



Taste the Adventure!

Spain



Located on the Iberian Peninsula, Spain is one of the world's largest wine producers, offering an unprecedented range of quality, diversity and value-driven wines that honor the country's rich and storied winemaking traditions.



Many international wine experts have pointed towards Spain as the most dynamic wine country in Europe, with the country showing no tendency to reverse its progress in the foreseeable future.

While Spanish wines today are considered some of the richest and most celebrated in the world, they owe their prominence to a turbulent history with significant roadblocks - which they have impressively overcome. Thanks to the country's unique topography and the incredible spirit of the Spanish people, the wines of Spain show the rich tradition of winemaking that has been passed down for thousands of years, while also embracing the immersion of modern winemaking.

Winemaking in Spain dates back over 3,000 years, with some of the country's vineyards tracing back to 1,100 B.C. At that time, winemaking flourished, but it came to an abrupt halt during the rule of the Moors (711 AD to 1491 AD) when it was outlawed. After this period, winemaking bounced back, but it again struggled during the rise of the Franco regime in the 1930's when Spanish wines were mostly kept within the country's borders. The dictatorship also prevented winemakers from adopting some of the modern winemaking methods that were spreading throughout the world.

The military dictatorship ended in the 1970's, around the same time that the Spanish wine law was revised, defining the Denominacion de Origenes (DO's, which closely mirrored France's Appellation d'Origine Controlees (AOC's)) and other tight country wine restrictions that insured quality standards beyond the normal limitations. Spain's transition to democracy also allowed more economic freedom for winemakers and it created a market for Spain's growing middle class.

At this time, modernization of existing equipment and greater emphasis on higher quality wine production propelled Spain into the upper tier of European wine producers. 1986 saw the acceptance of Spain into the European Union, along with additional economic aid to many of the country's farmers and winemakers.

Today, Spain is the third largest wine producer in the world with 69 distinctive wine regions, or Denominacion de Origenes. Its wines are heralded all over the world, competing successfully in international wine competitions and in the industry's top publications. Over the years, many family entrepreneurial efforts have resulted in smaller wineries across the country and now there is a surge of boutique wines available with excellent price/value relationships.

Top-flight Spanish wines are here to stay and will increase in number and stature as exposure increases. We are proud to share this trio of wines from the up-and-coming Bierzo region of northern Spain.

Spain: Fun Facts!

- Spain is home to around 600 grape varieties, though roughly only 20 are used in the production of the vast majority of wines.
- Spain has the largest vineyard area of all major vine-growing countries in the world, with over 2.3 million acres of grapevines planted. This is 13% of the world's vineyards!
- A very Old World! It is thought that vines were growing in Spain long before Cadiz was established as a trading post in 1100 B.C.

Region Spotlight: Bierzo, Spain

Arguably Spain's most exciting wine region, Bierzo is a small, historic Denominacion de Origin in northwest Spain, specifically located on the border of Castilla y Leon and Galicia. Bierzo was first cultivated by the Romans 2,000 years ago, but it has just recently catapulted into the spotlight, most notably due to the Mencía wine grape that accounts for nearly 80% of the grapes planted here. Mencía was once believed to be related to Cabernet Franc, and the wines it is capable of producing are superb (especially the Old Vine Mencía)- with purity of fruit, excellent structure, fine balance, and incredible versatility - not to mention the excellent value.

Geographically, Bierzo is a fraction of the size of Spain's well-known wine regions of Rioja, Ribera del Duero, and La Mancha. Approximately 3,000 acres are planted to vineyards in the tiny region that is compiled of small valleys surrounded by mountains. Only 74 wineries operate in Bierzo, although only half are commercial and serious about exporting - which explains why these wines are so highly sought after and hard to find. The milder temperatures and mineral-rich soils here create an ideal growing environment for the beautiful wines of Bierzo.



Featured Spanish Winery:

Viños Valtuille - Bierzo, Spain



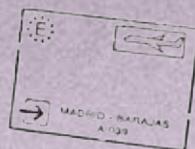
Located in the small village of Valtuille de Abajo in Bierzo, Spain, Vinos Valtuille is a small family winery that was founded in 1999. Founder Dimas García and his wife Isabel had been upholding a family grape growing tradition that began in 1910 with the purchase of the García family's first vineyard in an area called Valdoneje. After decades of working their own vineyards, Dimas and Isabel decided to build their own winery and place it in one of the hills surrounding Valtuille de Abajo, in the area of La Estacada - their favorite place in Valtuille. The reason for their new winery venture was simply to provide a better future for their children.

