

BODEGA LANZAGA – TELMO RODRIGUEZ



LZ 2018 || 91 points

“We also jumped to the 2018 LZ, a juicy and insultingly young Rioja, with bright aromas. It’s fruit-driven but not banal and has depth and complexity and round, soft tannins, without any make-up, a very pure, honest everyday wine. It develops some meaty notes over time, and it’s more nuanced than the majority of young wines.”



CORRIENTE 2016 || 91 points

“The entry-level red from Rioja 2016 Corriente is always a sure value, but the 2016 is truly exceptional, possibly the finest vintage they have bottled to date. It’s floral and aromatic, very elegant and balanced. There are fine tannins, a chalky minerality and a supple finish. This is a great Rioja with freshness and typicity.”



LANZAGA 2014 || 93+ points

“I previewed three vintages of the village red from Lanciego in Rioja, starting with the 2014 Lanzaga. This was a great opportunity to check how the wine is evolving. They used larger barrels and are making the wine more transparent and increasing the amount of other grapes (it probably has less Tempranillo since perhaps 2012), and I see incremental improvements in quality. Of course, you have to take into account the conditions of the growing season. Here you see more ripeness than in 2013, but it feels very balanced and harmonious, with fine tannins and a tasty finish.”



TABEURNIGA 2016 || 98 points

“Tabuerniga is a relatively large vineyard (compared with others), but they select grapes from part of it to make a really exceptional 2016 Tabuerniga. This is a revelation from the first vintage; it has shown better each year, and this 2016 is the finest of the three years. This wine is about finesse, with great balance and the weightless palate that makes it feel light, but it has great inner strength. There is nuance, and great depth. With time in the glass, it develops further complexity and unfurls aromas of violets and blood orange peel, quite distinctive and captivating. This has to be one of the bargains of the year, because this quality rarely comes at this price. Grab it if you can!”



LA ESTRADA 2016 || 96 points

“The 2016 La Estrada is from a northeast-facing 0.64-hectare plot, one of the highest vineyards in the village of Lanciego, at 610 meters in altitude. This vineyard was planted in the 1940s on a shallow plateau with mostly Tempranillo with a little Graciano, and the altitude provides freshness and balance. The 2016 feels very harmonious and elegant, clearly above the 2015 I tasted next to it. There is more precision and finesse here, the finest bottling of this vineyard to date.”



EL VELADO 2016 || 93 points

“One of the four single-vineyard bottlings from Rioja, from a vineyard planted with a majority of Garnacha and Tempranillo, produced an unusually fine wine in 2016, even though it tends to be the more rustic of the single vineyards and has more tannins than the others. I’m talking about the 2016 El Velado, from a plot planted over 80 years ago. I find a bit of ripeness here and a little more rusticity on the palate, with grainy tannins and an earthy sensation.”



LAS BEATAS 2016 || 99 points

“I was really anxious to taste the 2016 Las Beatas after the other-worldly 2015, where the field blend of eight or nine grape varieties produced 1,532 bottles from the 1.9 hectares of vines. The wine matured in a 1,200-liter oak foudre in a very cold cellar that provides a very slow evolution of the wine. It’s the most backward and reticent of all the Rioja wines here. It’s elegant, subtle and delicate, shy and slow to open up in the glass. The palate reveals great balance and very fine chalky tannins, with great purity and depth, and it’s -more insinuating than in-your-face, with energy and length. I kept the bottle and retasted it a few hours later, because I like to see how a wine like this evolves. It developed further nuance; it is a world class wine.”


WINE ADVOCATE

Reviews by Luis Gutierrez
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