

Xi'ipal Syrah 2021 (Red Wine)



Wife and husband team; Raquel and Ivan Grandival started this project in 2010. They farm 40-year-old plots of Tempranillo, Garnacha, Syrah and Graciano at the foot of the mountains near the village of San Martín de Unx. They seek maximum varietal expression through respect of the earth and environment, with minimal intervention in the growing of the grapes.

Raquel seeks to emphasize the unique character of their vineyards by fermenting wine only in cement tanks with native microbes and aging exclusively in large format (400-500 liter) barrels that minimizes oak influence. The Xi'ipal wines are all strictly limited production from unique, single vineyard plots.

Appellation	Navarra D.O.
Grapes	100% Syrah from the single, 16 year old La Celada vineyard
Altitude / Soil	500 meters / extremely stony
Farming Methods	Exclusively organic methods
Harvest	Hand harvested into small boxes
Production	3 day cold pre-fermentation maceration, followed by fermentation with native microbes in cement tanks
Aging	Aged for 12 months in 400L French oak puncheons; total production of 3,978 bottles
UPC / SCC / Pack	8437012831018 / 18437012831015 / 6

Reviews:

"I tasted this wine very shortly after returning from a trip to South Africa during which I tasted some mind-blowingly superb Syrah wines — especially from ancient granite soils in the Swartland region that are akin to the sandy, decomposed granite found in some top sites in France's Northern Rhône Valley. I have admired this wine in the past, but didn't think it capable of playing in the league of what I had just been tasting. I turned out to be wrong — though it took almost two hours after pulling the cork for this to blossom into something truly world-class. It was surely impressive right from the start based on very deep, dark color and noteworthy physical density, but only later did it show the marvelous (and Rhône-like) combination of floral aromatic topnotes, exciting cured meat scents and flavors, and black-toned fruit notes with fascinating herbal accents that characterize the world's most fascinating and seductive Syrahs. Based on how long this took to really show its stuff, you would be well advised to cellar this for several years before cracking into it, or to decant it vigorously for at least an hour before serving it. At \$38, only the top value wines from the best producers in Saint-Joseph can compete with this.

95 points Wine Review Online Michael Franz; September 24, 2025

"The 2021 Syrah "Xi'ipal" from Bodegas Caudalía is made from organically-farmed vineyards, with the grapes hand harvested. The wine comes in listed at fourteen percent octane in this vintage and delivers a fine bouquet of cassis, black raspberries, pepper, garrigue, bonfire, a nice touch of meatiness, stony soil tones and a bit of cedary oak. On the palate the wine is deep, ripe and full-bodied, with a fine core of fruit, good soil undertow, well-integrated tannins and a long, complex and very nicely balanced finish. This is really a fine bottle of syrah in the making just give it time enough in the cellar to soften up its tannins. 2035-2075."

92 points View from the Cellar John Gilman; Issue 117, May-June 2025

