

Acentor Rioja 2020 (Red Wine)



Isaac Fernandez Seleccion is a unique collaborative venture between two individuals – Isaac Fernandez one of Spain’s most acclaimed winemakers and Aurelio Cabestrero whose vision and commitment helped bring Spanish wines to the forefront in the United States. 2011 was a busy year for the partners as they launched several new wines, a Verdejo from Rueda, a Bobal from Utiel-Requena and this project focused on beautiful old vines of Garnacha grown on the high slopes of Calatayud in what was once the ancient kingdom of Aragon. Acentor is named for the small brown birds, similar to starlings which come to eat ripe grapes, always a sign that they are nearly ripe enough to make great wine.

Appellation	Rioja D.O.Ca.
Grapes	85% Tempranillo, 10% Graciano, and 5% Maturana Tinta
Altitude/Soil	550 meters / rocky, lime-rich clay
FarmingMethods	Sustainable methods, including Integrated Pest Management
Harvest	Hand harvested into small bins
Production	Fermented with native yeasts in stainless steel tanks
Aging	Aged for 10 months in French oak barrels
UPC/SCC/PackSize	8-437012-498655 / 8-437012-498662 / 12

Reviews:

“Isaac Fernandez Seleccion 2020 Acentor (Rioja). A complex blend of classic Tempranillo, fruit-friendly Garnacha, acid-driven Graciano and the obscure while intense Maturana. Black fruits and tobacco, cedar and oak spices join an earthy finish for a compelling and distinctive Rioja. Melting tannins carry into a persistent finish.”

92 Points Wine Enthusiast; Best Buy. —E.C.B; October, 2025

“2020 Acentor Rioja- The 2020 Acentor Rioja is mostly Tempranillo with 10% Graciano and 5% Maturana blended in. Very fresh and neatly textured, this offers Mandarin orange zest alongside red raspberry and thyme flavors. Great to enjoy now, savor this beauty over the next seven years to come. Drink 2023-2030-”

91 points OwenBargreen.com; Owen Bargreen - October, 2023

“2020 Rioja Acentor BEST BUY There’s substantial weight and depth of fruit in this wine, needing plenty of time in a decanter to show itself. A blend of tempranillo (85 percent) with graciano and maturana, this is all black-cherry skin and asphalt at first, taking on a refreshing petrichor tone as it opens with air.”

90 points Wine & Spirits Magazine; Winter Edition, November 2023.

“The 2020 Rioja Tinto from Acentor is crafted from a cépages of eighty-five percent Tempranillo, ten percent Graciano and five percent Maturana Tinta. The fruit is hand-harvested, fermented with indigenous yeasts and aged in used French barrels for one year prior to bottling. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a complex blend of black cherries, black raspberries, cigar wrapper, a fine base of dark soil tones, a nice touch of Rioja spice tones and a discreet framing of smoky oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and ripely tannic, with the first vestiges of velvetiness peering out on the attack, a good core, tangy acids and a long, chewy and promising finish. This is still quite youthful and needs to tame its tannins a bit, but all of the constituent components are in place to be a fine bottle once it softens up. It is an excellent value for those who are willing to tuck it away in the cellar for a while before pulling the cork. 2030-2065.”

89+ points View from the Cellar; John Gilman - Issue #103 January/February 2023.

