

# RIBERA

## DEL DUERO

# Ribera del Duero



TEMPRANILLO

75%



25%

CABERNET SAUVIGNON / MERLOT / MALBEC / GARNACHA

This territory is located in along the spurs of the Duero River (called Douro in Portugal) one of the longest of the Iberian Peninsula. The area has a continental type climate with strong differences between the hot and cold months as well as ample variations between night and day (from -15° to more than 35° C). This factor is also affected by the fact that the plants are cultivated at altitudes that, in some cases, reach 750-850 meters above sea level.

The soils of this region are rather varied, being composed of layers of limestone, chalk, marl, and sandy clay.

Ribera del Duero produces DO wines (Denominación de Origen) in only red or rosé.

The varieties used in this territory are:

- **Tempranillo**, here sometimes also known as Tinto Fino, used for at least 75% of the blend.
- **Cabernet Sauvignon**
- **Merlot**
- **Malbec**
- **Garnacha** (used above all for the production of rosé)

In the Ribera del Duero, white wines are also produced based on the Albillo variety, primarily consumed by domestic markets.

## WINE RANKING



The types of red wines produced in the Ribera del Duero are classified based on the quality of the grapes:

- **Tintos Joven:** young and red
- **Crianza:** about a year of maturing in wood, cannot go on the market until it has been aged for two years.
- **Reserva:** aged for at least 3 years, at least one of which is in wood.
- **Gran Reserva:** 5 years of aging, at least 2 of which must be in wood.

# Ribera del Duero

## GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

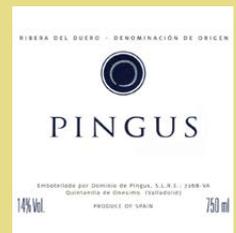
The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.



99

 **Pingus 2016**  
DOMINIO DE PINGUS

*The name of the vineyard is nothing more than the owner's nickname. After all, you find much of the man in a wine that translates elegance and eagerness. Intense aromas of dark fruit and eucalyptus, without exaggerations. Juicy and plump mouth, with bitter orange followed by dark fruit and cacao. Flavorful, almost sea like tannins.*



97

 **Único 2006**  
VEGA SICILIA

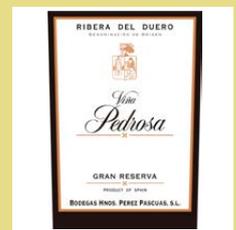
*Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon blend. The nose plays on a duality between red fresh fruit and some softer sensations of dried fruit. Not only a fruity take-off on the nose, thanks to refreshing notes of medicinal herbs. Rich, textury mouth, where the fruit constitutes the supporting axis around which revolve a sweetness of candied rhubarb and more austere notes of cinchona. Powdery tannins.*



96+

 **Gran Reserva 2011**  
VIÑA PEDROSA

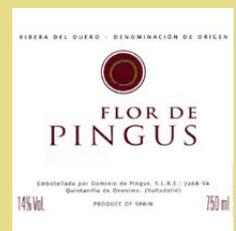
*Tempranillo with a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon. Elegant aromas of blood orange and fresh fruit, both red and dark. In the mouth, a take-off on the same sensations, then extending on notes of blackberry, coupled with a mentholated track. Savory background that, at times, recalls anchovy in salt. Flavorful and well calibrated tannins.*



96

 **Flor de Pingus 2016**  
DOMINIO DE PINGUS

*Not an inferior offering from this winery, but one unto itself. Only Tempranillo that comes from north and south facing plants of the municipality of La Horra, with its rich terrains of gravel and clay. Dark fruit and mint on the nose. Top drink that combines a citrusy part of orange peel with mulberry and tamarind. Flavorful tannins.*



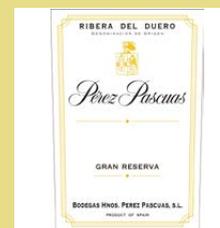
## WINE RANKING

96

**Gran Reserva 2010**

BODEGA PÉREZ PASCUAS

Very good vintage that still deserves a bit more time to best express itself. From vineyards of only Tempranillo, of about 70-years-old. Intense aromas of dark, fresh fruit, with wild touches of aromatic herbs, both fresh and dried. Rich mouth of substance that remains agile, thanks to tones of eucalyptus and geranium, as well as an intense minerality.

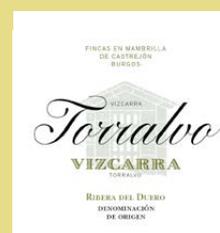


94+

**Torralvo 2015**

BODEGA VIZCARRA

From the Tempranillo variety here called Tinto Fino (plants of about 60-years-old). Malolactic fermentation and aging in new, French barrels of oak. Green and floral notes together from geranium and violet followed by dark fruit. The trio of sensations is proposed again in the mouth, even if here an earthy touch is added to the finish. Flavorful tannins.

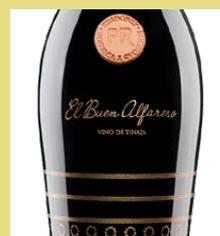


94

**El Buen Alfarero 2016**

REAL SITIO DE VENTOSILLA PRADOREY

On the nose, the record for the most evident note - if they were in competition - goes to dark fruit, licorice, and some spicing from the oak. In the mouth, the dark fruit becomes red, putting on display a nice, juicy note of cherry, accompanied by balsamic and spicy tones. Powdery tannins.

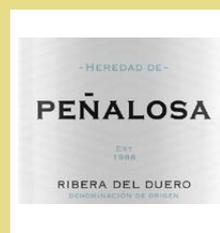


94

**Heredad de Peñalosa 2016**

BODEGAS PASCUAL

Slightly somber, but very capricious nose that passes through that which can be traced back to earthy notes (roots and rhubarb), then turning towards fruit. In the mouth, the sensations repeat, even if the fruit (cherry and currant) is juicier, rather than pulpy. Closing that is both medicinal and flavorful.



