



BODEGA AKUTAIN

CRIANZA 2018

ORIGIN

Rioja Alta, Rioja, Spain.

VARIETIES

95+% Tempranillo, with small amounts of Garnacha and Viura.

VINEYARD

From Gembres, the bodega's highest altitude vineyard that was planted in 1986, and Manzanera, the vineyard around the winery planted in 1975.

VINIFICATION METHOD

The grapes were destemmed and pressed with a vertical press, then fermented on the skins for 9 days. The wine went through malolactic fermentation and rested over the winter in the same vessels with 3 rackings. Finally, the wine is transferred to a mix of French and American oak barrels, where it rests for 23 months with monthly racking. Bottled without clarification, only a very light filtering with a large mesh, and rested for 1 year in bottle before release.

PROPERTIES

Alcohol: 13%
Bottles Made: 14,000.



PRODUCER PROFILE

The story of Akutain begins over four decades ago, when Rioja's storied estates were consistently producing Spain's most highly sought-after wines. At this time, Juan Peñagaricano Akutain was an engineer in nearby Basque Country and began developing relationships with the great traditionalist cellars of the time. He planted his first vineyard in 1975, located 5km west of Haro at Rioja's epicenter and repurposed an old stable next door for his bodega; Bodega Akutain has been there ever since. Today the property is comprised of 6.5 hectares of four distinct vineyard plots, all located in the Rioja Alta subzone. Juan's son, Jon Peñagaricano, is now handling the day-to-day operations. Harvesting is by hand, all fermentations are with native yeasts in neutral vessels, and aging is in American and French Oak (most of it used) with extensive racking and substantial aging after bottling.

VINTAGE REPORT

2018 was a difficult vintage in Rioja due to humidity and wetness. Many wines showed green notes, but Jon is very happy with the 2018 Crianza, partially owing to the inclusion of the grapes that are typically intended for the Reserva and Gran Reserva bottlings (neither of which were made in 2018).