



**AALTO**  
BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS

## TECHNICAL SHEET **AALTO 2010**

### **The vintage:**

The 2010 vintage has been declared "Excellent" by Ribera del Duero Consejo Regulador (Official Control Board) and rightfully so, as 2010 was one of those perfect years when everything goes well from beginning to end, climatologically speaking.

Winter was particularly rainy. The mild temperatures at the end of April led to budding at the beginning of May. Temperatures continued to rise and vine development was very satisfactory. July and August were particularly warm by day and cold by night. September was dry and balanced, providing a slow and gradual end of ripening. We began to harvest in October, picking grapes in ideal sanitary conditions.

### **Grape origin:**

100% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo), our grapes come from very old vines, ranging from 40 to 100 years old, located around seven villages in Ribera del Duero: Roa, La Horra, La Aguilera, Fresnillo, Moradillo, Hontoria y Baños de Valdearados. We have now also begun to vinify the grapes of our vineyards located in Quintanilla de Arriba and Piñel de Abajo.

We harvest exclusively by hand, using small 15 kg. containers and the grapes are brought immediately to the winery where they are thoroughly inspected in two grape-selection conveyor belts.

### **Oak ageing:**

Average oak ageing of 20 months, in 50% new French barrels, and 50% in one to three year old French and American barrels.

### **Bottling:**

After all 2010 lots from the nine different villages were carefully assembled into a final blend, we bottled it in September 2012.

### **Tasting notes:**

Visually, the color is very dark typical of well ripened fruit. On the nose, it offers floral and fruity aromas that will develop into more complex notes, thanks to the bottle ageing. However, subtle touches of licorice, incense and spices can be perceived from the very beginning.

On the palate, it is intense, round and persistent, typical characteristics of an excellent vintage. The tannins, although highly concentrated, are sweet and smooth. This wine exhibits a remarkable balance in terms of acidity, which allows for a long bottle ageing of at least 15 years if properly cellared.

### **Analyses:**

Alcohol by volume	15%
pH	3,72
Total acidity	5,1 (expressed in tartaric acid)

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**RIBERA DEL DUERO – DENOMINACIÓN DE ORIGEN**



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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 recently been selected in Paris as one of the Best 100 wineries in the World in Michel Bettane’s and Thierry Desseauve’s recently published book.

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