



# ABADIA RETUERTA SARDON DE DUERO

## FACT SHEET



### OWNER

Novartis, the major Swiss pharmaceuticals company

### PRODUCTS

Red Wines :

Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y Leon, Seleccion Especial

Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y Leon, Pago Negralada, Tempranillo

Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y Leon, Pago Valdebellon, Cabernet Sauvignon

Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y Leon, Pago Garduña, Syrah

Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y Leon, PV, Petit Verdot

### SIZE OF THE VINEYARDS

210 hectares

### LOCATION OF THE VINEYARDS

The estate is located just outside the Ribera del Duero D.O. at Sardon de Duero, on the main road from Valladolid to Penafiel. This is the zone known by Spanish wine enthusiasts as the "Golden Mile", running from Tudela de Duero (Bodegas Mauro), past Abadía Retuerta and close neighbour Vega Sicilia, through to Pingus, Alion and Pesquera.

There are 54 distinct plots of vineyard interspersed with pine forest, rising from benchland vineyards on the south side of the Duero river, up the cool north-facing slopes behind. Altitudes range from 725m to 850m above sea level.

Also on the estate is the state-of-the-art winery and underground cellars, half buried into the hill, and the original medieval abbey complex by the river, beautifully restored and now home to the Duero's first luxury 5 star boutique hotel and gastronomic restaurant.

### SOIL

Diverse soils in the different plots, ranging from alluvial gravel and sand on the benchland to exposed limestone rock on the upper slopes of the hills.

### GRAPE VARIETIES

Seleccion Especial : 75% Tempranillo, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Syrah

Pago Negralaga : 100% Tempranillo

Pago Valdebellon : 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Pago Garduña : 100% Syrah

PV : 100% Petit Verdot

### AVERAGE AGE OF THE VINES

25 years old.

### AVERAGE PRODUCTION



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Seleccion Especial : around 50 000 cases

Pago Negralada : 600 cases only

Pago Valdebellon : 600 cases only

Pago Garduña : 400 cases only

PV : just 3 barrels, making 1000 bottles in a good year

#### VINIFICATION AND AGEING

Grapes are picked plot by plot for optimal ripeness. They are sorted and cool-fermented (maximum 27°C) in stainless steel for between 1 and 3 weeks, with a very gentle extraction regime of delestage and remontage only for the first couple of days. Malolactic is in tank for the Seleccion Especial, in barrel for the single "Pago" cuvees and the PV. Must and wine is moved in "IFO" steel mini-vats without the use of pumps.

Ageing for the Seleccion Especial lasts 14-18 months in French (64%) and American (36%) oak, with one third of the barrels new. A unique system devised by Pascal Delbeck allows for racking without pumping or moving the barrels.

The top cuvées are all aged in new French oak : around 18 months for the Tempranillo and Syrah, and 24 months for the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot.

#### NOTES ON THE PROPERTY

When Spanish wine enthusiasts talk of the "Golden Mile", they are referring to a stretch of the road between Valladolid and Peñafiel, home to an unparalleled concentration of Spain's greatest wineries. The distance is in fact 24 miles, but the moniker "Golden" is certainly justified. Between Tudela de Duero and the outskirts of Peñafiel, one passes the vineyards of Mauro, Pingus, Alion, Pesquera as well as the two most imposing estates of the region, Vega Sicilia and Abadia Retuerta.

Once part of the original Vega Sicilia estate, Abadia Retuerta was brought back to life as a wine estate by Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis in 1991. Under the guidance of Pascal Delbeck, former director and winemaker of Chateau Ausone, they identified and planted 54 different vineyard parcels, interspersed with nearly 500 hectares of ecologically-friendly pine forest, and a state-of-the-art gravity flow winery with underground ageing cellars. The vineyards rise from the gravelly benchland on the south side of the River Duero up the north-facing slopes behind to altitudes of 850m, where the limestone rock is almost entirely bereft of topsoil.

The principal wine of the estate is the "Seleccion Especial", which blends the diverse soil types, altitudes and grape varieties to deliver complex terroir character in a precise, pure and balanced wine with very fine tannins. It won the IWC trophy for overall "Red Wine of the Year" in 2005, and that was before the vines reached full maturity. For us, the 2009 represents the full breakthrough into the rarified elite of genuine world-class wines.

Abadia Retuerta also make 4 micro-production cuvees, each featuring a single grape variety and



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a single vineyard : an opulent Tempranillo from warm, deep gravel benchland near the road ; an aristocratic Cab Sauv from a cool, high-altitude vineyard with exposed limestone ; a beautifully-expressive Syrah, from a calcareous hillside vineyard benefitting from the protection of the adjoining forest ; and a unique 100% Petit Verdot of which just 3 barrels are made each year.

In addition to their commitment to making world-class wines, the owners have also completed a magnificent restoration of the original medieval abbey complex, which now houses the region's first luxury 5 star boutique hotel and gastronomic restaurant. Visit their website [www.ledomaine.es](http://www.ledomaine.es) and start making your travel plans !