



BURGANS

Albariño

Somehow cooperatives developed a bad reputation. While it is certainly true that cooperatives can make mediocre wine, it is also true that estates can be guilty of the same crime. It's not the nature of the business that determines quality, but what happens in the vineyard and cellar. Burgans is a custom cuvée made for European Cellars by Martin Codax, the largest cooperative in Rías-Baixas. Founded in 1986 by about 50 families with small plots of Albariño around the village of Cambados, it has grown to include almost 600 families and well over 3000 small parcels of Albariño.

With such a vast array of sites and with so many individuals involved, Martin Codax has invested in a team of viticulturist who make regular visits to the vineyards to educate the members on proper farming techniques and sustainable practices including the use of cover crops to fix nitrogen in the sandy, granitic soils. They host a daily radio broadcast in the region as well, to encourage best practices and they pay their members based on the quality of their fruit, not the quantity. All the vineyards are located in the Salnes sub-zone of the appellation – the coolest and most humid of the regions within Rias-Baixas

In the cellar the wines are fermented and aged in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks to preserve the freshness and bracing acidity that is typical of Albariño grown in Salnes. Each vintage several experimental fermentations are conducted to understand the minor variations of site, the role of natural yeasts, the length of elevage and the applicability of different fermentation vessels. All of these experiments are used to improve the quality of the wines with each successive vintage.

A custom cuvée made for European Cellars by Martin Codax, the Burgans Albariño is named after the hill on which the cooperative is located. Burgans is a cuvée made from a small selection of vineyard plots in the Salnes sub-zone of Rias-Baixas, which have a characteristic pit-fruit quality and richness in addition to the bracing minerality for which the sub-zone is famous.

LOCATION

Spain, Rias Baixas

SOIL

Granite, schist, sand

ELEVATION

10-150 meters

FARMING

Sustainable

VARIETIES

Albariño

AGE OF VINES

20+ years-old

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, fermented by site in stainless steel tanks

AGING

3 months in tank with lees stirring

ACCOLADES

90 – 2023, *Vinous Media*

90 – 2020, *Decanter WWA*

91 – 2016, *Decanter WWA*

91 – 2014, *Vinous Media*

