



La Rioja Alta, S.A.

BODEGAS FUNDADAS EN 1890

technical sheet

LA RIOJA ALTA, S.A.



Brand: **GRAN RESERVA 89**

Colour: **TINTO**

Vintage: **1987**

THE HARVEST

The dry cycle of the decade of the 80's worsened this year. Because of the scant rainfall (286 l/m² compared with an average of 450 l/m²) there was a welcome, complete absence of cryptogamic disease. The drought held back the ripening of the crop then rain in October solved this problem and greatly improved the quality of the vintage. Growers who delayed picking, La Rioja Alta, S.A. amongst them, harvested fruit of excellent quality, very suitable for Reservas and Gran Reservas. The vegetative cycle lasted 200 days. The overall quality of the harvest was very good with an average alcohol content of 12.5% and acidity (tartaric) of 5.5 gms/l. Throughout the denomination 133 million litres were produced.

VINEYARDS AND GRAPES

To produce great wines you need healthy grapes, full of flavour, in perfect condition. We look for a high sugar content and acidity and excellent colour. We make this wine with the finest Tempranillo grapes from vineyards at Briñas, Labastida and San Vicente de la Sonsierra. There is a small percentage of Mazuelo in the blend which with its high acidity helps to keep the wine fresh to full maturity.

AGEING

After first fermentation at controlled temperature in stainless steel then the malolactic, the wine was put into barricas of American oak in February 1988. It remained eight years in cask, being racked by hand every six months before being bottled in March 1996.

ANALYTICAL DATA

Alcohol: 12.50 %

Volatile Acidity: 0.97 g/l.

Total Acidity (tartaric): 5.80 g/l.

Dry extract: 29.29 g/l.

TASTING NOTES

Wines with the characteristics of Gran Reserva 890 need to be decanted before drinking. Thus they regain their life and soul after years sheltered from the air. Moreover, they will have thrown a natural deposit from which they must be liberated in order to regain a cherry red brilliance. The years have added luxurious overtones of iodine, typical of a great and mature wine. The perfume of the aroma is reborn on contact with the air and gradually develops over time; subtle and all enveloping. The flavour in the mouth is powerful, round and full of personality. The aftertaste is a remembrance of all that has gone before and completes the pleasure of drinking Gran Reserva 890. This is a highly sophisticated and enormously complex wine.