

Becquer Tinto 2007



Winery: Bodegas Escudero

Region: Rioja D.O.Ca.

Grapes: 70% Tempranillo, 30% Garnacha

Winery: All of the wines from Bodegas Escudero come from a large 80 hectare vineyards, *Cuesta de la Reina*. The vineyard ranges from 450 to 700 meters in altitude, 70% of the vineyard has rocky limestone soils with low organic matter, the remainder has iron clay soils which tend to produce more powerful wines. Traditional viticulture without fertilizers or pesticides as well as hand-picking of grapes harvest are core principles in the pursuit of quality wines.

The winery doesn't intend to pursue organic certification, yet their vineyards have been farmed organically for the last ten years. Pest management consists of sulfur and copper sprays and hormone traps for insects. They treat their own waste water in a series of three ponds and then reuse it for irrigation. Finally in their continuing efforts of sustainability, their barrel aging facility is underground with a garden planted on top, a natural layer of both insulation and humidity control.

Wine: Produced from vines with an average age of over 37 years and hand harvested during the last week of September and the first week of October into small boxes. Fermentation proceeded with native yeasts in stainless steel with a maximum temperature of 30° C followed by 10 additional days of post-fermentation maceration. Aged for 8 months in third fill French and Romanian oak barrels. The wine was raked twice during maturation and was fined with egg whites. After bottling the wine was aged an additional 6 months prior to release.

Reviews:

“Ruby-red color. Sexy, expressive bouquet of raspberry, Asian spices and musky flowers; smells a lot like a pinot noir. Then sweet and supple in the mouth, with red berry flavors and seamless texture. Becomes spicier with air and finishes with gentle mineral lift and impressive purity. This is delicious right now.”

90 points *International Wine Cellar* issue 145 July/Aug '09



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