



VALKYRIE

SELECTIONS

REVIEWS
WINE ADVOCATE
OCTOBER 2020

GÓMEZ CRUZADO



CRianza 2017 || 91 points

“Think of the 2017 Crianza as a clean and precise version of a traditional Crianza, polished and velvety, very drinkable, with a sleek and seamless palate, fine tannins and very good balance. This is delicious and a great example of the category that can deliver quality like this. Bravo! It’s Tempranillo with 20% Garnacha from Badarán that adds a plus of freshness. It has contained ripeness and a medium body. 90,000 bottles produced.”



RESERVA 2014 || 92 points

“The 2014 Reserva has more creaminess and influence from the *élevage* than other wines from more recent years. It’s very traditional, with balsamic notes of incense and cigar ash intermixed with forest floor and wild berries all in good harmony, coming through as integrated and balanced. The palate is medium to full-bodied with some dusty tannins and a twist of rusticity. After 18 months in French oak barrels, it was kept in concrete for two more years. It’s a canonical blend of 85% Tempranillo, 10% Garnacha and 5% Graciano.”



HONORABLE 2016 || 93 points

“Honorable has always been the most traditional of their bottlings, but the 2016 Honorable shows a lot less oaky than in past vintages. The wine is fresh and balanced, keeping its balsamic side but giving more room to fruit and chalkiness, coming through as cleaner and more focused. I’m sure the freshness of 2016 has helped, but there is a clear line of progression in all the wines, and Honorable is not an exception. This should develop magnificently in bottle. It’s mostly Tempranillo with some 10% made up of other red and white varieties—Viura, Malvasía, Garnacha Tinta, Mazuelo and Graciano—with good ripeness and freshness. It matured in French oak barrels for 18 months.”



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GÓMEZ CRUZADO TERROIR SELECTIONS



PANCRUDO 2018 || 96 points

“The 2018 Pancrudo was singing and hitting on all cylinders on a sunny Saturday morning in Madrid when I tasted it. This is like an upgraded version of the already phenomenal 2016, floral, delicate and complex, elegant and full of light and energy. The wine has gobsmacking balance and a rare combination of power and elegance, ripeness and freshness that is hard to achieve. The oak is perfectly integrated and folded into the fruit; there is subdued minerality; and the wine is nicely textured, seamless and velvety, with lots of inner strength. A wine like this should be very long lived. Among the best Garnacha in Rioja and the country... Two-thirds of the volume matured in oak barrels for 12 months and the rest was kept for the same time in concrete eggs.”



CERRO LAS CUEVAS 2018 || 95 points

“The Pancrudo Garnacha was a hard act to follow, but the 2018 Cerro Las Cuevas, their “Selección Terroir” produced with a blend of 80% Tempranillo, 12% Graciano, 5% Garnacha and 3% Mazuelo from two ancient and beautiful vineyards in Ollauri, was able to keep it up. This follows the line of the 2017 and fermented in stainless steel with indigenous yeasts and matured in 3,800-liter oak foudre and two barriques. It’s elegant and perfumed, mixing notes of flowers, wild berries and herbs with transparent oak. On the palate, the tannins are very fine and provide a chalky texture, the flavors are clean and pure, and there is a nice sense of harmony. This is also superb.”



MONTES OBARENES 2016 || 95 points

“The white 2016 Montes Obarenes has to be one of the finest modern classical whites from Rioja. With a Burgundian twist and the finest vintage for this blend of Viura with 25% Tempranillo Blanco, it’s a reinterpretation of the whites that were traditionally produced in Haro. Eighty percent of the volume fermented in new French oak barrels and the rest in concrete eggs, where it matured with lees until bottling. It has balsamic notes and a chalky sensation in the palate that reveals precision and freshness. There are notes of chamomile and dry flowers, fine wood and smoke. It has great balance, purity and length with a dry finish. It’s austere and serious, with great elegance. This should age magnificently in bottle.”