

LA COMTESSE 2018

Rías Baixas, Spain



VARIETALS
100% Albariño

OVERVIEW

Pazo de Barrantes, a wine that captures the subtle flavor and freshness of albariño, comes from one of the largest single estates in Salnés Valley, Rías Baixas D.O. of Galicia, Spain. The wine's true albariño character is a direct reflection of the Creixell family's core values of quality and estate-owned vineyards, paired with a modern winemaking approach and the latest technology.

The grapes used to elaborate the wine are sourced from Pago Cacheiro, a 3.7-acre single-vineyard on the Pazo de Barrantes estate. The shallow soils of the estate are granitic with sand on the surface and the average age of the vineyard is 30 years. The vines are trained high on supporting wires in the 'parral' trellis system (also known as Parron), as is the local tradition, to guard against mildew and rot, and to assist ripening.

WINEMAKING

Hand-picked in 20kg crates, the albariño bunches are then destemmed before pressing to avoid any herb flavors. The grapes are pressed slowly and gently to respect and extract the intense aromatic potential that these old vine grapes provide. The must is decanted by flotation to ensure greater aromatic purity and then fermented at 50°F in 3,000-liter French oak vats for approximately 60 days.

Once the juice is settled, fermentation takes place in a temperature-controlled (50°F) 3,000-liter French Allier oak vat for 60 days. In an effort to gain more volume on the palate and a balanced mouth-feel, the wine is left in contact with its fine lees for six months. La Comtesse remains in this same wooden vat for 12 months, followed by 12 months in concrete tanks.

96
POINTS
Robert Parker
WINE ADVICE

The top-of-the-range 2019 La Comtesse comes from a vineyard called Cacheiro, 1.4 hectares of their oldest vines (planted in 1965) that deliver lower yields and aim to showcase the aging potential of Albariño. The must fermented in 3,000-liter oak vats where the wine was kept for 12 months, the first three with the lees, and then it was kept in concrete for a further 12 months. It has a golden color and an intense nose but with subtle aromas and almost no trace of oak. 2019 was a warmer, very complete and balanced year of powerful wines with concentration, clout and very good balance and freshness. This has 13.5% alcohol, a pH of 3.25 and 7.3 grams of acidity. It has a round and creamy texture and is velvety and tender, sleek and elegant. 9,655 bottles and 400 magnums produced. It was bottled in April 2022.

96
POINTS
vinous

The 2018 Gran Vino de Guarda La Comtesse is a 100% Albariño from Pago Cacheiro, a 1.4-hectare vineyard in Finca Barrantes, planted in 1965. Golden yellow, it presents hop-like and herbal notes with fine wood and a creamy, compact palate marked by vibrant freshness. A lightly herbal finish reflects the humid vintage and lends charm.

96
POINTS
JAMES SUCKLING.COM

Scented orange blossoms, mineral, orange zest and pineapples. Intense and taut on the palate with a bright beam of acidity and subtle salinity that melds together before a long and intense finish. Mineral, serious and gastronomic. Drink or hold.



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