



FINCA VILLACRECES

Ribera del Duero Nebro

One of the most highly-regarded pieces of land in Ribera del Duero, the estate of Villacreces sits adjacent to Vega Sicilia along the Duero and at the center of the golden mile – a cluster of vineyards and estates considered by many critics to be the best in Valladolid if not the entire DO. There is written evidence that the first vines were planted on this estate in the 13th Century. During the 14th Century, it was run by Saint Pedro de Villacreces and, later on, with its perfect conditions for prayer and retreat, it became a monastery for Franciscan Friars to see contemplative solitude. In the 20th Century, the property belonged to a wealthy aristocratic family from Valladolid, who used to spend their holidays and weekends here. In the early 1970s, 40 hectares of vines were planted, which has now been increased to 60. Including a 200-year-old forest, the estate comprises a total of 115 hectares.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Ribera del Duero

SOIL

Clay loam, sandy loam

AGE OF VINES

100

ELEVATION

810 meters

VARIETIES

Tempranillo

FARMING

Certified organic (CECyL)

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, double selection, destemmed, whole berry fermentation in tank with pigeage

AGING

14 months in new French oak barrels

In 2003, the Anton family – owners of a Rioja bodega and one of Spain's most famous Michelin starred restaurants in the Basque country – purchased the estate and invested in revitalizing the property. Villacreces is situated at 810 meters above sea level on poor soils comprised of lime, gravel, sand and quartz which naturally keep yields low (the estate averages 1.6 tons per acre). The proximity to the Duero river helps protect the vines from and reduce the effects of the frosts that are common in the Ribera del Duero.

When the Anton family took over Finca Villacreces in 2003 many of the vineyards needed to be replanted due to years of neglect but a tiny, ungrafted, 1.2-hectare parcel of Tempranillo planted in 1917 in the neighboring village of Olmedillo proved to be resilient to decades of indifferent farming and was preserved not only because of its potential but as a source for replanting much of the Tempranillo at the rest of the estate.

ACCOLADES

95 – 2019 Ribera del Duero Nebro – James Suckling

93 – 2019 Ribera del Duero Nebro – Decanter

92 – 2016 Ribera del Duero Nebro – James Suckling

