

Cartago Paraje de Pozo 2016 (Red Wine)



Bodegas y Vinedos San Roman is a family-owned winery that was founded by iconic winemaker Mariano Garcia in 1998 as Bodegas y Vinedos Maurodos. His vision was to produce world class wines which balanced freshness and longevity in the bottle against the renown power of the region's wines.

In recent years the winemaking team, under Eduardo's direction, has been producing wines in a fresher style, harvested at the optimum moment to balance freshness and richness. This leads off with intense attention to farming exceptional grapes using organic methods and some biodynamic concepts and practices.

In 2017, they released their first single vineyard "reserve" wine called Cartago Paraje de Pozo, which comes from a plot of 45-year-old vines on very sandy soils and sees extended aging in oak barrels.

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| Appellation | Toro D.O. |
| Grapes | 90% Tinta de Toro and 10% Other grape varieties, from an own-rooted, 45-year-old, single parcel |
| Altitude / Soil | 700+ meters / sandy, loose textured soil over clay sub-soil |
| Farming Methods | Practicing Organic, incorporating some Biodynamic principles and practices |
| Harvest | Hand harvested into small boxes |
| Production | Grapes were destemmed and lightly crushed prior to fermentation with native microbes, 2 weeks of skin maceration |
| Aging | Aged in new and used French oak barrels for 36 months |
| UPC / SCC / Pack Size | 8437014707472 / N/A / 3 |

Reviews:

"This is probably the best newly released wine I've tasted in 2021, and we're into late October as I'm writing this, so that's saying something. Only time will tell how great this wine will become as it approaches maturity, but time is very much on the side of this gorgeous, superbly balanced, remarkably intricate wine. So deeply pigmented that there's almost no "edge" to the wine even when tipped in a big glass under bright light, the impressiveness begins optically even before sniffing or tasting. That initial impression is only corroborated on the nose and palate, as the wine shows excellent aromatic expressiveness and very deep flavors, but without the barest hint of excessive oak scents, or any overt heaviness in the mid-palate or finish, which is the magic of this 2016 vintage in several important appellations in Europe, ranging from Bordeaux to Barolo and beyond. The fruit is especially pure in this vintage, showing dark cherry notes at its core but also other shadings of fresh berries, and though "purity" is the prime impression, the wine isn't pure in an un-complex sense. On the contrary, the different "shadings" I just referred to are evident to differing degrees from when the wine first touches one's palate through the finish, and they also show themselves differently as the wine warms and breathes in the glass over time. Oak spice is beautifully interwoven with the fruit flavors, and though wood impressions are somewhat assertive in this new release, they certainly don't overwhelm the fruit at any point the sensory experience that the wine provides even now. Still, there's no doubt this will be significantly better in another 5 years, and better still in 10. Beyond that, I'd be engaging in guesswork, but there's no doubt this has a full decade of positive development ahead of it. Truly a spectacular rendition of Tempranillo."

98 points *Wine Review Online*; Michael Franz – Issue: October 26, 2021

