



# GOMEZ CRUZADO

## *Rioja Montes Obarenes*

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

Chalky clay-limestone

### VINE AGE

60+ years old

### ELEVATION

400–450 meters

### VARIETIES

Viura, Tempranillo Blanco, Malvasía, Garnacha Blanca, Calagraño

### FARMING

Sustainable

### FERMENTATION

Hand-harvested, natural yeast fermentation in French oak barrels and concrete vats

### AGING

12 months on the fine lees in French oak barrels (80%) & concrete tanks (20%)

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.

Montes Obarenes is a blend of two-thirds Viura, one-quarter Tempranillo Blanco, and the remainder Malvasía Riojana, Calagraño, and Garnacha Blanca from the estate vineyard of Las Laderas in Ollauri. Monte Montes Obarenes blends modernism with its preference for French versus American oak barrels, but its inspiration is classical, with its focus on indigenous varieties planted in chalky soils close to the Sierra de Cantabria. The result is an elegant wine of length and mineral precision with a silky texture and a long life ahead..

### ACCOLADES

94 – 2022 Montes Obarenes – Wine Advocate

95+ – 2021 Montes Obarenes – Wine Advocate

