



AALTO

BODEGAS Y  
VIÑEDOS

## TECHNICAL SHEET AALTO 2013

### **Climatic conditions:**

A mild and rainy winter with average temperatures that exceeded the previous years' led to an early bud-break. March was also rainy followed by intermittent rainfall all the way until June, making 2013 one of the wettest years in Ribera del Duero of the past decade. The weather got colder in those months, with occasional light frost, resulting in a flowering date a little later than usual. July and August brought a change in conditions being hot (fortunately not too hot) and dry, with considerable difference between day and night temperatures. At times during August the diurnal temperature variation was as much as 20 degrees. This is a very important quality factor because it brings of concentration of polyphenols in the skins of the grapes. September is always crucial and fortunately brought mild temperatures and perfect pre-harvesting conditions. We started picking on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October and our harvest lasted until the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **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 2013 has undergone an average barrel ageing of 18 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 2013 was bottled the last week of June 2015.

### **Tasting notes:**

Deep ruby, intense colour, typical of our wines. On the nose it offers floral aromas alongside notes of strawberry, blueberry, and dark plum, as well as liquorice, graphite, tobacco and coffee. In the mouth it is a pleasant, elegant wine showing mineral and spice notes along with a perfectly integrated creamy wood element.

A very complex wine that provides a long finish where the freshness of the fruit comes back to us.

We consider that AALTO 2013, if properly cellared, will evolve into further complexity and roundness for at least the next 10 years.

**Analyses:** Alcohol by volume: 14% | pH: 3.73 | Total acidity: 5.0 gr/l



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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 six 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 and Thierry Desseauve’s recently published book.