

Penalba Lopez Blanco 2009



Winery: Finca Torremilanos

Region: Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y Leon

Grapes: 50% Sauvignon Blanc, 50% Albillo (White Tempranillo)

Winery: This winery is family owned and has been producing red wines on the estate since 1903. The vineyards are located on the second slope above and nearly 2 km. south of the Duero river at an altitude of 800-900 meters. Soils are deep and composed of limestone, sand and clay in roughly equal proportions along with gravels from the old river bed that are composed of silex and quartz. In some vineyard plots the gravels dominate, for example the Roble Viejo vineyard is predominantly gravel and the youngest vines are 85 years old. The land has been known for its quality and has been planted with vines for more than 100 years.

The estate, Finca Torremilanos, is comprised of 200 hectares of vineyards. 60 hectares are head-trained, en vaso, with the remainder trained to wires. The majority of the vineyards are Tinto Fino with a few small plantings of Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Petit Verdot. The slopes are predominantly north facing and one can see for 60 kilometers from the heights of the vineyards. 100% of the plots are farmed organically and the winery is seeking organic certification.

Wine: This wine is produced from organically-grown, estate grapes harvested from 14 year old vines of Sauvignon Blanc and 70 year old vines of Albillo. The Sauvignon Blanc sees 24 hours of skins contact prior to pressing. All of the wine was fermented and aged in French oak barriques which were coopered at the winery. Two thirds of the barrels were new and one third were one year old. The alcoholic fermentation took 14 days and malolactic fermentation took place naturally during the subsequent aging. The wine spent a total of 8 months in barrel with fine lees and no batonnage. The old vines of Albillo offer a richness, depth and unctuousness in contrast to the acidity and crisp flavors of Sauvignon Blanc. Bottled in May 2010.

Reviews:

“Bright gold. Expressive aromas of melon, white peach, citrus fruits and white flowers, plus a subtle leesy nuance. Tight and firm on the palate, with smoky aromas of honeydew, apple and flowers. Very dry but ripe, with firm underlying minerality and lively acidity contributing energy and finishing cut. This wine’s lees reportedly were not stirred, which surprised me. Albillo mayor is sometimes called tempranillo blanco.”

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