



ALVAR DE DIOS

Camino de los Arrieros

Toro is like the 1980s – big shoulder pads, teased hair and a gaudy energy that seems to be chemically enhanced. It's a DO that in most regards is caught in a time warp, much like that mauve and teal bathroom you've been meaning to remodel. Having built its reputation on a style of wine that is now decidedly out of fashion, Toro is long overdue for a breath of fresh air – or in the case of Alvar de Dios, fresh wine.

Alvar was born and raised in the village of El Pego near the southern boundary of the DO of Toro. His family had tended vineyards in the village for generations but Alvar didn't stay in Toro to learn his trade, rather he fell in with a pair of vinous rebels working in the Sierra de Gredos – Fernando Garcia and Dani Landi. While working as the cellar master for Fernando at Bodegas Marañones he began acquiring vineyards of his own in and around his native DO, splitting his time between the Gredos and Toro.

DO Arribes is a little-known appellation located on the extreme western edge of Spain along its border with Portugal. Here, near the village of Villadepera, Alvar de Dios works with several growers to make Camino de los Arrieros – his “Village” wine from Arribes. A blend of Rufete, Juan García, Trincadeira Preta, Bastardo and some other stray varieties mixed in the vineyards all planted on sandy red slate soils, Camino is harvested by hand, fermented whole cluster by indigenous yeasts in 1000L French oak vats with pigeage by foot.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Arribes

SOIL

Sand, red slate

AGE OF VINES

40-100

ELEVATION

750 meters

VARIETIES

Rufete, Juan García, Trincadeira Preta, Bastardo, others...

FARMING

Practicing organic and biodynamic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, whole cluster, natural yeast fermentation in 1000L French oak vats, pigeage

AGING

6 months in 500L French oak barrels and 1000L French oak vats

ACCOLADES

92 – 2016 Camino de los Arrieros – Wine Advocate

89 – 2015 Camino de los Arrieros – Wine Advocate

89 – 2014 Camino de los Arrieros – Wine Advocate

