and refined, it is medium ruby in color and offers red and black fruit with prominent minerality on the nose. It is layered and complex on the palate with pure fruit flavors and lingering notes of loam. The wine is drinking beautifully now with round tannins and a long finish but will be even better with age. Only three barrels were made of this delicious wine.
- La Conreria D'Scala Dei 2010 Blanco Les Brugueres** **91**
 This is a magnificent 100% Garnacha Blanca produced by the talented winemaker Jordi Vidal. It is sourced from the Les Brugueres vineyard of 100+ year-old vines from the hillside village of Scala Dei. It combines aromas of orchard fruit, citrus and minerals. Aged on the lees in tank, it reveals excellent orchard fruit flavors, bright acidity and has a long and refined finish. **A delicious wine.**
- Mas D'En Compte 2009 Blanco Priorat** **90**
 This delicious wine is composed of 65% Garnacha Blanca and other local varieties. It is sourced from 25 year-old vines and is rich and flavorful on the nose and palate, with notes of light toast and a honeyed mouth feel. Aged for 6 months in new French oak.
- Mas D'En Compte 2008 Black Slate Porrera Priorat** **90**
 The grapes for this bottling are sourced from Porrera, the easternmost village of the region. The growing area is high altitude with cool temperatures and canyon-like topography. The wine reveals light raspberry aromas and flavors with prominent minerality. It is nicely structured with a round mouth feel, ripe tannins and a long finish.
- Mas D'En Compte 2006 Planots Priorat** **94**
 The 2006 Planots is a blend of 50% Garnacha and 50% Cariñena. It offers flavorful red berries and minerals, and a velvet texture. Aged for 16 months in new French oak, it exhibits perfect balance and purity of flavor. It is sourced from a single vineyard of 105 years old vines. **A truly magnificent wine.**
- Mas D'En Compte 2006 Tinto Priorat** **91**
 The 2006 Tinto is a blend of 50% Grenache, 40% Cariñena and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged for 14 months in new French oak, it offers aromas of dried cherry and raspberry and is very light and elegant on the palate, silky smooth, and beautifully balanced.
- Mas Doix 2006 Salanques Priorat** **89+**
 The 2006 Salanques is a blend of 65% Garnacha, 15% Cariñena, 10% Syrah, 5% Merlot, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Made from 70 year-old Garnacha vines, it displays a beautiful red ruby color and has remarkably fresh tasting aromas of spicy red berry fruit with slate nuances. Aged in oak for 14 months, it reveals pure red fruit flavors on the palate, soft round tannins, and a long finish.
- Mas Doix 2008 Doix Costers de Vinyes Vellas Priorat** **96**
 Doix is composed of 48% Garnacha, 50% Cariñena and 2% Merlot. It exhibits a dark ruby color with intense aromas of red plum, blueberries and minerals that are mirrored on the palate. Aged for 16 months in new French oak, it reveals powerful spicy red and black fruit flavors from low-yielding vines and has a delicate and silky texture and a persistent finish. **A magnificent wine for aging.**
- Terroir al Límit 2008 Pedra de Guix Priorat** **91**
 The Pedro de Guix is a blend of 80% Garnacha Blanca and 20% Pedro Ximenez. It offers delicate aromas of white flowers, orchard fruit, toasted oak and minerals. Aged for 24 months in French oak, it is a very refined and delicate wine with yellow apple, pear and orchard fruit flavors on the palate. A beautiful wine that is drinkable now.
- Terroir al Límit 2008 Arbassar Priorat** **92**
 The Arbassar is a fresh tasting, fruit-forward 100% Cariñena with prominent minerality on the nose. Aged for 24 months in French oak foudres, it reveals soft round tannins, good structure and a long finish.

Terroir al Límit 2008 Dits del Terra Priorat**92**

The Dits del Terra is a superb 100% old vines Cariñena. It is light-bodied with delicate blueberry and blackberry fruit aromas and prominent earth and mineral notes. It is beautifully structured with excellent balance of fruit and minerals. Quintessential Priorat in character, power and elegance. Needs time in the bottle.

Terroir al Límit 2008 Les Manyes Priorat**94**

Les Manyes is a light-bodied 100% Garnacha. Red ruby in color, it offers aromas of red berry fruit, earth and minerals. It is fresh tasting, nicely balanced and beautifully structured. The tannins are round and the acidity provide a nice firm finish. It has a big price tag like Les Tosses.

Terroir al Límit 2008 Torroja Vi de Vila Priorat**91**

This is a 50-50 Garnacha-Cariñena blend with a medium ruby hue and bright cherry aromas on the nose. On the palate, it is light-bodied and refined with a silky texture and delicate red berry flavors. Aged for 24 months in 3,500 liter foudres, it is beautifully balanced with a firm structure and a long persistent finish. Drinkable now but should age well too.

Terroir al Límit 2008 Les Tosses Priorat**91+**

Les Tosses is a delicious 100% old vines Cariñena. It exhibits pure red fruit aromas and flavors, with considerable freshness and notes of minerality. It is light and elegant in style and distinctive with a big price tag, which puts it out of reach for the average consumer.