

Product code: 2088

## ABEL MENDOZA, BLANCO 5 VARIETALS, DOCA RIOJA, SPAIN, 2018



### Producer Profile

Modest and passionate about his vineyards, Abel and his wife Maite have been making understated wines in San Vicente since 1988.

Lying in the shadow of the Sierra Cantabria, Abel has vineyards in the finest parts of the Alavesa. His knowledge and understanding of the soils is enthralling and to taste in his cellar can be an education on the effects different soils have in different years. He wants only to express the fruit and the soil and unlike many Riojans, he leaves it more or less at that. He does not want to stamp the wines with any particular style or mark of his own other than his respect for the very natural quality of the grapes and for the magical places that they were grown.

### Viticulture

Harvest is carried out by hand, each plot and each variety individually at optimum ripeness. One of Abel's specialties is the vinification of the traditional white Rioja varietals separately in new oak barrels.

### Winemaking

Fermentation in new french barrels and 5 months battonage until bottling.

### Tasting Note

The nose is quite complex, with notes of smoke, yellow and white fruits, white flowers and balsamic aromas. The compact palate shows power as well as plenty of well-integrated oak.

### Food Matching

Complex salads, legumes, braised seafood, braised white fish, cod fish, soft cheese.

### Awards

#### Robert Parker 95 Points

The white blend 2018 5V was cropped from a year that saw hail, mildew and botrytis. It's a blend of Viura, Malvasía, Garnacha Blanca, Torrontés and Tempranillo Blanco that fermented in French oak barrels, where it matured with the fine lees and bâtonnage. In 2018, they used more Malvasía, then Viura, Garnacha Blanca, Torrontés and only a touch of Viura. The aim is harmony and balance, and this one seems like one of the most balanced and harmonious vintages, austere and subtle. But if the nose can feel a little shy, the palate is an explosion—it has electricity and feels vibrant and elegant, with very clean and focused flavors, pure and precise. This should develop nicely in bottle. 4,145 bottles produced. It was bottled in April 2019. LG, 95 Points, June 2019

### Technical Details

#### Varieties:

Viura 35%  
Malvasia 25%  
Others 40%

ABV: 13.5%

Closure: Technical cork

Colour: White

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

### Oak Treatment

Time: 5 Months

Type: French

% wine oaked: 100

% new oak: 100