

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

By John Gilman

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2017 La Araucaria Rosado- Dolores Cabrera Fernández (Tenerife)

The 2017 La Araucaria Rosado from Dolores Cabrera Fernández is a lovely bottle of rosé, offering up a complex bouquet of cherries, rhubarb, lovely Tenerife botanicals, volcanic soils and a gently smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is crisp, full-bodied and quite vinous in style, with a fine core, excellent soil signature and a long, complex finish that closes with a lovely pull and tug between fruit tones and gentle bitterness. This is more like a light red wine than a Rosado, but it is very good at the table and I can only imagine how tasty it would be at dinner on Tenerife!

2017 La Araucaria (Paraje La Perdoma) - Dolores Cabrera Fernández (Tenerife)

The La Araucaria (Paraje La Perdoma) from Dolores Cabrera Fernández is composed entirely of Listán Negro that hails from vines in excess of one hundred years of age. The 2017 vintage of La Araucaria (Paraje La Perdoma) offers up a bright and complex nose of sweet black fruit, pepper, volcanic minerality, lovely botanicals, bonfire and lovely saline topnotes. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and beautifully defined by its underlying terroir, with a good core of fruit, moderate tannins and a long, complex and beautifully balanced finish. This is really a beautiful bottle of upper elevation, very elegant Tenerife tinto. Gotta love it when the vines' age makes you feel young again!

2016 La Araucaria Tinto- Dolores Cabrera Fernández (Tenerife)

I reviewed the very good 2015 La Araucaria Tinto from Dolores Cabrera Fernández in the last report on Spanish wines in the spring of this year and was very happy to find the 2016 amongst my box of samples for this article. The bouquet offers up that classic Tenerife blend of dark berries, a bit of pomegranate, Canary Island botanicals, a fine base of soil, a bit of tree bark, espresso, gentle meatiness and a bit of bonfire in the upper register. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and impressively transparent, with a fine core, moderate tannins and excellent length and grip on the youthfully complex and very well-balanced finish. This is a lovely wine that could use a couple of years in the cellar to soften up a bit, but which will be outstanding once it has started to blossom. I love the touch of backend bitterness here that reminds me quite a bit of Emidio Pepe's Montepulciano. Great juice.

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