

Abel Mendoza

JARRARTE

VINTAGE
2016

ABV
14.50%

RS
1,51 g/L

PH
3.8

TA
4,70 g/L



BLEND

100% Tempranillo



THE WINE

This Jarrarte is an evolution of the Carbonic Maceration wine of the same name that came about in the early '90s when Abel and Maite introduced barrel aging to their winemaking.

“Jarrarte” is the name of an area next to the river that flows through San Vicente de la Sonsierra in Rioja. The area once belonged to the kingdom of Navarre, and the word has roots in the Basque language. “Arte” (between) and “Jarra” (stones). This is an homage to the soils of the region which are very stony and alluvial.

The grapes for this wine come from different plots, all roughly 35 - 45 years old. Each parcel is chosen for the blend based on its particular vintage characteristics. The fruit is sorted, destemmed (but not crushed) and fermented in stainless steel tanks. After fermentation, the wine is pressed off the skins and placed in concrete tanks for malolactic fermentation.

After malo, the wine is racked into one part new French oak barrels and one part into the barrels that their white wines were in. Usually the proportion is 50/50, but it can go 60/40 depending on vintage. The wine ages in barrel for 12 - 13 months, depending on taste. It is then bottled and cellared for about 3 years before release.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTE

On the palate, it is dry and with fresh structure. Full and lush mouthfeel. Slight astringency brought about by pleasant tannins. It finishes with a sensation of mellow, dry sweetness produced by the glycerin and alcohol integration. All balanced with an enveloping mineral touch.

92 POINTS - WINE ADVOCATE

I tasted the red Tempranillo 2016 Jarrarte next to the 2015, a comparison that is always interesting to see how the wines behave in two very different years. 2015 was considered warm but was somewhat underrated, and the wines are evolving better than expected. 2016 was cooler and perhaps a little overpraised, and the wines can be more heterogeneous. 2016 marked the red wines but in a very positive way. The wines are expressive, open, aromatic, fresh and elegant, with very good harmony and elegance. It might not be a homogeneous year, but what I tasted here is superb. I haven't seen this level of precision and elegance in a Jarrarte before. 13,902 bottles were filled in September 2018, after almost one year in barrel.