



IPO WINES

COUNTRY

Spain

REGION

Castilla Y León

APPELLATION

Ribera Del Duero

SOIL TYPE

Sandy, clay limestone

VARIETAL(S)

1% Albillo

1% Bobal

2% Garnacha

95% Tempranillo

FARMING

Organic

WINEMAKER

Jorge Monzon Pascual



2020 Dominio del Águila Ribera del Duero "Reserva"

IMPORTED BY European Cellars (Eric Solomon)

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

One of the newest estates in Ribera del Duero, Dominio del Águila, was founded by Jorge Monzón and Isabel Rodero in 2010. Located in the village of La Aguilera, Jorge farms 30 hectares of vines organically with ongoing experiments with biodynamics. Like his neighbors, he relies primarily on the Tempranillo grape for his wines. Beyond that, all other similarities end.

At Dominio del Águila there is no Cabernet Sauvignon, no Merlot and certainly no Malbec or Petit Verdot, instead Jorge relies on Bobal, Garnacha, Tempranillo Gris and Albillo to add complexity to his wines. The vineyards are all over fifty years in age, and located on sandy and rocky clay soils. Jorge has acquired these plots over the last decade while working at Bodegas Arzuaga-Navarro which he departed in 2013 to work full time at his own estate. Before 2010 he sold his grapes to several high-profile neighbors. Proving the old adage that, "it takes a lot of beer to make good wine," Jorge also operates a microbrewery on the estate brewing beer entirely from local ingredients.

Jorge comes from a family with a long tradition of growing grapes and making wines. He has studied in Bordeaux and Burgundy and has worked at both Domaine Romanée-Conti at Vega Sicilia before joining Arzuaga. His studies and travels taught him several important things: the importance of organic farming, an appreciation of old-vines, a desire for elegance and transparency and all the skills necessary to combine these ideas to make remarkable wines.

Jorge and his wife Isabel, who is an architect, have renovated an ancient cellar in the village of La Aguilera dating to the 15th century. They installed concrete tanks for fermentation and placed a barrel room in the coldest part of the subterranean cellar. Natural yeast co-fermentations are the first step in the process with pigeage done by foot. After primary fermentation the wines are placed in French oak for malo and aging. With such cold temperatures in the barrel room the evolution of the finished wines is gradual allowing for the development of greater complexity.

WINE NOTES

Age of Vines: 85+ years. Farming: organic with biodynamic practices. Whole cluster natural yeast fermentation in stainless steel tanks, pigeage. Aging: 35 months in French oak barrels. The Reserva is a wine made from oldest vines near the village of Aguilera. Here the vineyards are mainly Tempranillo, but like old vines everywhere, there are many other varieties, red and white, mixed in. Rather than separate these varieties Jorge feels that a true representation of these sites is best captured by co-fermenting them. This cuvée sees the longest maceration before aging in barrel for nearly three years – half of that time waiting for the malolactic fermentation to finish! This slow elevage results in a wine with remarkable poise and complexity.

97 points, "The nose of the 2020 Reserva is beautiful, perfumed and floral, showy and expressive, really open. The palate is medium to full-bodied, with fine-boned and very fine and chalky tannins. It has 14% alcohol, not a shy red, with power and concentration, freshness and terrific balance. It has a long finish with a touch of licorice and violets. It has to be among the best vintages for Reserva. 2020 was a very good year for Dominio del Águila. It matured in French oak barrels for 33 months. 38,221 bottles and 868 magnums produced. It was bottled in July 2023. It is young but approachable and should age beautifully." - Wine Advocate