93+

**Reserva Corimbo I 2012**

BODEGAS LA HORRA

Only Tempranillo from vines that are almost 50-years-old. Well-defined aromas that range from olive brine to dark fruit, without forgetting a clear sensation that recalls damp earth. In the mouth, the wine is rich from fruit, completed by officinal touches and again earthy. Flavorful tannins.



93+

**Crianza 2015**

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS MARTÍN BERDUGO

Red fruit and mentholated notes alternate on the nose with clarity and elegance. In the mouth, the sensation reoccurs, even if in this part, the balsamic quality is rather evident. Complexity however is guaranteed by touches of salt and anise. Powdery tannins.



## GARDINI NOTES WINE RANKING

The targets are three: short (5-8 years), medium (10-15 years) and long (more than 15 years), which denote the aging potential of the wine.



SHORT (5-8 years)



MEDIUM (10-15 years)



LONG (more than 15 years)

93<sup>+</sup>**Félix Callejo 2014**

BODEGAS FÉLIX CALLEJO

*Alternation, both on the nose and in the tasting phase, between red fruit, licorice, and almond. The nose is more married to fruit in the mouth so the three sensations triangulate better, as such allowing the almond to determine the creaminess of a sip that closes on dry, but smooth tonalities of licorice root. Acidic tannins.*

93<sup>+</sup>**Pradorey Elite 2014**

REAL SITIO DE VENTOSILLA PRADOREY

*Only Tempranillo from vineyards located at more than 800 meters above sea level. Attack on the nose with a bouquet still somewhat conditioned by wood. One notes however, clear and rather articulated sensations of red fruit, as well as dark. In the mouth, fruit again though clearer with touches of cinchona and sweet spices. Acidic tannins..*



93

**Valbuena 5° 2013**

VEGA SICILIA

*Blend of Tempranillo and Merlot. Aromas of great authenticity. Cherry, above all, even if tones of roasted peppers and oak make an appearance on the nose. Juicy and very dynamic mouth, centered on fruit and balsamic tones of rosemary and oak. Flavorful-acidic tannins.*

92<sup>+</sup>**Portia Crianza 2015**

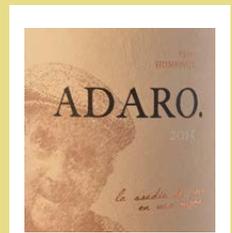
BODEGAS PORTIA

*Tempting nuances of mandarin rind on the olfactory opening. Following on the nose with red fruit, both fresh and slightly coulis. In the mouth, the result is darker, especially on tones of blackberry from bramble. Agile mouth until the rounded finish, described by sweet spices attributable to the oak. Slightly acidic tannins.*

92<sup>+</sup>**Crianza Adaro 2015**

REAL SITIO DE VENTOSILLA PRADOREY

*Wine dedicated to the founder of the vineyard. 100% Tempranillo grown on rich soils of clay and limestone. Intriguing aromas of dark fruit, both in fresh and slightly macerated versions, and fresh, officinal herbs. The sip opens on cassis in light preserves, after which follow flavorful and earthy sensations. Powdery tannins.*

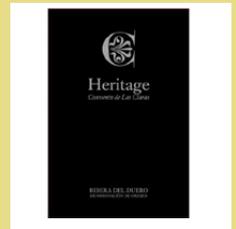


## WINE RANKING

92<sup>+</sup>**Reserva Convento de Las Claras Heritage 2012**

CONVENTO DE LAS CLARAS

Only Tempranillo aged in oak barrels either French or American. Dark nose with black fruit, ranging from blackberry to mulberry, completed by balsamic touches of rosemary and oak. In the mouth, it enters juicy from fresh blackberry, in order to then widen, at mid-palate, on tonalities of the same fruit, but this time in preserves. Finish of woody tones.

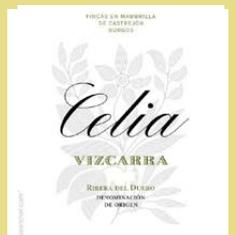


92

**Celia 2014**

BODEGAS VIZCARRA

More than 90% Tempranillo completed by a touch of Garnacha. It is the Garnacha that gives an almost electric touch and in particular a sprint to the sip. The nose takes off on tones of dark, compact fruit, and orange rind. In the mouth, fruit recurs, framed by dynamic nuances of olive and cinchona. Powdery tannins.



92

**Crianza Sentido 2014**

BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS NEO

The use of about 30% American oak perceived in a certain way on the nose is characterized by a sweet and almost creamy spicing. The dark, fresh fruit however, is rather well noted. In the mouth, decisively more balanced, thanks to clear red fruit rendered lively by tones of mint and spice. Strong tannins.



92

**Reserva Corimbo 2013**

BODEGAS LA HORRA

100% Tempranillo that expounds on the malolactic fermentation and the successive aging, little more than a year, in oak barrels of diverse provenance (in particular, from France). Intense aromas of cherry and jammy strawberry. In the mouth, the fruity part is rendered more complex by tones of arugula and thyme. Flavorful tannins.



92

**Apalaz 2013**

APALAZ VIGNERON

Tempranillo completed by a quantity of Merlot. Floral aromas of violet with a mix of fresh fruit both dark and red. In the mouth, Morello cherry and cassis jam dominate. Light balsamic touches in the background, especially from mid-palate on. Salty tannins.



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JULY 2018

RIBERA DEL DUERO  
WINE RANKING BY  
**LUCA GARDINI**  
**THE WINE KILLER**

TASTING PERIOD  
**JULY 2018**

