



BODEGA AKUTAIN

RESERVA 2017

ORIGIN

Rioja Alta, Rioja, Spain.

VARIETIES

100% Tempranillo.

VINEYARD

From Gembres, the bodega's highest altitude vineyard that was planted in 1986. It is at 650m, faces north, and the soils are clay calcareous. This is the only wine that was made by Akutain in 2017.

VINIFICATION METHOD

The grapes were destemmed and pressed with a vertical press, then macerated on their skins for 2 days before and fermentation in fiberglass and steel tanks with native yeasts at controlled temperatures. 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 35 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: 14%
Bottles Made: 6,000.



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

2017 was very difficult in Rioja – almost 70% of production was lost to frost and hail. The only grapes that survived were in the Gembres vineyard. However, this meant that the resulting small amount of wine was concentrated and very high in quality. The Reserva was the estate's only wine in 2017.