



Name of Wine: Viña Albina Gran Reserva

Producer: Bodegas Riojanas

Region: Rioja Alta, Spain

Vintage: 1998

Grape Varieties: **80% Tempranillo** Spain's principal native red grape, used in Spain's best wines often as a blending component, it has long aging potential, **15% Mazuelo** aka Carignan in France and Cariñena in others areas of Spain, a variety that produces robust, well-balanced wines and **5% Graciano** A small, tough-skinned variety, it adds tremendous finesse and ageing capability, ie. tannins to a blend

Grape Source:

Vineyards: The grapes for the Viña Albina Gran Reserva come from sustainably dry-farmed estate owned vineyards planted in the towns of Cenicero, Sonsierra and Villalba de Rioja located in Rioja Alta.

Vinification:

Harvest: Hand harvested.

Maceration/Fermentation: Fermentation done in stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged 24-30 months in American oak and spends another 36 months aging in bottle before release.

Other: **Alcohol Volume:** 12.5%

Tasting Notes:

"Medium red. Captivating aromas of redcurrant, candied cherry, rhubarb, vanilla bean, cured tobacco, cedar, mocha and dried flowers. An elegant, suave midweight with wonderfully sweet, mellow red fruit flavors and an array of exotic spice accents. The supple, persistent finish features lingering cherry and red berry flavors."

92 points Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, Sep/Oct 06

History:

Bodegas Riojanas, S.A. was founded in 1890 by several of Cenicero's old families who possessed a long-standing wine-making tradition and a large number of vineyards in the township. The proprietors have been winegrowers, producers and exporters from the beginning and some of the best vineyards in Rioja Alta and Alavesa. Although their most prized grape is the Tempranillo, a high quality red varietal which is the undisputed king of Spanish wine production. Mazuelo and Graciano is used to blend with the Tempranillo to create classically styled reds and Viura and Malvasía are used for the white wine production. Since its foundation, the elegant bodega located on the main street in Cenicero has undergone eight extensions to keep up with production and modernization over the years.

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