



La Quinta Cruz > Mazuelo

2022

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

2022 was an extremely hot and dry year in Rioja Alta. We suffered the hottest month of June since there are records, and we didn't get any rain until mid-August. Harvest came really early in some of our neighbour villages but not so much for us. We started our harvest in Sept 21st, with long, sunny days and cool nights. In general terms, 2022 was a vintage of balanced wines for us, with acidities a bit low, content sugar levels, good fruit and concentration.

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

3,499 bottles of our La Quinta Cruz 2022, one of the very few Mazuelo wines in Rioja, but also one of the rare single-estate brands in the region.