

Viña Ijalba 2021 Maturana Tinta

WineWise Code	SIJ-MTT21
Country	Spain
Region	Rioja
Color/Style	Red
Destemming	Complete
Fermentation Vessel	Barrel
Additional Fermentation Notes	Fermentation in vats of French oak with indigenous yeasts for 18 days Punchdown every day
Aging Vessel	New Barrigue 100%
Aging Duration (months)	10
Filtered?	Yes
Fining Agents	None
Yeast Protocol	Spontaneous
Malolactic Conversion	Yes
Added Sulfur	Yes, 45 mg/L
Varieties	100% Maturana Tinta
Residual Sugar	0.33
ABV	13.6
Acidity	5.3
pH	3.83
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual Production	400
Certified Vegan	Yes
Primary Vineyard Name	Matamala / Molino
Soil Types	Alluvial, Sedimentary, Gravel
Elevation (meters)	400
Vine Age	20
Yields (hl/ha)	35
Farming Practices	Certified Organic
Harvest Method	Hand-harvested
Other Vineyard Details	South

WineWise Notes:

It is safe to say, despite some seemingly authoritative claims to the contrary, that this rare autochthonous Rioja variety is NOT the same grape as the Trousseau of the Jura or the Bastardo of the Douro, with which pale, some would say effete, varieties this strapping, brooding beast of a wine has nothing in common. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only mono-varietal version of this grape on the market. It miraculously combines improbably dark colour and biting peppery nose with a fruit expression that is unmistakably Riojan, suggesting that the terroir of this fabled land really does in the end conquer all. All that said, in 2021, Pepe revealed unsuspected possibilities of sleek elegance in this somewhat recalcitrant character.

WineWise Notes on Producer:

At first glance this rather modern producer might seem to have little in common with its illustrious neighbor (Lopez de Heredia), but in fact María José was pleased to hear we would be representing the property. Ijalba has set the standard for environmental awareness in the region, from its organic production to its extensive re-cycling and environmental certification for the winery. The vineyards were all planted in disused quarries, which perhaps explains the remarkable minerality they are endowed with, especially the bigger reds with bottle age. The estate's other distinction is the championing of the less-known varieties of Rioja such as the two Maturanas and Graciano. They have now unveiled some attractive new packaging to go with their never-ending efforts at improvement, spearheaded by long-time talented cellar master, Pepe, who absolutely excelled with his red wines in 2016.

Notes from the Producer:

Deep garnet-red. Intense aromas of black fruit, blackcurrants, spices and cocoa. Smoothly on the palate with round persistent tannin and a good concentration of fruit and acidity.

