

Lopez de Heredia 2016 Viña Cubillo Crianza

Code	LH-CC16
Country	Spain
Region	Rioja
Producer	Red
Female Winemaker	Female Winemaker
ABV	13.5%
Acidity	6.5 gr/L
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual Production (Cases)	7750
Varieties	65% Tempranillo, 25% Garnacho, 5% Mazuelo, 5% Graciano, all from our own vineyards
Fermentation Vessel	Used Barrique
Aging Duration (months)	36 months, raked twice per year and no added yeast
Fining Agents	Egg White (albumen)
Vineyard Name	Cubillas
Soil Type	Clay, Calcareous
Elevation (meters)	450
Vine Age (years)	40

WineWise Notes:

Redolent of red fruits, tomato and mint, equal parts rustic and refined, this earthy, lively red bears no resemblance to the current “international” style of Rioja, nor to the pale, oaky, “smooth” overcropped wines of the 1970’s. Cubillo stands out in today’s wine universe for the mannerliness and clarity of its expression and its unmistakable class.

This family-owned winery makes highly individual wines in a style essentially unchanged since its inception in 1877. They grow all their grapes using organic methods, ferment using only natural yeasts and do not filter their wines. They employ four full-time coopers to make their barrels. Gravonia, Tondonia, Bosconia and Cubillo are all individual vineyards which have been in the family for generations. Patience is a family watchword, as this bodega thinks nothing of waiting twenty years before releasing a wine. Their “Crianzas” are aged like others’ “Reservas” and “Gran Reservas”; the “Reservas” as long as others’ top “Gran Reservas”. And the ultimate accolade of “Gran Reserva” is accorded to only the very greatest vintages. Rarely are there more than three of these in a decade. These are uniquely traditional Riojas of massive, boundary-crossing repute. Both red and white are capable of staggering longevity. We are immensely proud to represent them. The only rub is that the estate’s uniqueness has now become universally recognised with a resultant run on stocks. Even with the producer’s necessity to raise prices, the prices remain entirely reasonable for uniquely great wines sold at peak maturity.

Notes from the Producer:

Colour: Clear, bright ruby.

Nose: Fresh and slight aroma to licorice with consistent texture and persistent aroma.

Taste: Smooth, fresh and persistent.

The Viña Cubillo wine comes from the vineyard “Cubillas”, which is 2 miles away from the winery. Its height is 1,348 feet above sea level and the vines have an average age of 40 years. The soil is from the terciaria age, composed of clay and limestone. The surface is 59 acres: Tempranillo, Garnacho, Mazuelo, and Graciano. Historically, the wines from that vineyard were called “Special Harvest”.

