LLAURADOR WINES
JOSÈ PASTOR SELECTIONS

CARMEN URIARTE

MAHAIA

ORIGIN

Rioja Alavesa

VARIETIES

95% Tempranillo plus Graciano, Viura, etc.

VINEYARD

From vineyard parcels ranging from 11 to 83 years old (majority being 30-54) in the villages of Laguardia, Lapuebla de Labarca and Elciego on clay & limestone soils at 400-500m elevation and various expositions.

VINIFICATION METHOD

The grapes were hand harvested in late September and undergo whole cluster semi-carbonic maceration in open concrete vats for 7 days. The grapes are then foot-trodden for 3 consecutive days before being racked to concrete tanks for malolactic fermentation and aging on fine lees for 4 months before bottling unfined, unfiltered and with a small dose of SO2.

PRODUCER PROFILE

Carmen Uriarte represents a new generation of Rioja Alavesa producers dedicated to preserving the region's historic *vino de cosechero* tradition—the grower who farms the vineyards also makes the wine and bottles it under their own name. While many small family wineries are disappearing, Carmen is helping ensure this centuries-old culture endures.

Born in Madrid, Carmen studied Agricultural Engineering before earning a master's degree in Viticulture and Enology. Her career began in the vineyard, working alongside renowned viticulture researcher José Ramón Lisarrague and later with Julián Palacios' Viticultura Viva, and the Zuccardi family in Argentina—an experience that gave her a deep understanding of organic farming, old vineyards, and the importance of site. She returned to Lapuebla to work with *cosechero* Txutxi Muro, eventually taking over his vineyards when he retired.

Carmen currently farms 3.5 hectares of old vineyards in Lapuebla de Labarca—five parcels planted in 1920 and one planted in 1994—and rents additional parcels in neighboring Laguardia and Elciego, producing wines rooted in tradition: hand harvesting, whole-cluster fermentations, semi-carbonic maceration, concrete tanks, and gentle extraction. Her goal is not to reinvent these methods but to preserve them while allowing each vineyard to express its own character.