



PURO ROFE

Rofe Blanco

Lanzarote is the easternmost of the Canary Islands, situated just 100km from the continent of Africa. The warmest and driest part of the Canaries, it receives a scant 6 inches of rainfall in an average year. Subjected to nearly constant winds blowing off the Sahara desert, known locally as alios, this would be a challenging place to grow vines even if they were not planted on a vast and volatile volcanic fissure. The lunar landscape of Lanzarote was largely formed with an eruption that lasted from 1730 to 1736 which covered 200 square km of the islands with up to 3 meters of ash and lapilli. Viewed from space, the most notable features of the islands are a series of calderas that pockmark Lanzarote and a large black desert that dominates the northwestern part of the island – Los Volcanes National Park.

The raw materials of Lanzarote – the stark beauty, unique viticulture, indigenous and ancient vines has been on the mind of Rayco Fernandez for many years. A wine exporter based in Gran Canaria, Rayco had waited patiently for over a decade for the potential of Lanzarote to be discovered. From his interest in the island and the people he met there, Puro Rofe was created. While Rayco was the impetus for its creation, Puro Rofe, is a collaboration among local, like-minded grape growers Rafael (Chicho) Mota, Vicente Torres, Ascension Robaina and Pedro Umpiérrez. They tend vineyards surrounding Los Volcanes in the villages of La Geria, Tinajo, Masdache and Testeyna and all practice organic farming. The enologist at Puro Rofe is Carmelo Peña, a native of Gran Canaria who learned his trade there and in the Douro with Dirk Niepoort. Puro Rofe is based in La Geria at Chicho Mota's small, museum-like bodega which preserves many of the traditional features of winemaking on Lanzarote – lagars, basket presses, and concrete vats which are now supplemented with clay amphorae as well.

Malvasía Vulcanica and Diego are the most prized white varieties at Puro Rofe and their Vino Blanco comes from a blend of these two varieties from various sites (along with about 5% Listán Blanco), exposures and microclimates. All the vines are around 100 years old (if not older) and are rooted in the deep, black, volcanic sands that are a hallmark of the island of Lanzarote. Malvasia provides the aromatics and depth of mineral flavors while the Diego provides the freshness and acidity.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Lanzarote

SOIL

Black volcanic sand over clay

AGE OF VINES

100+

ELEVATION

200-300 meters

VARIETIES

Malvasía, Diego, Listán Blanco

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, crushed by foot in stone lagars, short maceration, natural yeast fermentation in stainless steel tanks

AGING

8 months in stainless steel tanks

ACCOLADES

91 – 2018 Rofe Blanco – Wine Advocate

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