



The International Wine Review

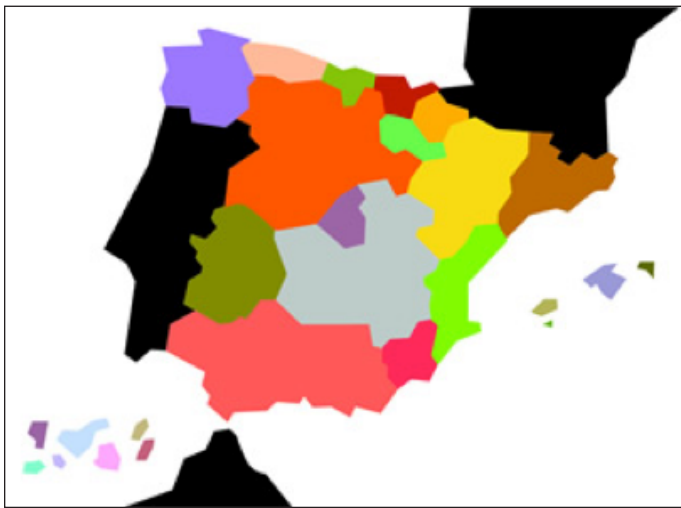
July 2015

Report #49: The Best of Spain

A Tenth Anniversary Special Report

The International Wine Review celebrates its tenth year of publication in 2015. To celebrate, we revisit many of the regions we've reported on over the past decade. Our focus in this series of special reports and articles is our favorite producers and their wines.

Introduction



Spain is one of the most exciting wine regions in the world. It has 60 distinct growing areas or DOs and a wide variety of indigenous grapes, 300 at last count. (See the appellation map in the Annex.) An ancient wine-producing country, it also has many old vineyards and is rich in winemaking tradition. Yet, Spain is also a modern wine producer and one of the largest, just behind Italy and France. It offers a remarkable diversity of wines and is an exciting wine region to explore and get to know.

Over the past decade, the International Wine Review has produced many in-depth reports on the major wine regions of Spain. These focused on the wines of Rioja, Navarra, Ribera del Duero, Priorat, Catalonia and the major Garnacha producing regions such as Campo de Borja,

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Calatayud, Vinos de Madrid and others. We also have written extensively on Cava in our reports on Catalonia and sparkling wine around the world and on Sherry.

In this report we provide an introduction to several of the principal wine regions of Spain, present many of our top-rated Spanish producers based on our tastings over the years, and provide tastings notes of many of our favorite wines. In addition, we include one new wine-growing region, Sierra de Gredos, which we believe merits attention from serious oenophiles.

By necessity we have had to limit the number of regions, producers and wines included in this report, so we encourage readers interested in learning more about the wines of the diverse regions of Spain to consult the respective Spanish wine reports listed below and available online at www.i-winereview.com. A special 10th Anniversary Report on Sherry will also be released later this year.

Our Favorite Spanish Producers

Rioja	Ribera del Duero	Priorat
Abdel Mendoza Artadi Benjamin Romeo Castillo de Cuzcurrita Contino Cvne Finca Allende Finca a Emperatriz Lan Lopez de Heredia Marques de Murrieta Muga Pujanza Roda Señorío de San Vicente Sierra Cantabria Telmo Rodriguez Vinedos de Párganos	Aalto Alion Bodegas Alejandro Fernandes Tinto Pesquera Arrocal Astrales Callejo Condado de Haza Dominio de Atauta Dominio Pingus Hacienda Monasterio Mauro Vega Sicilia	Alvaro Palacios Clos i Terrasses Clos Figueras Clos Mogador Ferrer Bobet Mas d' En Compte Mas Martinet Celler Pasanau Terroir al Limit Vall Llach
Campo de Borja	Toro	Catalonia
Bodegas Alto Moncayo	Elias Mora Maurodos Roman Pintia	Acustic Celler Can Rafols dels Caus Espectacle Joseph Grau/ Dosterras Torres Vinyes Domenech
Calatayud	Sierra de Gredos	Cava
Bodegas Breca Las Rocas The Show	Bernabeleva Jimenez-Landi Zerberos	Albet I Noya Gramona Hertat Mestres Huguet Mont Marcal Naverán Raventos i Blanc Recaredo

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Issue 21	The Chilean Wine Revolution
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Issue 28	The Wines of Priorat
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Issue 30	The Wines of South Africa Double Issue
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Issue 33	The Wines of Paso Robles
Issue 34	Champagne Revisited
Issue 35	The Wines of Soave
Special Report	South African Chenin Blanc
Issue 36	The Wines of Santa Barbara
Issue 37	The Wines of Sicily
Issue 38	The Wines of Washington State
Issue 39	The World of Grenache
Special Report	The Wines of Montefalco
Issue 40	Rosé Champagne and Sparkling Wine
Special Report	The Exciting Sparkling Wines of South Africa
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Issue 42	The Wines of Catalonia
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Issue 44	The Wines of Sonoma County
Issue 45	Virginia Wine Comes of Age
Issue 46	Special Report: The Best of Soave
Issue 47	Special Report: The Best of Tuscany
Issue 48	The Wines of Los Carneros

These reports are available online at www.iwinereview.com