



ORBEN

Rioja

Orben was founded in the mid-1990s by the Anton family of Artevino fame (Izadi, Vetus, Villacreces) and a group of restaurateur-investors. Located near the village of Laguardia the estate farms 79 small vineyard plots all planted between 1945 and 1954. Due to the proximity and relative homogeneity of these sites located at 550–675 meters above sea level and on calcareous clay-limestone soils, the Anton family made the decision to create a separate estate to promote this individual terroir.

The main variety is Tempranillo with a small amount of Graciano. All the vines are head pruned and are farmed sustainably. At harvest the grapes are picked by hand and transported to the winery in small boxes, once there they are destemmed, crushed and fermented in stainless steel tanks. Aging takes place entirely in French oak barrels for between 12 and 15 months. In addition to the estate wine, that simply goes by the name Orben and which is a blend of Tempranillo with a small amount of Graciano, the estate produces Malpuesto from a single vineyard plot of ancient Tempranillo. This site gets its name from the haphazardly way the vines were planted. Most would replace this inefficient site but the Anton family, aware of the quality of the terroir have chosen to preserve and promote it.

Sourced from over 70 tiny parcels of old-vine, head-pruned Tempranillo with a small percentage of Graciano, Orben is a modern-styled Rioja originating from high-elevation vineyards outside Laguardia on sandy, limestone soils. Harvested by hand, destemmed and fermented in stainless steel tanks, it is aged for 15 months in new French oak barrels.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Rioja

SOIL

Clay limestone

AGE OF VINES

60

ELEVATION

450-650

VARIETIES

Tempranillo, Graciano (up to 5%)

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, fermented in tank

AGING

15 months in French oak

ACCOLADES

93 – 2021 Orben Rioja – Decanter

92 – 2021 Orben Rioja – Wine Advocate

93 – 2020 Orben Rioja – James Suckling



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS