



La Quinta Cruz > Mazuelo

2021

D.O.C.A. RIOJA ALTA

Miguel Merino

THE GRAPE

Mazuelo is a fertile, vigorous plant which requires a long-cycle to reach complete ripening. It is also sensitive to many diseases. All this explains why Mazuelo is more adequate to the Mediterranean latitudes than to an Atlantic influenced land as Rioja Alta. Only the extraordinary characteristics of our Quinta Cruz vineyard allow us to make this wine in our town.

THE VINEYARD

La Quinta Cruz was planted in 1986 in the Southeast slope of Calvario Hill, in Briones, very close to the Ebro River. It is a steep vineyard of 1.2 ha. with very thin topsoil of sand and gravel, completely covered by round pebbles. All these factors prevent Mazuelo from behaving as it is, fertile and vigorous, and allow us to make a 100% Mazuelo wine in the Atlantic-influenced Rioja Alta region.

THE VINTAGE

2021 was a good year at Rioja Alta region. The year started with heavy snow storms and rain until February. We were not lucky in Spring: three hail storms in one week, just one month after quite a big frost marked the beginning of the vine cycle. Then Summer was particularly dry, which didn't help neither. Fortunately, some rain came in September and the weather was just great during the harvest (long, sunny days with dry, chilly nights). We were able to achieve a slow harvest, which was also low in yielding. The grapes were small and intense, with slightly high sugar levels and balanced acidity.

WINE-MAKING

The grapes were picked by hand on October 13th, and transported in small crates to the sorting table, then fermented in a small stainless-steel tank at a controlled temperature of 24-25°C with very few remontages.

AGEING

Then, the wine went through malolactic fermentation in two 500-litre French oak barrels and one concrete tank of 1,300 litres, where it stayed for 12 months.

BOTTLING

3,085 bottles of our La Quinta Cruz 2021, one of the very few Mazuelo wines in Rioja, but also one of the rare single-estate brands in the region .

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