



HERÈNCIA ALTÉS

La Xalamera

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.

La Xalamera is one of the top vineyards that Rafa and Nuria farm. This 15-hectare parcel is planted with Garnatxa Negra on terraces ranging in elevation from 402 to 442 meters above sea level. The soils of Xalamera are shallow, with portions of the limestone bedrock exposed at the top of this site. A strict selection of Garnatxa is made in the vineyard destined for La Xalamera, one of the estate's top wines, a haunting expression of Garnatxa Negra.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Terra Alta

SOIL

Sandy clay-limestone

AGE OF VINES

25-30

ELEVATION

402-442 meters

VARIETIES

Garnatxa

FARMING

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

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, 24 hour pre-fermentation cooling, sorted, 20% whole cluster, partial carbonic fermentation in tank, daily pigeage

AGING

17 months in 50HL Austrian oak foudre

ACCOLADES

93 – 2020 La Xalamera – James Suckling

91 – 2020 La Xalamera – Wine Advocate

92 – 2019 La Xalamera – James Suckling



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS

