

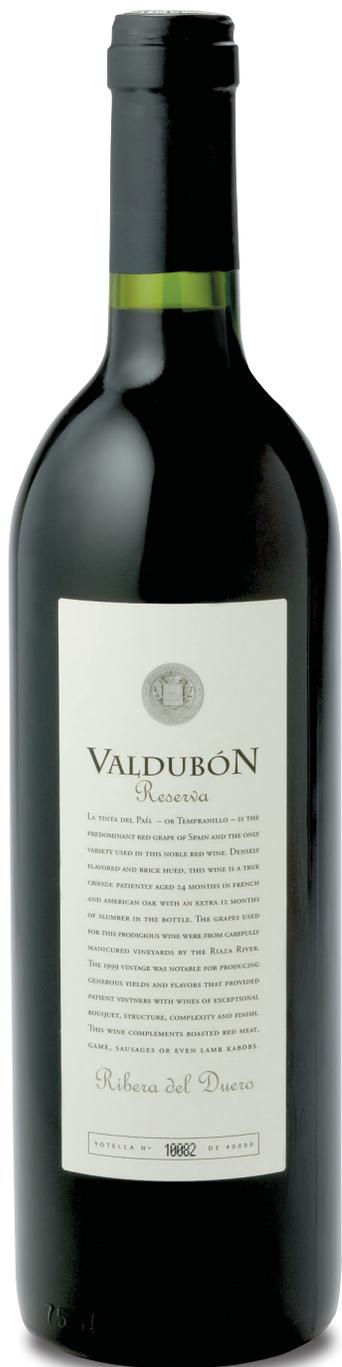


# VALDUBÓN RESERVA

2006



Spain has over 60 Denominaciones de Origen. Ribera del Duero is located in Old Castile in the heartland of Spain. Other notable producers from Ribera del Duero include Vega Sicilia, Alejandro Fernandez, Tinto Pesquera, Ismael Arroyo, and Emilio Moro.



## THE REGION

The *Ribera del Duero* (ree-BEAR-a del DWEAR-o) is a rising star among Spain's many fine wine regions. This *Denominación de Origen* (D.O.) follows the course of the Duero River and is roughly centered on the town of Aranda de Duero, about a two-hour drive north of Madrid, deep in historic Old Castile. The Ribera del Duero vineyards are scattered among the fields of grain, orchards and sheep farms. Vineyards stretch from the river to upland slopes and benchland above the river. The climate is harsh, with cold winters and late spring frosts that can be devastating to the vines. Summer daytime temperatures are often in the 90s or even higher. Nights can be chilly even in mid-summer, which helps to maintain a good acid-sugar balance in the grapes. Summers are usually dry with rainfall rare during harvest. The overall vineyard area is roughly 33,300 acres. This is relatively small. As a comparison, there are about 38,000 acres of vines in Napa County.

## THE GRAPE

Valdubón is made solely from Tempranillo (Tinta del País). The grapes are sourced from several areas within D.O. Ribera del Duero, the principal ones being the villages of Roa, Pardilla and Milagros. The vineyards that supply the grapes for Valdubón Reserva are all over 30 years old and produce grapes with great concentrations of flavors and high aromatic potential.

## THE ESTATE

Bodegas Valdubón is near the town of Milagros, a few miles south of Aranda de Duero. Valdubón was founded in 1997. A state-of-the-art production area and wine-making equipment were recently added to the facilities. The winery is surrounded by just under 100 choice acres of estate vineyards, all planted with Tempranillo.

## WINEMAKING

All the vineyard sites which supply Valdubón are meticulously monitored during the final phase of maturation to enable us to set an optimum harvest date for each site. All of the grapes are hand harvested and sorted before being pressed. Following destemming and crushing, the grapes destined for wines with long-term aging potential are transferred to temperature controlled tanks and fermentation is

carried out at 82°F, with a maceration period of over 21 days. Once racked, the wine undergoes malolactic fermentation during which time it is again analyzed daily and racked clean to prepare for barrel maturation. Valdubón Reserva 2006 was aged in American and French oak barrels for 19 months. During this time the wine was racked from its sediment every four months. Aging was completed with bottle aging, lasting a minimum of 23 months.

## THE HARVEST

The 2006 weather was primarily marked by a typically cold Ribera del Duero winter. The normal rise in spring temperatures was later than usual, and was accompanied by heavy rainfall, making the region one of the few areas in Spain that did not suffer from drought. Finally, an extremely hot summer brought about an early harvest, which was interrupted on several occasions by sporadic rainfall throughout the region from September into October. The result was one of the longest harvests ever known in Ribera.

## TASTING NOTES

Very dense, intense red in color with sparkles of violet. The nose is complex and spicy, rich in ripe fruits, licorice, and dried fruit. The palate is ripe and rounded, silky smooth with fine structure and balanced acidity. To enjoy Valdubón Reserva 2006 at its best, we recommend decanting 30 minutes prior to tasting.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

**Winemaking Director:** Adolfo Heredia

**Winemaker:** Javier Aladro

**Vintage:** 2006

**Origin:** Ribera del Duero

**Grape:** 100% Tempranillo

**Cooperage:** 50% American Oak, 50% French Oak

**pH:** 3.75

**Alcohol:** 14%

**Acidity:** 5.21g/l

# VALDUBÓN

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Valdubón Reserva is part of the Heredad Collection of ultra-premium wines, selected to showcase the finest vineyards and leading DOs (Denominaciones de Origen) of Spain.