

PURO ROFE

Chaboco



ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Lanzarote

SOIL

Black volcanic sand over clay

AGE OF VINES

100+

ELEVATION

325 meters

VARIETIES

Muscat

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, then dried on the black volcanic sands for 25 days, pressed, natural yeast fermentation in a small stainless steel tank without temperature control

AGING

11 months in a small stainless steel tank (although most of that time is spent slowly fermenting) ~130g/L RS and 13% alc/vol.

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 *alicias*, 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.

A chaboco is a naturally occurring volcanic fissure ranging in depth from 1.5-2 meters in depth which can be found scattered around Lanzarote with a high concentration in La Geira. Over the centuries, farmers on the island recognized that these crevices were protected from the prevailing and nearly constant winds and collected moisture making them perfect for certain types of agriculture – especially plants with a natural tendency climb such as Muscat in the case here. Chaboco (the wine) is harvested on the early side to preserve its acidity, then dried for 25 days before pressing and fermentation.

ACCOLADES

93 – 2018 Chaboco – Wine Advocate

