

# Solarce Blanco 2017 (White Wine)



Solarce are the entry level wines from the Casa la Rad estate in Rioja D.O.Ca. 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.

<b>Appellation</b>	Rioja D.O.Ca.
<b>Grapes</b>	50% Chardonnay, 30% Malvasia, 10% Viura, 10% Tempranillo Blanco
<b>Altitude / Soil</b>	520-600 meters / chalky clay soils
<b>Farming Methods</b>	Organic methods (not certified)
<b>Harvest</b>	Hand harvested into small boxes
<b>Production</b>	Chardonnay was fermented in 600L oak vats, other varieties were fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks
<b>Aging</b>	Chardonnay was aged for 6 months in 225L new French barrel, the other varieties rested in stainless tank prior to final blending
<b>UPC / SCC / Pack</b>	8 436002 580004 / 28436002580008 / 12

**Reviews:** "The Solarce Blanco bottling from Bodegas Casa La Rad is composed of a unique blend of fifty percent Chardonnay, thirty percent Malvasia and ten percent each of Viura and Tempranillo Blanco. The grapes are all grown in organically-farmed vineyards. The chardonnay here is barrel-fermented and aged six months in new French casks, with the other varieties fermented and aged in stainless steel. The 2017 Solarce offers up a complex bouquet of pear, lemon, salty soil tones, white flowers and vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is crisp, fullbodied, focused and complex, with a fine core of fruit, good soil signature, and a long, zesty and gently new oaky finish. It is hard to get used to a white Rioja being half chardonnay, but the wine has good Rioja soil tones and is really quite well made. 2020-2040."

**90+ points** *View from the Cellar*; Issue #86 - March/April 2020

"Light, bright yellow. Smoke-tinged aromas of pineapple, nectarine, orange and jasmine on the perfumed nose. Silky, focused and spicy on the palate, offering fresh citrus and pit fruit flavors and a touch of vanilla. In a juicy, energetic style, delivering firm closing thrust and a lingering floral note. Raised in a combination of new French oak barriques and stainless steel tanks. 2021 – 2025"

**90 points** *Vinous*; Josh Reynolds - April 2021

"The altitude of the vineyards at Casa La Rad, located between 550 and 675 metres, is well suited to the production of white wines in the Rioja Oriental. Produced from lightly wooded Viura with 30% Chardonnay and Verdejo, this is leesy, well balanced and finely oaked with pear and citrus fruit flavours. 2020-23."

**90 points** *Tim Atkins*; February 2020 - *Rioja 2020 Special Report*

"The 2017 'Solarce' is mainly comprised of Chardonnay and Malvasia Blanco. Right away this shows a soft mouthfeel and wonderful feel of tension that runs through the core of salted Marcona almond, kiwi, pink grapefruit and vanilla undertones. With great length and freshness, this has some good aging potential. Drink 2020-2027."

**90 points** *Washington Wine Blog*; Dr. Owen J. Bargreen, CS - July 2020

"White Rioja ages extraordinarily well, and if you find a restaurant offering an older vintage of R. Lopez de Heredia, it is well worth a splurge. This younger example is an intriguing blend based on chardonnay and malvasia, seasoned by some viura and tempranillo blanco. Powerful at its core, the wine seems to implode on itself. Delicious, with scents of talc and white flowers. Buy a bottle to try now, and a few more to forget about for a few years to let the wine open up. ABV: 12.5 percent."

**2.5 Stars** *The Washington Post*; - September 4, 2020

"Keep Summer vibes Going a little longer with this \$15 crisp Spanish Rose"

