



AALTO

BODEGAS Y
VIÑEDOS

AALTO was created in February 1999 when Mariano García –who had been Vega Sicilia’s winemaking director for 30 years - and Javier Zaccagnini – for 6 years head of Ribera del Duero’s Consejo Regulador- decided to join their expertise in a very special project: to make a wine that in a space of 15-20 years should reach the quality of the best wines in the world. Also, from the very beginning this wine had to exhibit distinct personality.

AALTO is based on three solid pillars:

- The exceptional quality of old Tinto Fino clones (Tempranillo vines which have adapted to Ribera del Duero’s climate and soils). We believe that Tinto Fino can offer similar quality to the world’s best-known varieties: Cabernet in the Médoc, Pinot Noir in Burgundy, Syrah in the Rhône, etc.
- The considerable complexity of our soils combined with the microclimate of our region.
- The winemaking talent and vast experience of Mariano García.

The AALTO project has been one of continual development. We now cultivate 110 hectares of old block Tinto Fino vines in seven villages within the region denominated as Ribera del Duero. We designed and built a modern winery in Quintanilla de Arriba, following strict criteria to ensure optimal winemaking conditions. We use a low temperature chamber to cool harvested grapes prior to de-stemming and harness gravity to move grapes and musts around the winery, thus avoiding aggressive pumps. We ferment in wood, concrete and stainless steel, employing tanks designed by us. Our two underground oak-ageing halls offer excellent natural conditions to allow perfect malolactic fermentation in wood and gentle, controlled barrel ageing.

We offer two wines:

AALTO is the result of our extremely careful selection of grapes combined with expert winemaking. It is a high quality wine which we make every year, except when the climate hinders perfect grape ripening.

AALTO PS (Pagos Seleccionados), is our top wine. It is a selection within the selection, from the very best areas (Pagos) of our vineyards. We expect to be able to offer AALTO PS six or seven vintages each decade.

Today AALTO is widely regarded as one of Spain’s leading wineries. AALTO PS 2001 was voted Spain’s Best Wine in 2005 and our winery has been selected in Paris as one of the Best 100 wineries in the World in Michel Bettane’s and Thierry Dessauve’s recently published book.



TECHNICAL SHEET

AALTO 2009

The vintage:

Winter in Ribera del Duero was colder than usual and there was little rainfall. The cold trend continued through April and the emergence of budding was delayed until May. From that moment on, however, temperatures rose and vine development was very satisfactory. Blooming began on the 19th of June, well ahead of the previous year.

Summer was warmer than average, particularly in August, but it was also characterized by high thermal variations from day to night. September had great solar luminosity and warm temperatures. Cold nights during this period favored impeccable grape ripening. We were able to harvest perfectly healthy grapes which displayed wonderful balance.

The 2009 harvest was one of those perfect intakes that winemakers dream of, and declared "excellent" by the Consejo Regulador (Regulatory Board of Ribera del Duero).

GRAPE VARIETY:

100% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo) from very old vines, from 40 to 100 years old.

Grape origin:

Our grapes come from old vineyards located around seven villages in Ribera del Duero: Roa, La Horra, La Aguilera, Fresnillo, Moradillo, Hontoria and Baños de Valdearados. They were hand-harvested using small, 15 kg. containers which were then brought to manual selection tables and inspected thoroughly.

Oak ageing:

Average oak ageing of 21 months, in 50% new French barrels and 50% one or two year old French and American barrels.

Bottling:

After AALTO 2009 was carefully homologated into a final blend by our winemaker, we bottled it in two stints: the first in November 2011 and the second in January 2012.

Tasting notes:

AALTO 2009 exhibits the characteristics of an excellent vintage. The wine has remarkable balance in all of its aspects. Aromatically, it is intense and complex, offering an intricate panoply of aromas: dark berry fruit, graphite, Indian ink, licorice and noble wood among others.

On the palate it is immediately appealing, with a weighty yet silken attack which soon reveals an impressive balance between fruit, tannins and acidity. Although its structure in mouth is big, the time it spent maturing in oak barrels has conferred on it a notably well-rounded character. Bottle ageing will highlight elegant primary fruit characteristics in the first years of cellaring, developing over a longer period into the seductive subtlety of enhanced tertiary aromas. The wine can be enjoyed now, but will evolve to offer considerable complexity over the next 15 years. We recommend you decant prior to serving. (tasted February 2012).

Analyses:

Alcohol by volume	14,5 %
pH	3,65
Total Acidity	5,0 (expressed in tartaric acid)

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