# Rioja Gran Reserva Azabache 2016




## Region

With nearly 65,000 hectares of vineyard, the region of La Rioja lends its name to Spain`s most widely recognised wines. Rioja is split by three major districts; Alta and Alavesa to the north, which are higher in altitude and the hot dry Oriental district to the south (previously known as Rioja Baja). Tempranillo, Garnacha, Graciano and Mazuelo are the main red grape varieties used however more international varieties can also be used. The traditional aging classification system gives Rioja wines their distinctive style through the influence of extended ageing in oak barrels.

## Producer

Fincas de Azabache is a state of the art cooperative, founded in December 1956. The Bodegas now owns 2600 hectares of vineyards at the foot of Mount Yerga, which is at the heart of the driest sub region of Rioja; "Oriental", previously Rioja Baja. With limited risk of rot, this is an area conducive to the principles of organic viticulture, to which the Bodegas is firmly and successfully committed. The cooperative have recently invested heavily in a new winery, the fruits of which we are now seeing.

## Tasting Notes

This excellent Gran Reserva Rioja is selected from the best vineyards from an exceptional year. The blend includes 70% Tempranillo, 20% Garnacha and 10% Graciano, which has been softened by three years in oak and three more in bottle before release. It shows supple, velvety rich fruit flavours with complex spice and vanilla notes from its period in oak that linger well into the finish.

## Food

Roast beef and pheasant, winter stews and Manchego cheese with quince jelly.

## Technical Information

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|---|---|
| **Country** | Spain |
| **Region** | Rioja |
| **Grape(s)** | Tempranillo (70%)<br>Garnacha (20%)<br>Graciano (10%) |
| **Type** | Red |
| **Style** | Smooth |
| **Oaked Style** | Oaked |
| **Body Style** | Full bodied |
| **Sustainable** | Yes-sustainable practices |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Dry/Sweet Style** | Not applicable | |
| **Alcohol Content** | 14% | |
| **Closure Style** | Cork | |
| **Organic/Biodynamic** | No | |
| **Allergens** | **Milk:**<br>**Egg:** | No<br>No |
| **Vegetarian/Vegan** | **Vegetarian:**<br>**Vegan:** | Yes<br>Yes |

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