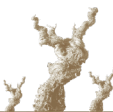


VALDELABARGA

EL ESCOCÉS VOLANTE



Variety: Garnacha Tinta 85%, Other varieties 15% (Provechon, Macabeo)
Vintage: 2020
Bottled: November 2021
Quantity: 3289 bottles
Winemaker: Norrel Robertson MW
Parcel: Venta del Bravo
Soil: Glacial boulders and pebbles
Village: Torralba de la Ribota
Altitude: 680 metres

92-93

POINTS

Luis Gutiérrez

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

TASTING NOTE

2020 is an extremely elegant and fresh vintage. Intense black cherry fruit mixes with subtle notes of nutmeg and allspice and an underlying creaminess from the Stockinger barrels. The wine shows perfect ripeness on the palate with abundant but fine tannins. Perfectly judged balance between complexity and charm. Very fine, pure and precise. Released May 2022.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

2020 was a precocious vintage in terms of the growing cycle and phenology: early bud burst, early flowering, early fruit set and veraison. Spring was accompanied by twice the average rainfall. The beautiful side of 2020 was our total confinement to the vineyards where we got to know our parcels more intimately. Harvest started for us on the 8th of September and with the Valdelabarga site picked on the 14th of September – 2 weeks earlier than the average in the last 20 years. The wines are characterised by great energy and extremely forward fruit. A great antidote to the events of the year.

The grapes were harvested into 20kg stored between 0 and 1 degrees in a cool room with controlled humidity. Fermented in an open top fermenter with 15% of whole bunches included in a layer cake fashion. Gentle punching down was applied once or twice a day only during a long, slow, soft fermentation after the grapes warm up from their cold soak. Afterwards we carried out a long maceration, malolactic fermentation took place on skins. After pressing the wine remained in 5 x 500 litre Stockinger barrels for 12 months before bottling with minimal fining and filtration.

Valdelabarga is a glacial plain composed of boulders and cantos situated between la Sierra de Armantes and Virgen de la Sierra in the heart of the Sistema Ibérico in the municipality of Torralba de Ribota. According to local folklore, the parcel changed hands for the price of a bull – *Venta del Bravo*. The parcel dates from 1941 based on government records, but its mix of Garnacha Fina (approximately 85%) with a sprinkling of Provechon (Bobal), Macabeo and other minority varieties suggests an earlier planting date just after phylloxera ravaged Europe some 40 years before.

Regardless, Valdelabarga is an exceptional *Lien-dit* with free draining soils with a capacity to always ripen and produce a Garnacha blend with ripe fruit and elegance.

TECHNICAL DATA

Alcohol content: 14.2%

Residual sugar: 1.5g/l

Total Acidity: 6.1g/l

pH: 3.48

