



HERÈNCIA ALTÉS

Garnatxa Blanca

Nuria Altés, like many young vintners in Spain, comes from a family who has grown grapes for generations. Tucked away in a remote corner of Catalunya, Nuria's new project, Herència Altés, is situated outside the village of Batea, in the DO of Terra Alta. Remarkably Terra Alta is one of the largest wine-growing regions in Catalunya and one of which few are aware – something Nuria has set about changing. Growing up among the vines that her grandfather tended, Nuria has known these vineyards since her childhood and decided in 2010 to start purchasing grapes from her father to make her wines. She is assisted by her partner Rafael de Haan, and together, they inaugurated a new cellar for the 2016 vintage located in her hometown of Batea.

The soils around the village of Batea are called Panal – chalky and sandy topsoil over deep, clay-limestone, all underpinned by limestone bedrock. Panal is naturally low in nutrients with a tremendous capacity to store water, vital for the wines. The summers are warm and dry and almost always windy, alternating between the continental Cirç and the easterly Garbi bringing in humidity from the Mediterranean. This part of Terra Alta is so prone to these two winds that the area is famous for windmills that generate much of the region's electricity in addition to growing grapes. At elevations ranging between 390 and 480 meters above sea level, the vineyards of Herència-Altés benefit from a higher elevation than most of the rest of the DO. This allows for full maturation of the grapes at lower finished alcohol and higher acidity.

Made from a mix of old and young vines grown on sandy and chalky soils around Batea and Gandesa, the Garnatxa Blanca from Herència Altés is harvested by hand early to retain the grape's natural acidity. It is fermented by indigenous yeasts and aged in stainless steel tanks to preserve its freshness. 50,000 bottles are produced in an average vintage.

LOCATION

Spain, Terra Alta

SOIL

Sandy clay-limestone

ELEVATION

400-450 meters

FARMING

Certified organic (CCPAE)

VARIETIES

Garnatxa Blanca

AGE OF VINES

10-25 years-old

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, direct and gentle pneumatic pressing, natural yeast fermentation in tank

AGING

3 months in tank on the fine lees with regular bâtonnage, vegan

ACCOLADES

91+ – 2024, *Wine Advocate*

91 – 2023, *Tim Atkins*

91 – 2023, *Wine Advocate*

90 – 2022, *James Suckling*

