

Genium Excellent 2009



Winery: Genium Celler

Region: Priorat D.O.Q.

Grapes: 60% Cariñena, 30% Garnacha, 10% Syrah

Winery: In the year 2002, six families from the municipality of Poboleda (Priorat) with a long tradition in vine growing decided to join their efforts in order to make high quality wines from their own crops. They own 15 hectares of vineyards between all of the families. 7 hectares are Costers (steeply sloping, high altitude vineyards), 3 hectares of organically farmed vines (Ecologic) and 5 hectares of terraced vines on narrow terraces with two rows of vines each. The varietal makeup of the vineyards includes Garnacha, Cariñena, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Pedro Ximenez and Merlot. Costers vines were planted in 1910 and produce ~300 grams of grapes per vine. Younger vines were planted in 1980 on the terraces and produce between 900gm and 1 kg per vine.

The goal of the winery is to produce wines with a typical character of Priorat. Having vineyards in three different zones of Priorat allows for different character, tone, complexity and personality in the wines. Aging in oak is crucial for the style of wine, as without it the wine would seem unfinished but only light to medium toast is utilized so that wood flavors don't dominate.

Wine: This barrel selection of the most concentrated barrels of Costers sees an additional 2 months aging in new French Allier barrels for a total of 16 months.

Costers Production: Produced from grapes planted on slopes in the region, named "Costers" (dramatically steep land, 45 degrees, where no machine can be used), where the vineyards are practically a hundred years old, a fact that provides a repeatable minerality, concentration and structure in comparison to other zones. The grapes undergo a 48 hour pre-fermentation cold soak followed by temperature controlled fermentation between 84° F to 91° F in small stainless steel vats, and are macerated for a 30 day period. Aged in new French Allier oak barrels of various toasts and coopers for 14 months. Unfiltered.

Reviews:

"The 2009 Excel-lent has a lot to live up to with that name. Fortunately this Priorat is well worth seeking out. It sports a well-defined nose that controls the alcohol (14.5%) well with lifted notes of blackberry, Black Forest gateau, cassis and creamy oak. The palate is sweet and succulent on the entry with layers of pure, ripe blackberry and raspberry fruit that is well-defined and fresh. It is a very well-crafted, decadent Priorat that should age well over 8-10 years or more. Drink now-2022."

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