

Product code: 1711

Abel Mendoza, Tempranillo Blanco, DOCa Rioja, Spain, 2018



Producer Profile

Modest, passionate and in no small part obsessive, Abel Mendoza and Maite Fernández have been making understated wines from their old vine vineyards, high up in the Cantabrian mountains near San Vicente since the late 80s.

His intimate knowledge of the diverse terroirs in this spectacular part of Rioja is enthralling, and every barrel tasted reveals startling provenance and true character of the vintage. Abel doesn't make wines that flatter, they don't speak of oak regimes, but rather of the quality of his fruit, expressed in its most honest form.

Viticulture

Calcareous clay soils, grapes from different plots of young vines.

Winemaking

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

Tasting Note

Ripe yellow fruit on a very intense nose. With more acidity than the red Tempranillo, this is a grape with a great future in Rioja, especially in cold years. It has great length, volume and persistence.

Food Matching

Fish and Rice, White meat, White and oily Fish

Awards

Robert Parker 91 Points

No 2017 was produced, so I only tasted the 2018 Tempranillo Blanco, a ripe white with 14% alcohol from vines averaging six years of age. It fermented in French oak barrels with indigenous yeasts and matured in those barrels for some five months with the fine lees that were periodically stirred. This is the white variety that Abel Mendoza considers to be rounder and gentler, with good ripeness and a pleasant, soft mouthfeel. He looked for places where the grapes didn't ripen excessively and behaved better with yields of around 5,000 kilos, otherwise it can be too concentrated/ripe. That also helps to keep the freshness and is the first of the five white varieties to be harvested. It has some bittersweet flavors and good freshness. The plants didn't suffer in 2016, as there was enough water, and the wine feels more fluid and more relaxed. This can turn tannic in dry years; it behaves better in cooler years. 1,626 bottles were filled in March 2019. LG, 91 Points, June 2019.

Technical Details

Varieties:

Tempranillo Blanco 100%

ABV: 14%

Closure: Natural cork

Colour: White

Style: Still wine

Case Size: 6 x 75cl

Oak Aging

Time: 5 Months

Type: French

% wine oaked: 100

% new oak: 100