



JOSE GIL

La Canoca

Jose Gil grew up in San Vicente, where his family have been grape growers and winemakers for generations. His grandfather, father, and uncle own Bodegas Olmaza, a small 35-hectare estate famed for its vibrantly traditional “village” wine. Before modern or traditional Rioja, there was a simpler style of whole-cluster, co-fermented wines that were as naked and honest an expression of Rioja as one could find. So it should come as no surprise that when José Gil started his own project, he would follow in his ancestors’ footsteps.

Jose’s project began in 2011 with two parcels of vines and the purchase of an old cave on the outskirts of San Vicente. Generations of farmer-winemakers have used these caves to age their wines, and they’ve returned to fashion with younger winemakers today. His first vintage was 2013, but it wasn’t until 2016 that he felt he had discovered his vineyards’ nature and how best to nurture their expression in the cellar. In 2017 Vicky Fernández, his partner, joined the project, and they’ve been steadily increasing their production. To facilitate this growth, they’ve acquire additional vineyards and purchased winery in Briones where the wines are made before barreling and aging in their cellar in San Vicente.

Jose currently farms 5 hectares of vines located in the villages of San Vicente, Labastida, and Briones. Practices are manual and organic although he is not certified. The vines range in age from 5 to 130 years old with the majority Tempranillo, a small percentage of Viura. The oldest vineyard plots a co-planted with tiny percentages of other grape varieties which include Garnacha and Palomino. When the grapes reach the cellar after being harvested by hand, they are fermented either whole-cluster, or partially destemmed. All fermentations are by indigenous yeasts and extraction is gentle. After pressing the wines are racked into 225-300L French oak barrels and transported to the aging cellar in San Vicente.

La Canoca is a tiny 0.5-hectare vineyard in the village of San Vicente. This 50-year-old parcel is planted with Tempranillo with a small percentage of Viura on silty clay and limestone soils. Half the harvest is included in José’s San Vicente village wine, while the remainder is bottled as a parcel wine.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Rioja

SOIL

Silty clay-limestone

AGE OF VINES

50

ELEVATION

540 meters

VARIETIES

Tempranillo, Viura

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, natural yeast co-fermentation in 500L French oak barrels

AGING

10 months in neutral 500L French oak barrels

ACCOLADES

95 – 2022 La Canoca – Wine Advocate

96 – 2021 La Canoca – Wine Advocate

94 – 2020 La Canoca – Wine Advocate

