

# Aptus 2020 (Red Wine)



Winemaker, Miguel Ángel Peñalba Martínez, has lived in Ribera del Duero for his whole life. He studied Chemistry, wine making and business and has been managing over 250 hectares of grapes for more than 10 years. He has transitioned many of these vineyards from traditional agriculture to organic practices and continues onward to biodynamic management of these sites. He produces two wines from vineyards that he controls, incorporating biodynamic practices in all aspects of farming and harvest. All of the grapes are sourced from villages around Aranda del Duero and include historic varieties that are now exceptionally rare in the area including Albillo, Garnacha and Monastrell. Grapes are harvested into small boxes so that they arrive to the winery intact and in the best possible quality.

<b>Appellation</b>	Ribera del Duero D.O.
<b>Grapes</b>	95% Tempranillo, 5% Garnacha and Monastrell
<b>Altitude / Soil</b>	800 meters / sand and gravel with clay at lower elevations
<b>Farming Methods</b>	certified organic methods; biodynamic farming (not certified)
<b>Harvest</b>	hand harvested on Sept 30 and Oct 1 in relation to the lunar calendar and with respect to biodynamic "fruit" day
<b>Production</b>	3-day cold maceration, fermentation with native microbes for 8 additional days with skins, malolactic conversion in barrel
<b>Aging</b>	Aged between 6-8 months in used, 80% French and 20% American oak barrels.
<b>UPC/SCC/Pack Size</b>	8437009198124 / 18437009198121 / 12

## Reviews:

"Biodynamically grown and aged for just 9 months in used barriques, this is a wine that's evidently intended to display pure primary fruit — which it does, and brilliantly. To emphasize "pure primary fruit" as I have done here runs the risk of suggesting that the wine is simple (which it is not) or unstructured (which it is not). On the contrary, the wine is impressively complex despite its youthfulness, but the complexities are nuances in the fruit as grown in the vineyard rather than derived from cellar treatments. Moreover, the wine has very good acidity and tannic structure, but these components are so well integrated with the fruit's character that they don't come across as distinct elements unless one is tasting critically and trying to focus on them. In sum, this is utterly delicious young wine that should be credited for exactly those attributes — rather than being regarded as just "good" because it isn't overly pushy or in need of a decade of cellaring."

**92 points Wine Review Online;** Michael Franz; Nov 21, 2023

"Dark violet in the glass, this wine offers a nose of black currant and anisette. Flavors of black cherry and blackberry with notes of dark chocolate, coffee bean, clove and eucalyptus are framed by plush tannins that last into an enduring finish. " **Best Buy.**

**91 points Wine Enthusiast;** Mike DeSimone - Issue May 2023

"The 2020 Aptus is a nicely concentrated effort, with forward black fruit and chocolate flavors that mingle well with dusty soil accents on the palate. Enjoy now. Drink 2023-2029-"

**90 points Owen Bargreen;** Owen Bargreen - October, 2023.

"The 2020 Aptus Tinto from Bodegas Peñalba Herraiz is produced from a cépages of ninety-five percent Tempranillo and the other five percent a mix of Garnacha. The 2020 vintage comes in at 14.5 percent octane this year and delivers a lovely, complex nose of red and black cherries, dark chocolate, cigar wrapper, a good base of soil and a nice framing of cedary new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, ripe and full-bodied, with a fine core of fruit, firm, buried tannins, good focus and a long, well-balanced and gently warm finish. This is a good bottle in the making, which I would love to have seen just a touch lower in alcohol, but that is the nature of global warming in Ribera del Duero these days. 2028-2055." **90 points View from the Cellar;** John Gilman - Issue March/April 2022.

