



AALTO

BODEGAS Y
VIÑEDOS

TECHNICAL SHEET
AALTO 2012
AALTO Bodegas y Viñedos - Ribera del Duero

Climatic conditions:

A very cold and dry winter lasted until April when the long awaited rain arrived, including some snow. The beginning of May was also wet and the vines sprouted late, but towards the middle of the month the weather changed, dry conditions arrived and we reached 30 degrees during the day. June was also warm and July quite irregular, with maximal day temperatures ranging from 26 to 38 degrees, but with cold nights, at times down to 15 degrees. August was similar to July and the plants quickly began to suffer from a lack of water. We made the decision to drop 30% of the bunches in order to guarantee the even ripening of the remaining grapes. After a totally dry summer we were in dire need of rain. To our great relief September provided, bringing just enough rain to give a perfect balance to the grapes just at the moment of the harvest. We began picking on the 2nd of October and finished on the 20th.

Grape origin:

100% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo) from very old vines, between 40 and 80 years old, coming from our vineyards in seven villages in the province of Burgos, plus the outcome of younger vines that we planted 15 years ago in two villages of the province of Valladolid.

We harvest in small 15 kg boxes and, once in our winery, all clusters are carefully inspected on two conveyor belt sorting tables.

Average oak ageing:

AALTO 2012 has undergone an average barrel ageing of 20 months in French (85%) and American (15%) oak. Half of the barrels were new and half ranging from one to three years old.

Bottling:

AALTO 2012 was bottled in July 2014.

Tasting notes:

A deep ruby red. On the nose a floral quality emerges, then deeper notes of cherry, raspberry and sweet spice. On the palate, noble spiced liquorice, strawberry and tobacco notes, the velvet tannins supporting flavours that grow in depth and complexity, with dark cherry and mulberry fruit flavours dominating the finish.

This is a wine that is a pleasure to drink now, and if properly cellared, will evolve to further complexity and roundness, at least for the next 10 years.

Analyses: Alcohol by volume: 14.5% | pH: 3.68 | Total acidity: 4.90 (as tartaric acid)



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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.