

# IMPERIAL

## GRAN RESERVA 2009

- 93 points Parker. Wine Advocate
- 93 points Wine Spectator
- 91 points Guía Peñín

Imperial is one of the big names of Spain. It is a true classic in Rioja and was first produced in the twenties. Its name comes from a special bottling for the English market, in a measure called 'Pinta Imperial' or 'Imperial Pint' which is approximately half a litre. It has always been characterised by its very high and constant quality in every vintage.

**Name of Wine:** IMPERIAL GRAN RESERVA  
**Type of Wine:** Red Wine  
**Region of Production:** Rioja  
**Year:** 2009  
**Vintage Rating:** Very Good  
**Grape Varieties:** 85% Tempranillo,  
10% Graciano and 5% Mazuelo.

**Bottle Type:** Bordeaux  
**Case / Bottle Size:** C/6 – 75 cl, Magnum 1.5l

**Alcoholic Volume:** 13.80 % Vol.  
**Total Acidity:** 5.49  
**pH:** 3.42  
**Volatile Acidity:** 0.7  
**SO2 Free / Total:** 33,6/99  
**Int. Colour:** 13

### WINEMAKING

This wine is produced from grapes harvested in vineyards that are over 20 years old in the area around Villalba and Haro in Rioja Alta. They are bush pruned, with low yields, and hand harvested. Only the healthiest and ripest grapes are selected, and following destalking, the grapes are cold macerated prior to a cold temperature fermentation. Following a long maceration to achieve optimum colour and structure, the wine goes through a malolactic fermentation, to refine the wine, and to leave it with the necessary acidity to complete its American and French oak maturation, and subsequent bottle ageing prior to its release to the market.

### VINTAGE / HARVEST DESCRIPTION

Vintage slightly ahead of previous years due to a very hot summer and little rainfall. However, the rains in mid-September (16-18) not only helped to solve the problems of water stress and regain some vineyards production expectations, but were critical to the final quality of the harvest. They balanced the alcoholic maturity and phenolic maturity, yielding a crop of very good quality.

### TASTING NOTES

Intense ruby red color. The nose is rich and enticing with black and red berry fruit and liquorice notes. The palate is generously fruity with toasty oak, supple tannins and savoury balsamic nuances and a long finish.



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