



JOSE GIL

San Vicente de la Sonsierra

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.

Jose’s Viñedos en San Vicente de la Sonsierra is sourced from vineyards around the village of San Vicente, all at elevations above 500m. A blend of Tempranillo with 20% Garnacha and a tiny percentage of white varieties, this Rioja is co-fermented in concrete tanks, then aged for ten months in Jose’s cellar in San Vicente. Comprising the majority of the total production, Jose feels this wine represents the essence of the place of his birth – forthright, expressive, uncomplicated but far from simple, and something that could only come from his vineyards. Truly an ancestral expression of Rioja.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Rioja

SOIL

Clay limestone, sand

AGE OF VINES

5-60+

ELEVATION

500-600 meters

VARIETIES

Tempranillo, Viura

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, partially destemmed, natural yeast co-fermentation in stainless steel tanks and open-topped barrels, gentle maceration

AGING

10 months in 300L French oak barrels (new, second and third-fill)

ACCOLADES

93 – 2020 Vino de Pueblo – Wine Advocate

92 – 2019 Vino de Pueblo – Decanter

91+ – 2019 Vino de Pueblo – Wine Advocate

