



# HERÈNCIA ALTÉS

## La Serra Blanc

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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.

The Garnatxa Blanca in the La Serra vineyard was planted at the beginning of the last century. These low-yielding vines are planted on chalky and sandy limestone soils. Due to the age of these vines and the elevation which combines a foudre, a barrel, and an amphora, La Serra is a denser expression of the variety. Still, it maintains the same salty minerality that is the hallmark of its terroir – about 2000 bottles in an average vintage.

### LOCATION

*Spain, Terra Alta*

### SOIL

*Sandy clay-limestone*

### ELEVATION

*420-480 meters*

### FARMING

*Certified organic (CCPAE)*

### VARIETIES

*Garnatxa Blanca*

### AGE OF VINES

*110+ years-old*

### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, 24-hour pre-fermentation cooling, direct pressing, natural yeast fermentation in concrete tanks*

### AGING

*5 months in concrete tanks with regular bâtonnages and then 8 months in a 25HL Austrian oak foudre, a 600L Austrian oak barrel and a 600L amphora, vegan*

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### ACCOLADES

**92+** – 2022, *Wine Advocate*

**93** – 2021, *Wine Advocate*

**91** – 2020, *James Suckling*

**91** – 2019, *James Suckling*

