

Xi'ipal Syrah 2015 (Red Wine)



Wife and husband team; Raquel and Ivan Grandival started this project in 2010. They farm 40-year-old plots of Tempranillo, Garnacha, Syrah and Graciano at the foot of the mountains near the village of San Martin de Unx. They seek maximum varietal expression through respect of the earth and environment, with minimal intervention in the growing of the grapes.

Raquel seeks to emphasize the unique character of their vineyards by fermenting wine only in cement tanks with native microbes and aging exclusively in large format (400-500 liter) barrels that minimizes oak influence. The Xi'ipal wines are all strictly limited production from unique, single vineyard plots.

Appellation	Navarra D.O.
Grapes	100% Syrah from the single, 16 year old La Celada vineyard
Altitude / Soil	500 meters / extremely stony
Farming Methods	Exclusively organic methods
Harvest	Hand harvested into small boxes
Production	3 day cold pre-fermentation maceration, followed by fermentation with native microbes in cement tanks
Aging	Aged for 12 months in 400L French oak puncheons; total production of 3,978 bottles
UPC / SCC / Pack	8437012831018 / 18437012831015 / 6

Reviews:

"I've traveled to Navarra sporadically for more than 20 years, and confess to being somewhat surprised that the region hasn't managed to make a bigger dent in the American market. Starting after my first visit in 1997, I guessed that the widespread usage of French vine varieties would help Navarra gain traction in the USA, but events have proved me wrong. Be that as it may, my qualitative evaluations are definitely better than my commercial predictions (which is why it is a good thing I'm a reviewer rather than an importer!), and there's no doubt that is a superb wine being offered at a price well below its value in relation to fine Syrah from anywhere – including the northern Rhône. Very deeply pigmented and quite dark in color, it shows expressive aromatic notes of violets and black raspberries, followed by delicious, rich fruit with just the right touch of spicy oak and lots of supple, fine-grained tannins. Gutsy but still classy, this is terrific Syrah." **93 points Wine Review Online**; October 8, 2019

"Vivid purple. Powerful black/blue fruit, licorice, smoked meat and floral pastille aromas are complemented by sneaky vanilla and olive nuances. Sappy and nicely concentrated, offering bitter cherry, blueberry and fruitcake flavors that are sweetened by suggestions of vanilla and cola. Shows strong, spicy lift on a very long, gently tannic finish that echoes the olive and blue fruit notes. (Fermented in concrete tanks and aged for a year in used, 400-liter French oak barrels.) Drink 2021-2029"

92 points Vinous Media; "Spain's Northern Regions Keep it Cool" – March 2019

"As I mentioned last year, the Xi'ipal Syrah from Bodegas Caudalia is from the vineyard of "La Celada", which is a very stony terroir situated at five hundred meters above sea level. The vineyard is farmed organically (though not yet certified) and the wine is fermented with indigenous yeasts in cement tanks, with the malolactic fermentation taking place in French puncheons. The 2015 is ripe and classy on the nose, offering up scents of black raspberries, black cherries, pepper, lovely meatiness, stony soil tones, woodsmoke and a nice touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and classy, with a good core, fine soil signature, ripe tannins and a long, complex and gently warm finish. This too is 14.5 percent alcohol, but carries it quite well. 2020-2040." **91 points View from the Cellar**; October 2019

