

BODEGA LANZAGA – TELMO RODRIGUEZ



LZ 2020 || 91 points

“The 2020 LZ comes from an early harvest after a warm year not without challenges (mildew). The Tempranillo, Garnacha and Graciano grapes come from their own organically farmed vineyards and fermented in concrete vats with indigenous yeasts for 15 days; the wine matured in concrete for six to seven months before bottling. It’s very primary and has notes of licorice and a juicy texture. Pablo Eguzkiza was telling me he likes 2020 better than 2019. The wine shows very good balance and fine, round tannins.”



LANZAGA 2017 || 94 points

“The 2017 Lanzaga comes from a harvest marked by the killer frost (-5 degrees Celsius) of April 27th and 28th, but the higher-altitude vines from the village of Lanciego escaped the disaster. This is a blend from their 15 to 20 hectares of organically farmed vines, all head-pruned on slopes rich in clay and limestone, mixing red and white soils, places with more sandstone, others with more marl, looking for complexity. It fermented in 6,000-liter concrete vats with indigenous yeasts and matured in 1,500- and 2,500-liter oak foudres and 225-liter barriques for 14 months. It has great balance and freshness, it’s very clean and doesn’t show any of the challenges or shortages of the harvest. It’s creamy, juicy and medium-bodied, with very fine tannins, a serious wine that changed in 2013-2014 to this complexity and depth.”



TABEURNIGA 2018 || 98+ points

“The 2018 Tabuerniga is from one of the most beautiful vineyards in Rioja, a terraced place that is located at 540 to 630 meters in altitude and is farmed organically. It fermented in open-top oak vats with indigenous yeasts and matured in 1,500-liter oak foudres for 14 to 16 months following the most strict tradition. The wine is superb, subtle, elegant and refined, still a little young and closed but with a sense of harmony, depth and seriousness that puts it among the finest vintages for this wine. The palate is lively and vibrant, with purity and harmony; it’s delineated, symmetric and seamless, with a silky palate. This is simply superb and develops further complexity with time in the glass, flowers a touch of meat and blood. This is my go-to wine from the single-vineyard bottlings.”



LA ESTRADA 2018 || 96 points

“The single-vineyard 2018 La Estrada comes from a northeast-facing 0.64-hectare plot planted in the 1940s, one of the highest vineyards in the village of Lanciego, at 610 meters above sea level. It fermented in an open-top 3,000-liter oak vat with indigenous yeasts and matured in a combination of foudres and barriques for 14 to 16 months. I was very surprised by the elegance of La Estrada, a vintage of great finesse, perfume and a beautiful, silky texture. It’s medium-bodied and has great harmony and balance. This should develop nicely in bottle.”



EL VELADO 2018 || 94 points

“The 2018 El Velado comes from a southeast-facing vineyard in the village of Lanciego that has a high proportion of Garnacho from Viñaspre as well as other varieties in a field blend where Tempranillo dominates. 2018 was a wet year that produced mildew in the vineyards and resulted in a late harvest (October 8th to November 1st). It fermented in an open-top 3,000-kilo oak vat with indigenous yeasts and matured in barriques and foudres for 14 to 16 months. This feels more balanced and fresher than other vintages, and the wine is quite fluid, a year of good yields and fine tannins. The grapes developed fully, as the cycle was long and the ripeness very good.”



LAS BEATAS 2018 || 99 points

“It’s always a very exciting moment when tasting a new vintage of what has quickly become one of the icons from Rioja. The 2018 Las Beatas comes from a very wet year that saw a late harvest, starting October 8 and finishing on November 1, and these grapes were picked in mid-October to deliver a more aromatic and cool expression of the place. The field blend of grapes fermented in a 3,000-liter open-top oak vat with indigenous yeasts, and the wine matured in a 1,200-liter oak foudre for 14 to 16 months. This is not as powerful and concentrated as the 2015, but it’s more elegant and fluid, with great purity and inner strength. The grapes ripened very slowly, and the wine developed great complexity and nuance. It feels young and undeveloped, a little closed at first, in need of some more time to develop further complexity in bottle. It’s tender and young, easy to drink, approachable and round, but with all the ingredients to develop nicely in bottle.”

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

Reviews by Luis Gutierrez
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