

LAS CENIZAS

RIOJA ALTA

Las Cenizas takes its name from one of the most important towns of the D.O.C.a Rioja: Cenicero, in the heart of Rioja Alta, from where the Hernáiz brothers are native. Cenicero means ashtray in Spanish and Cenizas means ashes. A name believed to come from the bonfire ashes that the primitive shepherds left on the surrounding areas of the village.

An iconic village for its vineyards and the quality of its wines.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS 2020 Vintage

2020 was a difficult year. Mild winter temperatures led to an earlier than usual budding in the vineyard, which was affected by a very rainy spring. This made things very complicated as, across the board, there were heavy mildew attacks.

Flowering period continued with low temperatures and constant rain, causing a generalized millerandage in the vineyard. Many of the flowers in the cluster aborted and did not develop into berries.

A situation that, at times, seemed tremendously adverse (bunches dried by mildew, millerandage...), which, however, turned out to be perfect for great wines, thanks to vines with little load and very open bunches with small berries. These conditions were compounded by a dry, hot summer that allowed perfect ripening.

After the adversity, the result is a wine that is powerful, but with great finesse.

HARVEST 16th and 17th of September 2020, in 180 kg crates.

VARIETALS (100%) Tempranillo.

WINEMAKING

Crates are taken by refrigerated truck to the winery at Finca La Emperatriz. Destemmed grapes partially uncrushed fermented in concrete tanks with controlled temperature and indigenous yeasts. Very gentle pump-overs were carried on a daily basis during fermentation, which lasted for 14 days.

AGEING

Aged in French (40%) and American (60%) oak barriques for 13 months.

ANALYSIS

Alcohol: 14,2% / pH: 3,71 / Total acidity: 5 g/l / Volatile acidity: 0,46 g/l.

REGION: Rioja Alta, D.O.C.a. Rioja.

VINEYARDS: Grapes from 3 vineyards: Puentarrón, Los Hundidos and Sanchisnal, planted in the 80's by the Hernáiz family.

TERROIR: Mainly clayey-calcareous soils with gravels in Puentarrón and Los Hundidos vineyards; with clay and lime, which result in a pompous wine with a polished and fruity tannin, unctuous but fresh.

Yields of 4,595 kg/ha (31,70 hl/ha).

PRODUCTION: 14,630 bottles.

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RATINGS

Robert Parker, 2022	91 points
Guía Peñín, 2023	92 points
James Suckling, 2022	92 points
Tim Atkin, 2023	90 points