

López de Heredia 2012 Viña Tondonia Reserva

WineWise Code	LH-TR12
Country	Spain
Region	Rioja
Color/Style	Red
Alcohol by Volume	13
Acidity	6.6 g/L
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	20,000
Varieties	75% Tempranillo, 15% Garnacho, 10% Graciano and Mazuelo, all from our own vineyards.
Aging Method	Used Barrique
Aging Duration (months)	72 months. Racked twice per year and no added yeast.
Fining Agents	Egg White (albumen)
Vineyard Name	Viña Tondonia
Soil Type	Clay, Calcareous
Elevation (meters)	530

WineWise Notes:

Tondonia typically stays in the oak a year longer than Bosconia, so this was released later. Despite the extra wood, sweet fruit and lead pencil notes dominate this wine, whose brightness and liveliness promise decades of potential. Ancient vines and great know-how ensure that Tondonia always delivers the goods. This is the one wine offered us by Lopez de Heredia whose supply is essentially unrestricted, so have at it! We do not know of a more consistent wine in existence, and 2006 follows smoothly in the footsteps of its forebears.

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"; the "Reservas" as long as others' "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 international 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. Starting in 2014, our allocations of almost every wine have been essentially halved, so please prepare not to get everything you want.

Notes from the Producer:

Colour: Vibrant red leading slightly towards amber.

Nose: Light fresh texture with notes of vanilla and dried berry aromas.

Taste: Rich, very dry, smooth, developed. Firm tannins and good balance.

My intervention is minimal, both in the vineyard and in the whole winemaking process. Only when it is necessary and when there is no other choice. Don Rafael López de Heredia acquired Viña Tondonia from a group of clergy in 1913. The Tondonia vineyard is a beautiful vineyard of over 247 acres, 1,600 feet above sea level, situated on the right bank of the Ebro River, in Rioja Alta. The soil is alluvial clay with a high concentration of limestone. There are 4 varieties of red grapes planted in this vineyard: Tempranillo, Mazuelo, Graciano, and Garnacho.

