

Casa la Rad Blanco 2015 (White Wine)



The Casa la Rad wines are produced from the oldest vines on the the Casa la Rad estate in Rioja Baja. The large, family-owned estate is located in the northern foothills of the Valle de Ocón, and encompasses 2,000 acres; mostly native oak forest, with 272 acres of vineyards, and 37 acres of olive groves. The remainder of the estate is dedicated to growing almonds and cereal crops. They seek a balance between their activity and the local environment so as to sustain or improve its vitality and biodiversity.

Appellation	Rioja Baja
Grapes	50% Chardonnay, 30% Malvasia, 20% Viura, from the 50+ year old, <i>La Rad</i> single vineyard
Altitude / Soil	660 - 750 meters / calcareous soil
Farming Methods	Organic methods (not certified)
Harvest	Hand harvested into small boxes
Production	Alcoholic fermentation in 500L oak vats, malolactic conversion in 225L barrels
Aging	Aged for 12 months in new French oak barrels
UPC / SCC	8 436002 580509 /

Reviews:

“The regular bottling of Rioja Blanc from Casa La Rad is again a rather surprising blend of fifty percent Chardonnay, thirty percent Malvasia and twenty percent Viura. The chardonnay vines are fully forty years of age, so obviously this has been an important component here for quite some time. The chalky vineyards are farmed organically and the wine is barrel-fermented and then aged in one hundred percent new French barriques for twelve months prior to bottling. The 2015 Blanco offers up a pretty nose of white peach, coconut, limestone soil tones, a bit of almond and a well done framing of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is crisp, full-bodied, nascently complex and very nicely balanced, with a fine core and good acidity, lovely focus and a long, quite classy young finish. I have no experience with how a Rioja Blanco with this much chardonnay in the blend will age, but this seems to have the balance to do so. Good juice in a rather unique style. 2018-2030+?”

91+ points, *View from the Cellar* Issue #75 – May/June 2018

