



# BODEGAS LUIS PÉREZ

## El Muelle de Olaso

The story of Bodegas Luis Pérez is challenging to tell. From afar, it might seem like a collection of Pagos with several discreet projects with little connective tissue. But the drive to reinvent, rediscover, and restore the potential for a region long mired in a sleepy state of comfortable commercialization cannot always be a linear path. Each step in the evolution of Bodegas Luis Pérez has established new benchmarks for what the wines of Jerez can be. At the helm of this multifaceted project are Luis Perez, a professor of enology at the University of Cádiz and former winemaker at Domecq, and his son Willy.

Bodegas Luis Pérez is the story of four pagos (Corchuelo, Carrascal, Balbaína and Macharnudo) and the diversity of wines that can be made from them. These styles range from modern wines made from international grape varieties to an exploration of indigenous Andalusian varieties and wine styles. Yet, through it all, one thread remains constant, an appreciation for *terruño*, the heritage of the region, and a desire to save the best sites for future generations.

The wines of Luis Pérez are made from certified organic vineyards, which are picked by hand in several passes beginning in early August and finishing late in September. Whole clusters are used in the fermentation of the reds, while the whites are crushed and pressed gently, often by foot in lagars. All the fermentations are spontaneous, and the wines are aged in tank or ancient botas. These are expressive, saline, and authentic wines that are some of the most exciting we've tasted from Andalusia.

El Muelle de Olaso comes from the El Corregidor estate vineyard, where Palomino Fino, Pedro Ximénez, Mantuo & Vijiriega are harvested at night to preserve freshness and prevent oxidation. It is made in the traditional 19th century *Vino de Pasto* style and sees only a few months of aging under flor. The claim that Palomino and PX are neutral-flavor grapes is proven wrong with El Muelle – a wine with citrusy and tropical fruit flavors, lively chalky minerality, and a touch of herbal tanginess from its short contact with flor. Perhaps Palomino's reputation could be re-evaluated if more growers in the region were trying as hard as Willy Pérez. Luckily, there's a growing movement to rescue *Vino de Pasto* from the history books and re-enshrine it back into the DO.

### ORIGIN

*Spain*

### APPELLATION

*Cádiz*

### SOIL

*Albariza (Barajuela)*

### AGE OF VINES

*8-50*

### ELEVATION

*60-110 meters*

### VARIETIES

*Palomino Fino*

### FARMING

*In conversion to certified organic*

### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, natural yeast fermentation in tank*

### AGING

*3-4 months under flor in tank and a few older Fino Botas, vegan*

### ACCOLADES

93 – 2023 El Muelle – James Suckling

94 – 2022 El Muelle – James Suckling

93 – 2021 El Muelle – Wine Advocate

