



VALKYRIE

SELECTIONS

REVIEWS
WINE ADVOCATE
JULY 2022

GÓMEZ CRUZADO



BLANCO 2º AÑO 2021 || 92 points

“The super fresh and expressive (for Viura) white 2021 Blanco 2º Año was released a little earlier than usual. It was matured sur lie and is an approachable wine that is balanced and food friendly. This recovers the tradition to name the wines after the time they were released, before the creation of the mentions of Crianza, Reserva and Gran Reserva. It’s soft and balanced, with 13.5% alcohol and mellow acidity. It’s a blend of Viura with 25% Tempranillo Blanco and 5% Garnacha Blanca. 56,000 bottles produced. Only one-third of the volume spent five months in untoasted oak, and the rest was kept in concrete.”



CRianza 2018 || 92 points

“The updated classical red 2018 Crianza was produced with a blend of 80% Tempranillo from the Sonsierra and 20% Garnacha from Badarán, Cárdenas and Cordovin. It has 14.5% alcohol and a mellow mouthfeel after spending 12 months in 225-liter oak barrels, 50% of them French and 50% American. This is super balanced and seamless, with very subtle and integrated oak, juicy and rich but with balance. A very good Crianza.”



HONORABLE 2017 || 91 points

“The 2017 Honorable is a blend of 80% Tempranillo, 15% Graciano and 5% other grapes from four head-pruned old plots in the villages of Lanciego, San Vicente de la Sonsierra, Samaniego and Labastida. It’s their most classical bottling, recovering a wine they produced since 1915. It’s very ripe and shows aromas of crème de cassis and herbs, and it’s a bit heady at 15% alcohol and with abundant, slightly dusty tannins after 18 months in barrels, mostly French and only 20% of them American. 2017 was a challenging vintage, and the wine shows it.”



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GÓMEZ CRUZADO TERROIR SELECTIONS



PANCRUDO 2019 || 94 points

“One of two vintages I tasted of their top Garnacha bottling, the 2019 Pancrudo is ripe, heady and hedonistic, a little in the Châteauneuf style, with notes of soy sauce and cherries in liqueur. It’s 14.5% alcohol and has a pH of 3.5 and feels a little hard with the 2019 tannins that are going to need some polishing in bottle. The old vines are on very red soils rich in iron, and this shows the iron in it.”



CERRO LAS CUEVAS 2019 || 94 points

“The 2019 Cerro Las Cuevas is their “Selección Terroir” produced with a blend of 80% Tempranillo, 15% Graciano and the rest Garnacha and Mazuelo, mostly from two ancient and beautiful vineyards in Ollauri. This reflects a warm and dry year with high ripeness and 15% alcohol and a round and lush palate with generous oak after maturing in oak for 12 months. It’s still young and tannic and is going to require some more time in bottle and possibly powerful food. It has beautiful aromatics in the background, floral and with some orange peel notes that should emerge with time.”



MONTES OBARENES 2018 || 95 points

“One of the finest “modern” whites from Rioja in one of its finest vintages to date is the 2018 Montes Obarenes, from the chalky soils near these mountains. I say “modern” because it matured in French barriques and concrete eggs rather than American barriques and they also use some Tempranillo Blanco (25%), but the rest is classical, Viura with some 5% each Malvasía Riojana and Calagraño. In 2018, the grapes ripened thoroughly, and the wine achieved 14% alcohol and full development of aromas and flavors, keeping a pH of 3.5. It’s perhaps a little more Burgundian, with a complex nose of tangerines, flowers, pollen and faint spice and smoke. The palate is velvety and rich but with freshness. It should develop nicely in bottle.”