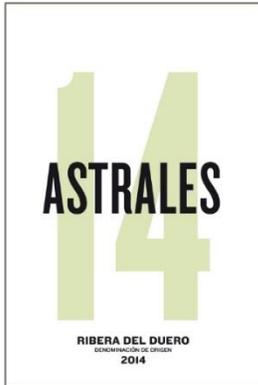


Astrales 2014 (Red Wine)



Bodega Los Astrales began work at the end of 2000 at the hands of the Romera de la Cruz family, a family with 3 generations of wine growers. They produced their first vintage in 2001 under the guidance of Technical Director Eduardo Garcia. Pepe Hidalgo has been making the wines since the 2013 harvest.

Astrales started with 15 hectares of vines aged between 20 and 70 year old. In 2003 and 2004 they planted another 14 hectares, increasing their holdings to their current 29 hectares. Vines are grown in vaso form with shorter trunks than in most of Ribera del Duero helping to shield the vines from the strong, local winds. This local wind contributes to the accumulation of polyphenols and sugars. No chemicals are used in the vineyard.

The focus of the winery is to extract all of the character of old vine, head pruned, organically farmed Tinto Fino. The clay soils and cooler than average mesoclimate are key to producing wines with excellent balance, length, aromatic complexity and fresh acidity.

Appellation	Ribera del Duero D.O.
Grapes	100% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo)
Altitude / Soil	820-880 meters / clay-rich alluvial soil
Farming Methods	Traditional methods, no herbicide use
Harvest	Hand harvested into small boxes
Production	Hand sorted prior to fermentation and malolactic conversion in stainless steel tank
Aging	Aged between 16-18 months in 80% French and 20% American oak barrels, 33% new
UPC / SCC / Pack	8437006813211 / / 12

Reviews:

"Although this is a "big" wine in terms of concentration, depth of flavor and sheer flavor impact, it also shows purity and class at every sensory point from the first whiff to the last whisper of flavor in the long finish. There's a notable dose of spicy, toasty oak, but it is perfectly proportioned in relation to the overall weight of the wine and its intensity of fruit. Soft flavors or dark berries and black cherries are totally seductive, and at its current stage of development, there's also a savory undertone beginning to emerge from bottle aging. I reviewed this in mid-summer of 2017, scoring it at 93. As things have turned out, my score was too low, as the wines has exceeded my already-high expectations for it. Mea Culpa. This is a complete and obviously terrific wine." **95 points Wine Review Online**; Michael Franz, October 30, 2018

"...offers up a really superb bouquet of cassis, black plums, cigar wrapper, a fine base of soil, a touch of balsam bough, woodsmoke and a very stylish and discreet framing of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impressively light on its feet, with excellent nascent complexity, fine focus and grip, moderate tannins and very fine length on the well-balanced finish. This carries its 14.5 percent very well indeed and shows no signs of heat, but will need a few years in the cellar to let the tannins soften up a bit and the secondary layers of complexity to start to emerge. It is one of the most sophisticated bottles of Ribera del Duero I have tasted in a long time outside of the purview of Goyo Garcia! 2021-2050+." **93+ points View from the Cellar**; February 2017

"This is an attractive wine that delivers plenty on the nose and palate with ripe blueberry and darker cherry and plum fruit. Tannins have lustrous appeal and light up the finish. Drink now."

93 points JamesSuckling.com; August 2018

"Lusty black-fruit aromas are earthy, oaky and smooth, exemplifying an excellent Ribera del Duero. A palate with pulsing acidity tempers rich flavors of blackberry, chocolate and vanilla. Creamy oak and some fire on the finish guarantee that this will evolve nicely through 2028." **93 points Editor's Choice The Wine Enthusiast**; April 2018

"Opaque ruby. Vibrant red and dark berry and floral scents, along with suggestions of licorice, vanilla and pipe tobacco. Sweet and sharply focused on the palate, offering juicy black raspberry and cherry liqueur flavors sharpened by a vein of zesty minerality. Densely packed yet lithe, delivering solid closing thrust; smooth tannins lend shape and gentle grip. I like the vivacity of this wine."

92 points Vinous Media; Spain's New Releases, Part 2: Triumphs and Travails – May 16, 2017

