



FINCA SANDOVAL

Aurora

Finca Sandoval was founded in 1998 by writer, wine critic, and editor of *El Mundo*, Víctor de la Serna, and winemaker Rafael Orozco. They saw the potential of the high altitude and limestone-rich soils around Cuenca in Manchuela. This estate put La Mancha on the map for its flashy and showy wines in the early 2000s, but with successive vintages, Víctor began to realize that his vision for a Grand Estate in an unheralded corner of Spain wouldn't be built on the quality of Syrah or Touriga Nacional but on the relatively obscure and indigenous Bobal, Moravia Agria, Mediterranean varieties such as Garnacha and Monastrell, and indigenous white varieties including Tortosí, Verdal, Albillo de Albacete, Pardillo, Blanco Castellano and Trepadell. A keen follower of the emerging generation of young winemakers garnering praise worldwide, Víctor reached out to Javi. After discovering their mutual admiration, Javi was brought on to spearhead the changes at Finca Sandoval.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Manchuela

SOIL

Sandy clay-limestone, gravel

AGE OF VINES

50-85+

ELEVATION

600 meters

VARIETIES

Albillo de Albacete, Pardillo, Blanco Castellano, Tortosí, Trepadell

FARMING

Certified organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, direct whole-cluster pressing, natural yeast fermentation in French oak barrels and amphorae

AGING

10 months in 500L French oak barrels and amphorae

Just an hour from La Font de la Figuera, Manchuela has a distinctive viticultural heritage from Valencia. The principal indigenous variety is Bobal, a grape that had once been dismissed as too rustic but with low yields and suitable soils, and it could make characterful and distinctive wines of precise fruit with meaty and herbal undertones balanced with freshness and fine tannins. Soon, only the best parcels of Syrah were retained, and the rest grafted over to a massale selection of Bobal or a mix of local red and white varieties. Relying on the existing reputation of the estate and Javi's growing fame, they gradually acquired additional vineyards of old-vine Bobal co-planted with other indigenous varieties. Farming is now certified organic, and winemaking is moving from technical to traditional with more whole clusters, native yeast fermentations, and aging in increasingly neutral vessels comprised of seasoned French oak, foudres, and amphorae. Vintage 2019 was a brilliant reintroduction to the *terruño* of Finca Sandoval, something Víctor had long sensed his land could achieve but which Javi proved more than capable of revealing.

As with old-vine vineyards across Europe, the ancient Bobal vineyards of Finca Sandoval are co-planted with a wide range of red and white varieties. While the most common is Albilla Manchego (more commonly called Albillo de Albacete), there is also Marisancho (Pardillo), Tortosí (Blanco Castellano), and Trepadell. Rather than let these varieties go unheralded, Javi Revert opted to make an ancestral white wine by co-fermenting them for this *terruño*-driven Blanco.

ACCOLADES

92 – 2021 Aurora – Wine Advocate

