



# GOMEZ CRUZADO

## Rioja Crianza

Rioja is a complex and diverse wine region, divided by the Ebro River, which separates the Atlantic climate of the north from the Continental climate to the south and east. Rioja Alta north of the Ebro shares more similarities with Rioja Alavesa than with Rioja Alta to the south, which is politically divided between the Basque region and La Rioja province. Tempranillo thrives in the limestone-rich soils north of the Ebro, while Garnacha is more prominent further south and east. Other red and white varieties also play a role in Rioja wines.

The region's rich history includes cultural exchanges, particularly after phylloxera devastated French vineyards, bringing French winemakers to Rioja. This influx, facilitated by the Haro railway station, influenced Rioja's winemaking style, which became regulated during Franco's dictatorship. Since the early 1990s, Rioja has evolved into a diverse and exciting wine region.

### ORIGIN

Spain

### APPELLATION

Rioja

### SOIL

Clay-limestone, sandstone, ferrous clay

### VINE AGE

40+ years old

### ELEVATION

500–750 meters

### VARIETIES

Tempranillo, Garnacha

### FARMING

Sustainable

### FERMENTATION

Hand-harvested, destemmed, 3-day pre-fermentation maceration, spontaneous fermentation in conical tanks, daily remontage or delestage

### AGING

12 months in 225L French (85%) & American (15%) oak barrels

At every step of the evolution of Rioja, from the center of Harro's Barrio de la Estación, Gomez Cruzado has been present. Founded in 1886 by Ángel Gómez de Arteche, it was purchased in 1916 by Ángel and Jesús Gómez Cruzado, beginning a close relationship between ex-pats of Rioja living in Mexico and the fortunes of this property. Modest in size and profile throughout most of its history, Gomez Cruzado was purchased in 2004 by the Baños family of Mexico, who brought in winemaker David González and viticulturalist Juan Antonio Leza to revitalize and redefine the property's range of wines. Today, under winemaker Juan Bautista Sáenz, the property encompasses 25 hectares of estate vineyards with access to 100 hectares of vines from growers with long-standing relationships with the estate. The cellar was modernized, but the original concrete tanks were restored, and the stocks of barrels were refreshed, resulting in a neoclassical style of Rioja.

For their Crianza, Gomez Cruzado blends Tempranillo grown in the limestone and sandstone-rich soils in the foothills of the Sierra de Cantabria with 25% Garnacha from the ferrous clay soils near Badarán in the south of Rioja Alta. This wine is a classical expression of Rioja, combining the elegance of Tempranillo from the Sierra Cantabria foothills with the vibrancy of Garnacha from Alto Nájera.

### ACCOLADES

93 – 2021 Rioja Crianza – Wine Advocate

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