



IZADI

Selección Rioja Blanco

Located in Rioja Alavesa, Izadi aims to produce wines that express the character of the varieties indigenous to Rioja: Viura, Malvasía, Garnacha Blanco & Tinto, Tempranillo Blanco & Tinto, Graciano, and Mazuelo. They own 72 hectares and have access to another 108 hectares through long term contracts. All are located within a triangle formed by the towns of Villabuena, Samaniego, and Álbalos – hence the triangle on their labels. Farming is sustainable with many organic practices with the goal of eventually converting their vines to certified organic. The average age of their vineyards is greater than fifty years old and the soils are a mix of sandy clays and clay-limestone typical of vineyards situated at the foot of the Sierra de Cantabria.

Stylistically they adhere to a middle ground between tradition and modernism valuing the elegance of the former married to the fruit-forward qualities of the later. The Anton Family founded Izadi in 1987 after years of managing vineyards in Villabuena de Alaba and restaurants in Vitoria. Most notably the Antons own and run the one-star Michelin Restaurant Zaldiaran in Vitoria. The transition from a purely culinary family to one that also embraced winemaking began in 1997 when Don Gonzalo Anton hired Mariano Garcia (the former technical director of Vega Sicilia and the current director of Aalto in Ribera del Duero) to assess their vineyards, complement them with setting up contracts with their neighbors and constructing a cellar to make their own wines. Together with Ruth Rodriguez, the current winemaker for Izadi, the Antons and Mariano Garcia created what we now recognize as the Izadi style: robust yet refined, modern, and elegant.

A classic blend of indigenous varieties Viura, Malvasía, Garnacha Blanca, Tempranillo Blanco, Maturana Blanca and Turruntés, the Selección Rioja Blanco from Izadi comes from 50–60-year-old bush vines planted on chalky soils in Rioja Alavesa. After a manual harvest, the grapes are destemmed and crushed, then fermented mainly in stainless steel tanks with a small percentage in new French oak barrels.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Rioja

SOIL

Chalky clay limestone

AGE OF VINES

50-60

ELEVATION

450-550 meters

VARIETIES

Viura, Malvasia, Garnacha Blanca, Tempranillo Blanco, Maturana Blanca, Turruntés

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed and crushed, fermented in stainless steel tanks with a small proportion in new French oak barrels

AGING

3 months in tank and barrel

ACCOLADES

92 – 2021 Izadi Rioja Blanco – Wine Advocate

92 – 2021 Izadi Rioja Blanco – James Suckling

93 – 2020 Izadi Rioja Blanco – James Suckling



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS

