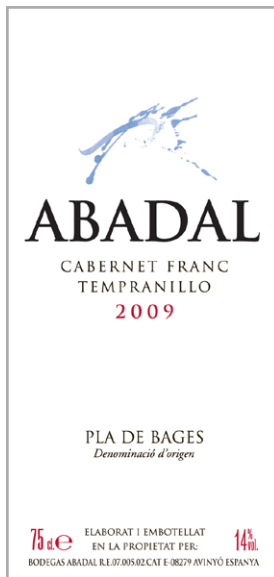


Abadal Cabernet Franc- Tempranillo 2009



Winery: Bodegas Masies D'Avinyo

Region: Pla de Bages D.O.

Grapes: 60% Cabernet Franc, 40% Tempranillo

Winery: Masies D'Avinyo is leading the charge of quality wine production from this, one of the oldest vine growing regions in the world, el Bages, named for Bacchus the Roman god of wine. The vines are cultivated on carefully structured terraces, influenced by a Continental- Mediterranean climate, with low rainfall. This leads to highly structured wines that maintain a freshness and delicacy rarely found in such rich wines.

Vineyards are planted with native and French grapes, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay and

Mando and Picapoll. A strong technical background is used in vineyard management, for example, specific total leaf area per mass of grapes to assure ripeness. This is combined with a detailed interaction with each vintage. In warm vintages, new oak is purchased with lower levels of toast, in cooler vintages barrels with higher levels of toast are used. A combination of French, Hungarian and American oak is used in aging the wines.

Masies D'Avinyo's winemaker, Joan Soler, explains his philosophy as this: "I understand that wine is basically an agricultural product, therefore I look to achieve the best balance in our vineyards (not only in terms of production but also environmental terms by excluding the use of herbicides and by allowing the controlled growth of grass). In terms of winemaking, I have two goals, first to extract as much of the flavor of the grape into our wines, second to allow the aromas of our grapes to be primary in our wines. I look to exclude aromas from the winery or from excessive barrel aging."

Wine: Hand-harvested estate-grown grapes are de-stemmed and then fermented in temperature controlled stainless steel in original 12th century cellars. Maceration lasts only 12 days at moderate temperatures not exceeding 27 C looking to preserve varietal bouquet. The wine is then blended prior to aging for four months in French and American oak barrels.

Reviews:

"Opaque ruby. Black raspberry, sassafras, violet and anise on the nose. Juicy, focused and a bit tight on entry, gaining flesh in the mid-palate and showing bitter cherry and candied licorice qualities. Fine-grained tannins come on late, along with a spicy quality that lingers nicely. This needs a little time to unwind."

88(+?) points *International Wine Cellar* issue 152 Sept/Oct 2010



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