

VIÑEDOS DE PÁGANOS

# EL PUNTIDO

- 2017 -

*"The minerality of the Tempranillo in a grape growing boundary zone"*

Marcos Eguren

FINCA	<b>El Puntido located in Páganos-Laguardia (Rioja Alavesa).</b> Do Calificada Rioja. Year of plantation: 1975.
VINEYARDS	Surface: 25 Has. (61.74 acres). Altitude: 600 m. (1970 ft.). Soils of franc-clay texture and calcareous-clay composition with a deep sandy rocky sub-soil. Year of plantation: 1975. High density of plantation on trellis: 3,367 vines per hectare, (1,364 per acre), 84,175 vines in total. Organic fertilization every 2 years.
YIELD	<b>Average yield:</b> 18,2 Hls./Ha.
HARVEST	<b>Harvest:</b> Environmental integrated agriculture cultivation, applying a viticulture respectful with the environment following the biorhythms of the plant. Exhaustive hand selection and harvest in boxes of perfectly healthy, ripe grapes. <b>Date of Harvest:</b> from 22nd to the 29th of September 2017
VARIETY	Tempranillo 100 %
WINE	Traditional elaboration, 100% destemmed. Pre-fermentative maceration during 3 days at 6°C (42.8° F) with indigenous yeast selected from our own vineyards, with very light pump-overs and a light aeration. Alcoholic fermentation: 10 days. Temperature controlled between 28° and 30°C with 1 or 2 daily pump-overs during the first phase and a daily pump-over at the end. Post-fermentative maceration: 8 days. Directly barreled into new French oak Bordelaise barrels where the malolactic fermentation will take place. AGING: 16 months in new Bordelaise barrels of French oak and 6 months in tank.
WINEMAKER	Marcos Eguren



## VINTAGE:

The autumn began with strong water reserves, 2016 being a wet year with an excellent harvest. Autumn-winter rainfall was slightly less than normal. As for the temperatures, the first frost was recorded on November 23, but it was not until early 2017 that they really dropped. Temperatures in March were high, which resulted in early flowering, the first bud break being observed in mid-March.

During the last week of March the temperatures dropped again, before rising in the month of April, until a frost on April 28 throughout the area, with temperatures dropping under -2°C. At this point the earliest vines displayed shoots measuring 10-15 cm. Thanks to the rise in temperatures and rains in mid May, the vines were soothed and recovered, flowering from June 6 to 15.

The vegetative period transpired with highs around 28-32°C and lows around 12-14°C, along with a positive water balance, which allowed the vines to develop continuously, undisturbed by excessive temperatures or water shortages. All these phenomena, along with the limited production and the large growing area, shortened the phenological periods. Another important aspect was that, depending on the area, there were different percentages of second-flowering clusters from the blooming after the second frost. This facet was key, and depended a lot on the vineyard and the area, with the young vines of the lower and earlier areas being more affected. The veraison occurred from August 1 to 12. As a final part of the process, during the month of September there was hardly any rainfall, especially during San Vicente, and the harvest began in the last week of September, ending in the second week of October.

It was in the month of September when the phenological stages exhibited the greatest balance, the last 15 days of the harvest being especially important, when physiological and phenolic maturity matched. This may have been the key to a vintage as anomalous and difficult as that of 2017: maintaining optimum health until the end of the cycle and taking advantage of the last days of the ripening so that a vintage more selected than ever, and later, yielded a balanced grape, without vegetal notes. That is, a balance was struck between avoiding overripening and not producing vegetal tones. It can be said that the oldest and most balanced vineyards, of both vegetation/production and those exhibiting optimal nutritional balances, and the most homogeneous production, were those maintaining the highest quality during this difficult 2017.

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