



HERÈNCIA ALTÉS

L'Estel

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.

L'Estel is a summation of the varieties and terroirs of Terra Alta. By blending several varieties and old-vine sources (both estate fruit and vineyards she farms for her neighbors), Nuria Altés can create a serious wine with aging potential that is also charming in its youth. In most vintages, the blend is 50% Carinyena (locally known as Samsó), 25% Garnatxa Negra & 25% Syrah—24,000 bottles are produced annually.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Terra Alta

SOIL

Sandy clay limestone

AGE OF VINES

40–100

ELEVATION

390–480 meters

VARIETIES

Garnatxa, Syrah, Carinyena

FARMING

Certified organic (CCPAE) and practicing organic (contract vineyards)

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, pre-fermentation cooling, destemmed, natural yeast fermentation in oak vats, concrete, and stainless steel tanks

AGING

12 months in 5000L foudres and 500L French oak barrels

ACCOLADES

93 – 2019 L'Estel – James Suckling

91 – 2018 L'Estel – Wine Spectator

92 – 2017 L'Estel – James Suckling



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS

