

Pago de la Jaraba 2021 (Red Wine)



Pago de La Jaraba is a family-owned winery built in the heart of La Mancha. While they can trace a history of notable regard for wines grown on the estate back to the mid-1700's their current goal is to produce high-quality, exclusively estate-sourced, flag-waving examples of the new "modern-traditional balanced" wines coming out of Spain.

They follow traditional, sustainable methods and farm 80 hectares of vineyards. In addition, they also grow cereal crops – wheat and barley as well as sunflowers, almond, pistachio and olive trees. Finally, they raise their own flock of sheep on estate scrub/forest both to enhance and protect soil quality and for production of artisan Manchego cheese.

Appellation	La Mancha D.O.
Grapes	70% Tempranillo, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Merlot
Altitude/Soil	700-750 meters / sandy, clay, chalky, pebbles, limestone
Farming Methods	Sustainable methods
Harvest	Hand harvested into small boxes, as grapes ripen, plot by plot
Production	Alcoholic fermentation in 5,000 liter-French oak vats and malolactic fermentation in 100% new French oak barrels 225 liters
Aging	Varieties were aged, separately for 12 months in new French oak barrel, followed by additional aging in tank and bottle
UPC/SCC/PackSize	8 436025 090436 / N/A / 6

Reviews:

"I should know by now, and yet I never cease to be amazed by tasting the lineup of releases from this producer side-by-side in succession, starting with the least expensive wines and working my way up to this flagship "Pago" bottling. On every step up, I think that the next wine can't match the value offered by the previous one at a higher price point, and on every step up — I'm proved wrong. Of course, I understand that someone looking for a very good, everyday wine at a flinch-free price should go for the \$13 Cosecha 2022 or the \$15 Crianza 2019 from this house. But my initial point remains true: The quality-to-value ratio from La Jaraba just keeps getting better as the wines become more expensive, which is not only contrary to the norm among worldwide wine producers, but also contrary to what economists refer to as the "law of diminishing returns" (which maintains that every additional increment in expense will be rewarded with less and less quality and enjoyment quotient). While trying to avoid getting all professorial about this, here's a simpler explanation: The 2022 Cosecha priced at \$13 is better than almost any \$18 competitor, but this \$30 wine is better than most ringing up for \$50, so in relative terms, this is actually (or at least arguably) the better deal. What really matters, however, is whether this wine is sufficiently gorgeous to truly merit 95 points at a price of \$30...and I'm convinced that any experienced wine lover will agree that it is. Although it went through elevage in 100% new French oak barrels, you'd never know that on account of any overt oakiness at this point in its evolution. It does show the effects of that wood exposure with layers of spice and subtle toast — and indeed it should, given the price of those barrels, which makes the asking price of this wine all the more amazing. Yet the silky texture and pure fruit of the wine aren't remotely compromised by the cooperage, and there's not a hint of astringent wood tannin in the finish to add to any effect of the tannins extracted from grape skins and seeds during maceration and fermentation. That is not an easy outcome to achieve — as will be understood immediately by anyone who knows a bit about vinification. The blend here is 70% Tempranillo, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10% Merlot, and the result is (like the 2021 "Selección Especial") a bit more like what you might expect from Bordeaux than Rioja or Ribera del Duero—despite all that Tempranillo. This is an achievement of a very high order, and a wine that merits the attention both of budget-buyers looking to trade up but also collectors looking for outstanding value wines in a time of economic uncertainty.

95 points Wine Review Online; Michael Franz-November 12, 2025

"This is approachable and delicious, with aromas of bramble with just a hint of vanilla, followed by flavors of cherries and spice. Soft tannins and a lengthy finish make and attractive red wine. " **92 points Wine Enthusiast;** E.C.B; August – September 2025

"The 2021 Pago de La Jaraba from Viña Jaraba (which is their top cuvée) is crafted from a blend of seventy percent Tempranillo, twenty percent Cabernet Sauvignon and and ten percent Merlot. It comes in at 13.5 percent octane and is aged entirely in new French oak barrels for one year, with the wine undergoing malolactic fermentation in cask. The 2021 delivers a deep and complex bouquet of cassis, dark berries, cigar smoke, coffee bean, dark soil tones and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, complex and full-bodied, with lovely depth of fruit, fine- grained tannins, excellent focus and balance and a long, classy finish. This is already starting to get a bit velvety on the attack, but there is enough backend tannin that tucking it away in the cellar for five or six years is merited. It is a fine bottle in the making and a superb value! 2029-2050." **92 points View from the Cellar;** John Gilman, Issue 109, January – February 2024

