

2018 Arizcuren • Valdetrillo • Robert Parker

94_{/100}

The 2018 Valdetrillo is a new Garnacha (with 3% Malvasía Riojana) from a plot in a zone of the village of Quel that gives the wine its name. The vineyard is on sandy soils at 800 meters in altitude, and the plants are ancient (nobody knows how old) and ungrafted. This is a rich, ripe and heady southern Garnacha with a touch of Mediterranean herbs, cherries in liqueur and something earthy/telluric. The nose is hypnotic and makes you go back to the glass over and over. The palate is luscious and reveals pungent flavors that are complex and ever-changing. This has 15% alcohol and matured in used oak barrels for 20 months. Very showy and impressive. There are 765 bottles and 100 magnums.

2018 Arizcuren • Barranco del Prado • Robert Parker

93+_{/100}

The 2018 Barranco del Prado has an extra degree of freshness when compared with the 2015 I tasted before. This was produced with Garnacha from an ancient, ungrafted vineyard at 750 meters in altitude, planted mostly with Garnacha and some other varieties, such as 1% of Miguel del Arco, an old, traditional red variety, and even some white grapes. In a year like 2018 when the grapes ripened thoroughly, this reached 15.5% alcohol and still feels quite balanced, and it has retained very high acidity and a healthy pH. The vines are on sandy soil, which makes them resistant to phylloxera and tends to deliver wines with finesse. The destemmed grapes fermented with indigenous yeasts, and the wine matured in well-seasoned, neutral French oak barrels for 18 months. There are 678 bottles and 64 magnums that were filled in March 2020.

2017 Arizcuren • Solomazuelo • Robert Parker

93_{/100}

I found the 2017 Solomazuelo to be quite classy, showing varietal characteristics with integrated and respectful oak. The variety needs heat and seems to behave well in warm vintages like 2017. It's harmonious, and besides the floral and tree bark-like note of the variety, there is also something fresh reminiscent of orange peel. The palate has superb balance, very fine tannins and good freshness. This is a very elegant Mazuelo! It matured in 225- and 500-liter oak barrels for one year and a further year in concrete vats. 4,332 bottles were filled in November 2019.

2018 Arizcuren • Sologarnacha • Robert Parker

92_{/100}

The 2018 Sologarnacha is ripe and reaches 15% alcohol, giving it a more Mediterranean profile, generous and round, with notes of aromatic herbs and cereals. It has pungent, intoxicating flavors à la Châteauneuf, with a liqueur-like twist in the finish. It's showy and impressive. This fermented in stainless steel with 10% stems and indigenous yeasts and matured in used French barriques, but there are no aromas or flavors from the oak. 2,450 bottles produced.

2019 Arizcuren • Sologarnacha Ánfora • Robert Parker

91_{/100}

This year, the 2019 Sologarnacha Amphora Aging was produced with grapes from a vineyard planted in 2017. It's "only" 13.5% alcohol (most of the other wines are much higher in alcohol) and has a perfumed and floral nose, showing some lightness after a short maceration to keep the more ethereal part of the variety. The wine matured in a clay tinaja for five months. Only 295 bottles were filled in July 2020.

2019 Arizcuren • Monte Gatún • Robert Parker

90_{/100}

The new red 2019 Monte Gatún is 75% Tempranillo, 15% Garnacha and 10% Graciano from the Sierra de Yerga (where the highest peak is the Monte Gatún). This blend connects the varieties from the past in the zone (Garnacha and Graciano) with the current ones (Tempranillo). The zone is possibly too warm for Tempranillo, and you need to control yields and be careful with the harvesting dates so it can deliver fresh and not overripe wines. This is only 13% alcohol and has correct acidity. It aged in new French barriques and concrete yet has no aromas of wood. There are herbal and cereal-like aromas, wild berries and something spicy. The palate is very approachable, soft and textured, with fine tannins that make it easy to drink and a finish of ripe Garnacha fruit. Very pleasant.

2019 Arizcuren • Solomazuelo Ánfora • Robert Parker

90/₁₀₀

The 2019 Solomazuelo Amphora Aging has a very dark nose of shoe polish, something earthy and notes of tree bark, showing the rusticity of the grape, with some violets wanting to come out. It fermented in stainless steel with some full clusters and indigenous yeasts and matured in a 250-liter clay tinaja for 10 months. The palate is juicy and a bit chewy, pleasantly rustic, and the nose is quite pure, serious and varietal, ripe without excess and with character and some earthy rusticity. Only 234 bottles were filled in July 2020.