



IPO WINES

2020 Dominio del Águila Picaro Clarete

IMPORTED BY European Cellars (Eric Solomon)

COUNTRY

Spain

REGION

Castilla Y León

APPELLATION

Ribera Del Duero

SOIL TYPE

Sandy clay limestone

VARIETAL(S)

0% Bobal

0% Garnacha

0% Albillo

0% Tempranillo

FARMING

Organic

WINEMAKER

Jorge Monzon Pascual

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

One of the newest estates in Ribera del Duero, Dominio del Águila, was founded by Jorge Monzón and Isabel Rodero in 2010. Located in the village of La Aguilera, Jorge farms 30 hectares of vines organically with ongoing experiments with biodynamics. Like his neighbors, he relies primarily on the Tempranillo grape for his wines. Beyond that, all other similarities end.

At Dominio del Águila there is no Cabernet Sauvignon, no Merlot and certainly no Malbec or Petit Verdot, instead Jorge relies on Bobal, Garnacha, Tempranillo Gris and Albillo to add complexity to his wines. The vineyards are all over fifty years in age, and located on sandy and rocky clay soils. Jorge has acquired these plots over the last decade while working at Bodegas Arzuaga-Navarro which he departed in 2013 to work full time at his own estate. Before 2010 he sold his grapes to several high-profile neighbors. Proving the old adage that, "it takes a lot of beer to make good wine," Jorge also operates a microbrewery on the estate brewing beer entirely from local ingredients.

Jorge comes from a family with a long tradition of growing grapes and making wines. He has studied in Bordeaux and Burgundy and has worked at both Domaine Romanée-Conti at Vega Sicilia before joining Arzuaga. His studies and travels taught him several important things: the importance of organic farming, an appreciation of old-vines, a desire for elegance and transparency and all the skills necessary to combine these ideas to make remarkable wines.

Jorge and his wife Isabel, who is an architect, have renovated an ancient cellar in the village of La Aguilera dating to the 15th century. They installed concrete tanks for fermentation and placed a barrel room in the coldest part of the subterranean cellar. Natural yeast co-fermentations are the first step in the process with pigeage done by foot. After primary fermentation the wines are placed in French oak for malo and aging. With such cold temperatures in the barrel room the evolution of the finished wines is gradual allowing for the development of greater complexity.

WINE NOTES

Don't call it rosé. It's pink, but it's clarete. Many years ago Clarete was a common product of Ribera del Duero, not classically a rosé but certainly pink in color. Picaro Clarete is made by treading a mix of whole cluster red and white grapes bunches in tank followed by a couple days maceration then into oak vats for a slow fermentation by indigenous yeasts. After about 8-9 month in vat, the wine is transferred to neutral French and American oak barrels where it ages for 16 months before bottling.

This combines power and elegance, and it's still young and only starting to develop the perfume that is the giveaway for this wine. This is a very pretty and pleasant wine, tasty and easy to drink. A crowd-pleaser.

