

José Pastor Selections

IMPORTER OF FINE IBERIAN WINES

Grower *Juan Francisco Fariña Pérez*

Appellation *Valle de Güímar*

Locality *Arafo*

Climate *Atlantic*

Varieties *Albillo Criollo*

Soil *Volcanic sand*

Elevation *850 meters*

Vine Age *12 years*

Pruning *Espaldera*

Farming *Practicing organic*

Production *112 cases*

Los Loros

Albillo Criollo 2018



Juan Francisco (Juanfra to his friends) is a progressive winemaker on the Canary Island of Tenerife. He studied winemaking there before taking over his father's vineyards in 1998. Juanfra is located in the town of Arafo at 700-800m in elevation. In addition to the wines he makes around Arafo, he is working on a project to recuperate old and abandoned vineyards high up in an area called Las Dehesas. These vineyards are at 1400m, and only reachable by a special tractor, which is why no one wants to make the effort to harvest grapes from this extremely steep and difficult terrain...Juanfra is alone in his quest to preserve these old vines.

His **Los Loros** wines are from terraced **Valle de Güímar** vineyards, a small DO with only 12 wineries located on the Northeast side of **Tenerife**, ranging from 100 to 1400 meters in elevation up the slope of Las Cañadas del Teide, and includes some of the highest elevation vines in all of Europe. The viticulture is very old-fashioned: the vines grow untrained, the soil is worked by hand, and no chemicals are used. Trade winds coming off the Atlantic help to keep temperatures moderate, rainfall is minimal and sunshine abounds, allowing for moderate alcohol levels while retaining bright acidity. The main challenges to viticulture are winds from the Atlantic and Africa and fluctuations in humidity.

This **Los Loros** cuvée comes from young **Albillo Criollo** vines grown on terraces high on the island. The grapes were hand-harvested in 15kg boxes, destemmed and gently pressed after a 24 hour cold maceration. The juice is racked into steel tank for spontaneous fermentation and raising on fine lees for 4 months, then an additional 2 months in used 500L French oak barrels. The finished wine is bottled with a light fining (bentonite) but no filtration, and a tiny dose of SO₂. This is a lively island white, with vibrant acidity backing up the expressive pear and tart citrus pith aromatics and slight oak nuance.