

## PREMIUM

### Spanish Icons: Marqués de Murrieta, Castillo Ygay Blanco

Ines Salpico presents Marqués de Murrieta's Castillo Ygay Gran Reserva Especial Blanco, a wine produced just 13 times in over 100 years.



Ines Salpico  
February 11, 2025



Exclusive Highlights Spanish Icons  
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Marqués de Murrieta,  
Castillo Ygay Gran  
Reserva Especial Blanco,  
Rioja

First vintage: 1917

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## Scroll down for the vintage of Castillo Ygay Blanco to try before you die

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Since it was first produced in 1917, only 13 vintages have been released. It relies on Viura and Malvasía grapes (some vintages are single-varietal Viura) from the Capellanía site, planted in 1945.

Aged for about two decades in barrel and – in the case of the 1986 – a further 67 months in concrete, it's a resolutely traditional white Rioja that, with each release, rewards time and patience.

A true pioneer of modern Bordeaux-inspired **Rioja**, Don Luciano Murrieta founded the winery in 1852 near Logroño. The entrepreneurial aristocrat was among the first to release, and the first to export, Rioja wines after phylloxera derailed French production.

In 1983, Marqués de Murrieta Estates and Wines was purchased by the Cebrián-Sagarriga family, with second-generation Vicente Dalmau Cebrián-Sagarriga, the 11th Conde de Creixell, currently at the helm.

The Galician family remained faithful to Murrieta's heritage and style, while also consolidating its premium focus.

Marqués de Murrieta produces exclusively from its own vineyard: the sprawling, continuous 300ha Finca Ygay. Within it, three plots – Canajas, La Plana and Capellanía – have been singled out for the production of the winery's top wines.

Among them is the flagship Castillo Ygay, named after the historical structure at the centre of the

estate, converted into a museum in 2019.

## The wine to try before you die



Marques de Murrieta por Pablo Lorente

### Marqués de Murrieta, Castillo de Ygay Gran Reserva Especial Blanco, Rioja 1986, 99pts

*£705-£1,000 (ib) Berry Bros & Rudd, Fine & Rare  
US\$950-\$1,100 Binny's, Connecticut Avenue Wine & Liquor, Italian Wine Merchants, Wally's*

97% Viura and 3% Malvasía, aged for 21 years in 225L American oak barrels, then a further 67 months settling in concrete tanks.

A complex, nuanced and sinuous journey through the palate, expertly balancing nutty depth, floral allure and zesty freshness. Intense, well-defined flavours of pickled walnut, linden, wet hay, camomile, preserved lemon, red apple peel, quince and nectarine fill the mouth without ever becoming weighty. Incredible structure – outlined by intense spiciness – and depth.

Finishes with luscious honey, pain aux raisins and toasted brioche.

**Drink:** 2025-2038 **Alcohol:** 13.5%

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# Spanish Icons: Marqués de Murrieta, Castillo Ygay Blanco



Marques de Murrieta, Castillo de Ygay Gran Reserva Especial Blanco, Rioja Alta, Spain 1986

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A complex, nuanced and sinuous journey through the palate, expertly balancing...

Points 99

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