



GRANITE PROJECT

Granito País

In hindsight, we never set out to create the Granite Project. When Eric Solomon teamed up with Dani Landi and Fernando Garcia to create Granito del Cadalso, we thought it was a stand-alone custom cuvée. Randomly or by luck, additional collaborations with talented winemakers followed suit – a País from Itata in partnership with Marcelo Retamal and a Beaujolais-Villages with Marine Descombe and Kevin Jandard. The one thing they had in common was their origins in granitic soils. These terroirs have been relatively overlooked by terroiristas despite Granite being one of the earth’s most ancient and prevalent building blocks. Having its origins deep underground as magma that slowly cooled and crystallized under pressure, it is composed of large crystals of quartz, feldspar, and silica. As granite weathers when exposed to water, it breaks down into sandy clay soils rich in mineral nutrients ideally suited for cultivating vines. The resultant wines, despite the variety, reveal a combination of weightless density and a soaring floral minerality.

ORIGIN

Chile

APPELLATION

Itata Valley

SOIL

Granite

AGE OF VINES

90+

ELEVATION

200+ Meters

VARIETIES

País

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

100% full clusters in raulí open vats

AGING

7 months in 228L Burgundy Barrels

Volume 2 of the Granite project came about during the pandemic while chatting with Marcelo Retamal as he exited De Martino to focus his attention on Viñedos de Alcohuz and launching his eponymous project, RETA. While some might refer to this pivot as a retirement, Reta shows no signs of slowing down managing vineyards from Maule to the Atacama while also spending his “winters” in Spain working on a project in the Sierra de Gredos. So when we brought up País having become enamored with the lithe and minera-driven Listán Negro from Rofe in Lanzarote, Reta had already scouted out a País vineyard for us. Situated in Itata and facing the cooling influence of the Pacific a scant 20km away, these are fairly young vines of País, being only 100 years or so old. Planted on its own roots in sandy soils weathered from quartz and white granite, Reta saw in these vines the rare opportunity for concentration and liveliness where the charming freshness and rusticity of País would benefit from a long growing season without excess alcohol.

ACCOLADES

92 – 2022 Granito País – James Suckling

92 – 2022 Granito País – Vinous Media

91 – 2022 Granito País – Wine Advocate

