



Rioja,
SPAIN



The Murua family, owners of Bodegas Muriel and Viña Eguia, bought the famed Conde de los Andes and its legendary cellars in 2014, with the dream of rescuing one of the most historical names and places in the Rioja wine industry from the ravages of time and neglect. They have been conducting an ambitious recovery project - renovating the cellar and winery buildings, cataloging 400,000 bottles in the cellar (with wines dating back to 1892) and tasting through all the historical vintages.

Conde de los Andes is located in Ollauri, a small, old village of just 300 in the heart of the Rioja Alta, part of the Rioja appellation, between the southern banks of the Ebro River and the foothills of the Sierra de la Demanda mountain range. It lies in what has long been considered the best terroir of Rioja, world-renowned for the quality of the vineyards and the wines made from the grapes those vines yield. In 1896, a winery was established, but the amazing underground cellars go back even further, to the 16th century, when they were first excavated as wine caves for a wealthy family. It was enlarged in the 17th century. And by the 1950's, the cellars and the wines housed in them were so well-known that wine aficionados visited from around the globe, including Ernest Hemmingway.

The grapes for the new Conde de los Andes range come from approximately 49 acres of vineyards either owned or controlled by the Murua family in three municipalities in the Rioja Alta - Ollauri, Haro, and Brinas. Spain's "signature" red grape, Tempranillo, covers nearly 90% of the vineyards, with a little Garnacha also growing there. The rest is planted to Viura and Malvasia, the base for a semi-sweet white. All of the vines are more than 50 years old and the majority of those vines are planted in the traditional gobelet system.

According to Javier Murua, "unlike most Spanish wineries that usually release a number of red wines at different levels of barrel aging, we are producing only one red wine that will be aged as our winemaker decides for each new vintage. This actually is in tradition of the winery itself, when Conde de los Andes wines were at the height of their popularity.



Score Highlights

Tempranillo

2016

91 Pts. James Suckling

2015

92 Pts. Wine Enthusiast

91 Pts. James Suckling

2017 Blanco

93 Pts. James Suckling



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