

# LA COMTESSE 2019

## *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 Allier oak vats for approximately 85 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 three months. La Comtesse remains in this same wooden vat for 12 months, followed by 12 months in concrete tanks.

**96**  
POINTS  
*Robert Parker*  
WINE

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  
JAMES SUCKLING.COM

It's a joy to taste and drink this Rias Baixas, which shows ripe pineapple, quince, cream, meringue, apricots, seashells and minerals. Substantially full but paradoxically light as well, thanks to its bright acidity. Long, creamy and taut, with a lightly saline ending. A vinous albariño to drink or hold.

**95**  
POINTS  
VINCUS

The 2019 Gran VINO de Guarda La Comtesse is 100% Albariño from Pago Cacheiro, hailing from a 1.4-hectare vineyard within Finca Barrantes. Planted in 1965, this is only the tenth vintage. Aged for five years—one year in 3,000-liter oak casks, one in concrete and three in bottle—it opens with menthol and oak, alongside creamy notes. Broad and compact with elevated freshness, the 2019 offers a saline edge and layered complexity.



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