



CASA CASTILLO

Valtosca

José Maria Vicente is the third generation owner and operator of Casa Castillo, a farm that began as a rosemary plantation, but one that has evolved into the preeminent estate in the DO of Jumilla. While the smell of rosemary still lingers in the air, the pale, rocky soils surrounding his house and cellar are now planted with vines. When José Maria's grandfather purchased Casa Castillo in 1941 there was already a winery, cellar and some scattered vineyards on the property dating to the 1870s, established by French refugees fleeing the plight of phylloxera in their native land. In 1985 José and his father began to replant the vineyards and expand them with the goal of making wine on the property. In 1991 they bottled their first commercial vintage.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Jumilla

SOIL

Sandy clay, chalk

AGE OF VINES

25

ELEVATION

750 meters

VARIETIES

Syrah

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, partial whole cluster, natural yeast fermentation in concrete

AGING

12 months in 500L French oak barrels, 20% new

In selecting the grapes to grow on their land, they chose the indigenous Monastrell to be the primary variety. Native to the region, it was perfectly adapted to the hot, dry climate. Garnacha was selected for the more gravelly soils while Syrah is grown on more sheltered sites rich in chalk. The largest vineyard, Valle, is a hot, rocky terroir planted exclusively with head-pruned Monastrell. Val Tosca is a sloped vineyard, its white chalky soils gleaming in the sun and planted with ungrafted Syrah that José received from Jean-Louis Chave. On the slope facing Val Tosca is Las Gravas, named for its deep, gravelly soils. Soil is loosely applied here since it resembles nothing more than a pile of rocks. Las Gravas is planted with Monastrell and Garnacha. Finally there is La Solana, an ungrafted Monastrell vineyard on sand and decomposed limestone that dates to 1942. La Solana is the source of the scarce Pie Franco – frequently selected by many critics as one of the top wines of Spain.

ACCOLADES

91 – 2013 Valtosca – Wine Advocate

90 – 2010 Valtosca – Wine Advocate

91 – 2009 Valtosca – Wine Advocate

