

Elias Mora Crianza 2016 (Red Wine)



This Bodega, situated in the famous village of San Roman de Hornija, was founded in 2000 by winemaker Victoria Benavides. The winery is named after the former owner of the vineyard, Elias Mora. The winery owns 16 hectares of vineyards and controls farming and harvest in a total of 70 hectares. Each of the dozens of plots are meticulously managed accounting for soil variation and vine age. The vines are planted in clay and limestone rich soils with abundant, large, surface stones. The arid, warm climate naturally limits production and produces concentrated grapes. Vines are trained in the traditional vaso or goblet shape, which yields ideal results but requires extra work, by hand, for harvest and pruning. Some of their best grapes are grown in the Senda de Lobo area which has 80+ year old vines.

The philosophy of the winery revolves around combining a respect for tradition and modern technology. Victoria focuses exclusively on Tinta de Toro the native clone of Tempranillo which has been grown locally, with no exposure to phylloxera, for over 2000 years. The wines are only ever in contact with natural products; oak, glass, natural cork. Finally she seeks to respect vintage conditions knowing that each year will offer different qualities in the finished wine.

Appellation	Toro D.O.
Grapes	100% Tinta de Toro (Tempranillo), from 50-year-old, own-rooted, bush vines
Altitude / Soil	700 meters / clay over limestone with sand and pebbles on the surface
Farming Methods	Practicing Organic
Harvest	Hand harvested into small boxes at the end of September
Production	Whole berries undergo a 3 day cold soak, fermentation and malo-lactic conversion in stainless steel tanks
Aging	Aged for 12 months in 50% French and 50% American oak barrels, all second fill
UPC / SCC /Pack	8-55012-00098-8 / 18550120009883 / 6

Reviews: "Although this terrific Crianza release will ultimately outlive and probably surpass the 2017 Tinto from Elias Mora, it is only barely the better wine in the near term except for those who love oak spice and expect it from their Spanish reds. To be clear, though, the oak is beautifully measured to accent the fruit, which is itself so rich and sappy that it can easily handle the spicy, toasty notes without being overwhelmed. Indeed, the core of fruit is so concentrated and compelling that I'm tempted to write "bloody" rather than "sappy," as the rich texture and salty undertones really do taste like a bloody lip in the wake of one of the pond hockey fights of my youth. Not everyone would like that simile, of course, but the Spanish know a bit about bull's blood...which is surely what this region was named for in the Middle Ages... Terrific now with food but really crafted for a decade's worth of cellaring, you can use it according to your preferences and hit the mark either way."

93 points Wine Review Online; August 2020 Issue

"Brilliant ruby-red. Expressive, mineral-accented aromas of ripe red fruits, candied flowers and baking spices. Sweet and animated in the mouth, offering juicy raspberry and cherry liqueur flavors enlivened by a cracked pepper accent. Smoothly combines richness and liveliness and finishes with sharp focus, lingering sweetness and supple tannins that add gentle grip. 2022 – 2030 " **92 points Vinous;** Josh Reynolds – February 2021

"This is 'just' a Crianza, but it has lovely perfume, balance and precision, with chalky freshness and brightness, fine-boned tannins, violet and red berry fruit and the subtlest dusting of French and American oak. Elegant, even at 15% alcohol."

92 points Tim Atkin MW; December 10, 2020

"This red is rich and deep, in a savory style. Espresso, loamy earth and mineral notes frame currant, fig, cocoa and clove flavors. The muscular tannins are well-integrated, while firm acidity keeps this focused. Compact but energetic. Drink now through 2028. 7,000 cases made, 1,500 cases imported." **91 points Wine Spectator;** October 2020

"Concentrated blackberry and cassis aromas lead to a full and intense palate. Toasty blackberry, cassis, vanilla and chocolate flavors are nothing unusual for this consistent producer, while this crianza feels warm and weighty but doesn't lose clarity on the finish. Drink through 2024."

91 points The Wine Enthusiast; December 2020

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