

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

In June, Luis Gutiérrez published his 2019 Spain Report: Rioja in the Market in 2019. He tasted across all CVNE viney and wineries, and we are super happy with what he found in our wines. Read on!



Left to right: Jaime Espino (CVNE Sommelier), Víctor Urrutia (CVNE CEO), María Larrea (CVNE Technical Director), Luis Gutiérrez (Wine Advocate) and Iñaki Sanz (CVNE Operation Director).

Tasting Report

I had never visited CVNE's vineyards or cellars, so I paid a long overdue visit to them. I visited some of the vineyards with CEO Víctor Urrutia and tasted the current range at their historic facilities in Haro. I visited their damp, dark underground cellars full of old mold-covered bottles and was lucky enough to taste a pristine 1947 Imperial that would certainly merit a three-digit score if I wanted to write about it. But I don't want to mix old vintages with current releases, so I resist publishing the notes together unless it's in the context of a vertical or an old-vintage article, because it doesn't make sense to me to distort the current hierarchy of wines (what the scores mean to me) with old, unobtainable bottles. But if you see one of these 1947s, do not hesitate to grab it!





93
2015
Viña Real Reserva

I find it very expressive, aromatic and open, ripe and hedonistic but without excess. It has the soft and approachable profile of the Alavesa wines but with the grip of the fine-grained, chalky tannins. It's gentle but has clout. Delicious!



Viña Real



92
2013
Viña Real Gran Reserva

This classical blend of Tempranillo with 10% Mazuelo and 5% Graciano matured in barrel for 24 months. This is a redder style of Viña Real, a little lighter, less concentrated and more aerial, with a cereal-like twist and a medium-bodied palate with very fine tannins. Good for food.



It's a fresh and light rosé with fruit and acidity. 2018 saw a late harvest that started on October 1st and produced slightly lighter, less alcoholic and more elegant and fresh wines. This goes more in the direction of a white, and in this cool, year it has a vibrant palate. It's tasty, long and very easy to drink.

90
2018
Viña Real Rosado



91
2016
Viña Real Crianza

It's expressive, deliciously aromatic, floral and elegant, reflecting a cool year that delivered fresh wines that seem to be very approachable early on. 2016 is a pretty vintage, but this wine is not banal; it has depth and complexity that's remarkable for the price point. The palate is fresh and balanced, with fine tannins.



94
2016
Pagos de Viña Real

I hadn't tasted the more modern wine from the Viña Real range for a while, and I was a bit surprised to see that they are already releasing the 2016 Pagos de Viña Real, pure Tempranillo aged in new French oak barrels for 18 months.



90
2018
Viña Real Barrel Fermented

Is 100% Viura from a late harvest that managed to keep moderate alcohol and good freshness. It's quite fresh and fruit-driven, easy to drink, subtle and with just a spicy twist.



Viña Real winery.

I've put the wines from Viña Real and CVNE together, as they have traditionally been brands of the same winery; and even though Viña Real now has a separate winery, ownership and the winemaking team are the same. They have been extending their vineyards to use a higher percentage of own grapes for their wines.