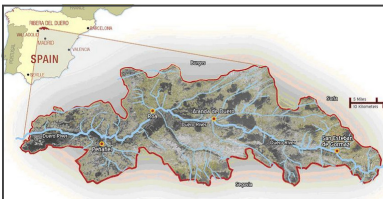


VEGA SICILIA

RIBERA DEL DUERO



In 1864, Eloy Lecanda founded the winery that symbolizes the golden legend of Spanish red wine. Throughout its long history, it has belonged to different owners, although it has always maintained an unquestionable personality, making concentrated, mature, generous and extremely elegant.

Spain's most famous and important wine estate is located at Valbuena del Duero, 30 km east of the ancient university town of Valladolid. The northern boundary of the estate is marked by the main road that runs along the left bank of the Duero (Douro) river - these rich soils are planted with vegetables rather than vines. The top of the hills are left to sheep, but in between are the vineyards, on north-facing slopes at altitudes of 750-800m above sea level.

The climate here is extreme continental, with very hot summers and cold winters; frost is a risk from October to the end of May. Rainfall is a modest 500mm per year. Most significantly, there is a wide variation in temperature between day and night - as much as 30°C - which allows the vines some respite even in Midsummer, and maximises levels of color, aroma and flavour in the ripening grapes. There are currently 250 hectares under vine, out of the 1000 hectares that comprise the entire estate. The bedrock is schistous: the same rock that underlies the Port vineyards of the Douro further downstream. The topsoil is chalk-based, very pale and quite sandy.

The Vega Sicilia wineries are located in Valbuena de Duero, in the province of Valladolid, on an estate made up of a fertile plain that follows the course of the river. The river is the northern boundary of the 1,000 hectares of the property; the southern limit is set by the woods, which stand on the slopes leading to the plain. The estate has a plantation of 250 ha of vineyard, which contains 80% of the autochthonous tinto fino variety or tempranillo de la Ribera, and the rest is cabernet sauvignon, merlot and malbec. The soils are clayey-limestone, with brown-grey streaks and an alluvial area.

The RIBERA DEL DUERO area has a continental-type climate, with an Atlantic influence. Rainfall is low, with annual averages below 500 mm, concentrated especially in spring and autumn. Sunshine, which is high extensive and abundant, reaches annual averages of 2,200 hours, and the River Duero favors the morning mists and fogs that provide an additional source of humidity.



"The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us."

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