

# La Rioja Alta, S.A.

GRAN RESERVA 890 – 2001 SELECCIÓN ESPECIAL

95  
PARKER



## THE HARVEST

This brand is only produced in extraordinary vintages and 2001 is one of the best we can remember. A mild winter and suitable rainfall throughout the growing cycle allowed for excellent vine development. Excellent health prevailed during the ripening stage, marked by very sunny days and notable temperature drops at night— essential conditions to obtain high quality wines. To make this wine, we chose the oldest vines, planted in poor soils with a high proportion of limestone. They produced a small number of loose clusters which had smaller grains than in previous vintages and an optimal skin-to-pulp ratio. The grapes showed a superb balance of all components and excellent polyphenolic and aromatic qualities. All this prompted us to apply the '**Selección Especial**' designation —a first for this brand.

## VARIETAL COMPOSITION

Tempranillo (95%) from Briñas, Labastida and Villalba, Graciano (3%) and Mazuelo (2%) from our Melchorón I and II vineyards in Rodezno, where the vines are over 40 years old. All estate-owned vineyards.

## WINEMAKING AND AGEING

The selection process was meticulous. Only the best bunches were transported in small refrigerated tubs to the winery, where alcoholic and malolactic fermentation took place without incident. After the cold winter we carried out a second selection, choosing the wines that were to be aged for 6 years in American oak barrels (20% new; 80% 4 years old) manufactured by hand in our cooperage. During the 12 rackings, another selection was made of the barrels that would be used for the final blend -**15,900 bottles**- that were filled in March 2008. In order to preserve all the aromatic components, this wine has not been filtered.

## TASTING

Ruby-red with an intense orange rim, medium-depth, clean and bright. Very intense aromas with a classic bouquet with outstanding balsamic and spicy notes —coconut, vanilla and chocolate mints wrapped in hints of ripe fruit. Great body and structure in the mouth, with balanced tannins of exceptional elegance and finesse, leaving a very long, spicy, complex aftertaste. A unique Gran Reserva 890 which looks forward to a long life in the bottle.

- Alcohol content: 13.5% per volume
- Total Acidity: 6.2 g/l (tartaric acid)
- pH: 3.60
- Reduc. sug.: 1.50 g/l

Serving temperature: 17 °C

September 2014