



IPO WINES

COUNTRY

Spain

REGION

Castilla Y León

APPELLATION

Ribera Del Duero

SOIL TYPE

Sandy clay, limestone

VARIETAL(S)

0% Bobal

0% Garnacha

0% Albillo

0% Tempranillo

FARMING

Organic

WINEMAKER

Jorge Monzon Pascual



2018 Dominio del Águila Pícaro Clarete

IMPORTED BY European Cellars (Eric Solomon)

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

As a young student of enology, Jorge Monzón traveled to Burgundy. Despite not speaking a word of French or having any recommendations, let alone experience, he convinced Domaine La Romanée-Conti to take him on as an intern. His eagerness and desire to learn led him to shadow maître de chai, Bernard Noblet, observing all the steps he took to create the famed wines of this historic Domaine. Returning to Ribera del Duero and his hometown of La Aguilera, Jorge worked a couple of years at Vega Sicilia, attempting to create a white wine to rival the estate's reds before becoming the technical director at Arzuaga-Navarro. While working for others, Jorge began purchasing old vineyards around La Aguilera – parcels in danger of being ripped up and replaced with more productive clones of Tempranillo as well as “fashionable” Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, and Malbec. These undesirable vineyards were ancient, unproductive massale selections of Tempranillo mixed with a diverse range of other varieties, including a high proportion of white grapes – all “useless” in a region that prized extraction, production, and the everything new and shiny.

Jorge's years at DRC only focused his vision and conviction that *terruño* and tradition matter. His vineyards, some planted before phylloxera, or right after it struck, were planted exactly as they had been for centuries – predominantly Tempranillo with a wide genetic diversity alongside Albillo, Tempranillo Gris, Cariñena, Garnacha, Bobal, Bruñal and others so obscure that they haven't been identified yet. Ranging in age from 60-150+ years old, it is surprising that these vines survived at all considering the recent trends in Ribera del Duero.

With his wife, Isabel Rodero, Jorge founded Dominio del Águila in 2010, and they have expanded their vineyards to 66 hectares. Farming is certified organic and Isabel, an architect, supervised the renovation of three ancient cellars dating to the 15th century dug deep into the bedrock under the village. Natural yeast, whole cluster co-fermentations are the first step in the process with pigeage done by foot. After primary fermentation, the wines are placed in oak barrels for malo and aging. Their cold, subterranean cellars ensure that their wines' evolution proceeds slowly, allowing for the development of greater complexity and nuance.

WINE NOTES

Don't call it rosé. It's pink, but it's clarete. Many years ago Clarete was a common product of Ribera del Duero, not classically a rosé but certainly pink in color. Pícaro Clarete is made by treading a mix of whole cluster red and white grapes bunches in tank followed by a couple days maceration then into oak vats for a slow fermentation by indigenous yeasts. After about 8-9 month in vat, the wine is transferred to neutral French and American oak barrels where it ages for 16 months before bottling.

93 points, "The 2018 Pícaro del Águila Clarete is riper, comes from a cooler and slow-ripening year and had a shorter élevage, 16 months in French oak barrels. 2018 is one of the greatest vintages in the zone in recent years but perhaps not as fresh as 2016 was. It was a textbook harvest, and all the clarete was bottled without malolactic to keep the vibrant acidity. This combines power and elegance, and it's still young and only starting to develop the perfume that, to me, is the giveaway for this wine, which I found when tasting the 2017 next to this. This is a very pretty and pleasant wine, tasty and easy to drink. A crowd-pleaser. 9,821 bottles and 456 magnums were filled in February 2020." - Wine Advocate