

# EL JARDÍN DE LA EMPERATRIZ BLANCO 2020

## CLIMATE CONDITIONS

A very difficult year. The winter was mild, which led to an early budding, 10 days earlier than usual. At this point rainfall totalled 245 litres.

It was a rainy spring all the way through, almost every week some rain fell up to 233 litres in total. This made things very complicated, as there were strong attacks of mildew. The challenge is greater when you work with organic vineyards. Half of our plots already are.

During the flowering period temperatures were low with constant rains, leading to a generalized *millerandage* in all the plots. Many of the flowers in the cluster aborted and did not develop into berries.

Bunches dried by mildew, *millerandage* ... at times everything seemed a disaster. But the greatness of a vineyard is that many situations which are catastrophic for the quantity, become magical to make great wines: vines with little load and very open bunches with small berries.

All this, added to a dry and hot summer, allowed to achieve an incredible maturation resulting in wines that are powerful, but with great finesse.

**Vintage** 2020

**Harvest** Hand-harvested into 180 kg crates, between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Varietals** 100% Viura.

**Wine-making** Refrigerated grapes enter the press under an inert atmosphere. The free run and soft pressed musts go to a concrete tank for a cold maceration with the pulp for 48 hours.

Static settling by gravity and fermentation at a controlled temperature of 15-16°C. Once the alcoholic fermentation is finished the gross lees are removed, and the wine is kept on the fine lees for 2-3 months.

### Analysis

Alcohol	PH	Total acidity	Volatile acidity
13,5% vol.	3,32	5,8 g/l	0,36 g/l

**Production** 42,200 bottles



## RATINGS

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

James Suckling, 2021

90 points

## ORIGIN

**Region** D.O.Ca Rioja, Rioja Alta.

**Terroir** Impressive terroir with a layer of large white pebbles to a depth of about 40 cm, covering a loose, sandy sub-soil. An ideal soil to grow vines, as it has excellent drainage, plenty of light and the roots are well placed to receive all the nutrients they require. The wines produced from this type of soil are fine and elegant.

**Vineyard** Mostly bush vines -80%- with an average age of 60 years, along with 20% of trellis vines.

Yields of 6,950 kg/ha (48,50 hl/ha).



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