



# VAZA CRIANZA

2009



Spain has over 60 Denominaciones de Origen. Rioja is located along the Ebro River in northern Spain. Other notable producers from Rioja include Marques Riscal and Finca Allende.



## THE REGION

Stretching 75 miles along the Ebro River in northern Spain, Rioja (RE-O-HA) is divided into three growing regions. The higher altitude regions to the north, Rioja Alta and Rioja Alavesa, have moderate weather and a fair amount of moisture, while Rioja Baja to the east experiences hot, dry weather. Most of the wines comprise a blend of the zones, and exhibit both fully ripe fruit alongside elegance and balance.

## THE GRAPE

The majority of the grape varieties in the Rioja regions are red, led by Tempranillo, followed by Garnacha, Mazuelo and Graciano. A handful of wineries, known in Spain as Bodegas, have also planted Cabernet Sauvignon. The sole source of grapes for our wines is the Alavesa region, the most prestigious of Spain's Rioja regions and home of the Vaza winery – Solar Viejo. Rioja Alavesa is higher in altitude with low levels of rainfall.

## THE ESTATE

Originating from the word “Baza” which in Spanish means “trump card” or “new beginning” Vaza represents a fusion of Spain's winemaking vanguard and the country's rich wine history. The wines are produced at Solar Viejo, a winery situated on the shoulder of the medieval village of Laguardia in Rioja Alavesa.

## WINEMAKING

- The grape juice was fermented at a controlled temperature of 28°C.
- Extended maceration for 21 days allowing gentle extraction of phenolic compounds.
- Racking allowed light aeration.
- Malolactic fermentation in stainless steel tanks.
- Aged in American and French oak barrels for 12 months.

## HARVEST

The 2009 growing season in Rioja was unusually warm with hot conditions lasting throughout most of the year. Late summer rains helped alleviate stressed vines resulting in larger crop loads of great quality fruit. The harvest was considered by the Regulatory Council of Rioja to be “Very Good.”

## TASTING NOTES

This complex wine has round aromas of red fruit with hints of vanilla and toasted oak followed by flavors of rose petal, leather and tobacco with luscious black plum and raspberry fruit characteristics and a lingering finish. These delightful fruit flavors make this a perfect wine to pair with barbequed meats, stews, and even blue cheese.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

**Winemaker:** Jose Antonio Montilla

**Vintage:** 2009

**Origin:** Rioja

**Grape:** 100% Tempranillo

**Alcohol:** 13.8%

**Acidity:** 5.2g/l

VAZA

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