The García family currently grows 30 acres of vineyards scattered over 90 different plots with elevations

ranging from 1,900 to 2,300 feet. Roughly half of the vineyards are planted to Old Vine Mencía, a varietal that Bierzo is especially known for, crafting wines with notable depth and a distinctive earthy edge.

Today, Vinos Valtuille is growing and thriving. The winery is now managed by two of Dimas and Isabel's four children - Marcos and Elena. While Marcos oversees the vineyard and winemaking, Elena is in charge of administration and sales. The brother and sister work closely together to continue producing terroir-driven wines that show the character of their family's Valtuille de Abajo vineyard. The wines are made in limited production in their gravity-fed winery and are delicately aged in a special underground barrel room until they are ready for release.

We are happy to present three special bottlings from Vinos Valtuille to our International Wine Club members and hope you enjoy this introduction to the exciting region of Bierzo, Spain. Salud!



Add it to your
shipment of wines
for just \$39!

Taste the Adventure!

Our unique "Adventure Package" takes you beyond the wines to experience delectable selections of imported gourmet treats from the featured country. We take the time to search out regional delights to pair with the wines. All products are imports that represent the wine region along with the local culture.

*Due to limited quantities, some products may be substituted for a product of equal value and quality.



Featured Spanish Wines

 **INSTANT Membership Rewards Pricing***
Save 11% to 24% off Winery Retail prices!



Viños Valtuille 2017 'Cabanelas' Mencía

Valtuille de Abajo, Bierzo, Spain

Crafted from a select plot of Old Vine grapes in one of the highest quality areas in Valtuille, the Vinos Valtuille 2017 'Cabanelas' Mencía is one of the García family's most prized bottlings. The fruit for this wine comes from one of the family's oldest vineyards that was planted in 1925, which provides layers of rich complexity in the finished wine. Deep red in color, this wine offers powerful aromas with notes of blackberries, raspberries, plumb, incense, black pepper, forest floor and hints of minerality. The palate is full-bodied with a big mouthfeel and flavors of black fruits and spice. Nicely balanced with fine tannins, this wine is a fine addition to any cellar. Aged 12 months in French oak. 100% Mencía. Enjoy!

93 POINTS - Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*

93 POINTS - James Suckling

Winery Retail Price \$55.00/btl.	2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.
Member Price:	\$45.00	\$43.33	\$42.50



Viños Valtuille 2018 'Pago de Valdoneje' Viñas Viejas Mencía

Valtuille de Abajo, Bierzo, Spain

Another 'Vinas Viejas' (Old Vine) bottling of Mencía from the García family's prized Valtuille de Abajo vines, the 2018 'Pago de Valdoneje' Mencía comes from vines over 100 years old! Perched at almost 2,000 feet above sea level, this high elevation site produces small yields of exceptional fruit. Red cherry in color, this wine offers an incredibly aromatic nose of spice and earth, blended with notes of blackberry, violet and sweet tar - due to the distinctive Bierzo soils and the old vines. The wine is firmly structured on the palate with incredible depth and a persistent, fruit-driven finish. Aged 11 months in French oak. 100% Mencía. Enjoy!

91 POINTS - Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*

Winery Retail Price \$25.00/btl.	2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.
Member Price:	\$22.00	\$20.33	\$19.50



Viños Valtuille 2019 'Pago de Valdoneje' Godello

Valtuille de Abajo, Bierzo, Spain

Produced from carefully selected plots of the Garcia family's vineyards in Valtuille de Abajo, the 2019 'Pago de Valdoneje' Godello is a white wine with character and intrigue. The grape varietal is native to Galicia in northwest Spain and is rapidly growing in popularity around the world. Pale yellow in color, this 2019 Godello opens with uniquely complex aromas of balsamic, white fruit, fennel, and a fresh mineral quality. The palate shows lovely racy acidity with focused flavors of white and forest flowers set against bright minerality and a soft, clean finish. A wonderful wine to enjoy with food. Aged 2 months in stainless steel. 100% Godello. Enjoy!

GOLD MEDAL SPECIAL SELECTION

Winery Retail Price \$19.00/btl.	2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.
Member Price:	\$17.00	\$15.33	\$14.50

*Effective per bottle prices after Membership Rewards discount is applied at checkout.
Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included in above prices. Membership Rewards does not apply to Sale or Special-Offer Wines.
Due to limited quantities, some wines may be substituted for a different vintage or wine of equal value and quality.



The International Wine Club features exclusively imported hard-to-find wines of the world strictly for members of the Gold Medal Wine Club.