



CONDE DE LOS ANDES



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CONDE DE LOS ANDES

HISTORY:

The Murua family, owners of Bodegas Muriel, Vina Eguia, Marques de Elciego and Pazo Cilleiro, bought the famed Conde de los Andes winery and legendary cellars in 2014. They had a dream of rescuing from the ravages of time and neglect, one of the most historical names and places in the Rioja wine industry. They have spent the past two years conducting an ambitious recovery – renovating the cellar and winery buildings, cataloging the 400,000 bottles in the cellar (with wines dating back to 1892) and tasting through all the historical vintages.

In 1896, a winery was established on the site of what became Conde de los Andes, but the amazing underground cellars go back much further, to the 16th Century, when they were first excavated as wine caves for a wealthy family. It was enlarged in the 17th Century. These “Calados de los Gallegos” as they larger, newer galleries are called, were built under the hills of Ollauri by Gallician quarrymen. Today, their work is considered both an early example of geological knowledge and a masterpiece of traditional architecture.

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 celebrities like Ernest Hemmingway. The Conde de los Andes brand was created in the early 1960’s to distinguish those wines with grapes coming solely from the vineyards in and around the winery.

Javier Murua and his family have made it their mission to restore once famous Rioja wineries, as they have with Vina Eguia and others. Their labors are bringing these wines back to life for a new generation of Spanish wine lovers who appreciate the history and heritage behind these renowned wineries.

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Intimately proud of this wine. It stands for a contemporary update of the historical winemaking in Conde de los Andes, a legendary Riojaan winery with the oldest caves in our region.

Fresh and fruity, a suggestively complex version of a wine produced from old Tempranillo vines, selected in small plots. The nose is fresh and rich, akin to red fruits, raisins and Mediterranean herbs, and a palate with underlying acidity, enough to enhance the vibrant and lively fruit aromas. It is well-structured and wonderfully fresh, with a finish that is long and pleasant.

The grapes come from a number of small plots near the Rioja Alta villages of Ollauri and Haro, where the vines are over 40 years old and grown in clay-limestone soil. The wine undergoes 21 days of fermentation in stainless steel vats, and then matures in French oak barrels for 14 months, with an additional 12 months' bottle-aging before release.



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A TREASURE BENEATH THE EARTH

Once you enter inside Conde de los Andes, your perception of anything else will change forever. It is the power of the stones, the weight of 400 years of history, the respect for what our ancestors did!



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Conde de los Andes is located in Ollauri, a small old village of just 300 in the heart of Rioja Alta. It is 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 is part of 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.

Churrumendi Hill, Ollauri's highest point is surrounded by noble houses built in the 17th and 18th centuries. The spot offers stunning views of the River Ebro valley, between the Sierra de la Demanda peaks and the limestone walls of Sierra Cantabria and Toloño mountain ranges.

Around Ollauri, the countryside is planted with vineyards of extraordinary quality. They provide selected grapes of the traditional Tempranillo and Viura varieties with which the wine is produced.

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The Calaos or “Caves” A JEWEL OF ANCESTRAL WINE CULTURE

Excavated over several centuries, the Conde de los Andes caves or ‘calaos’ as locals call them – are Rioja’s most impressive underground cellar system.

In terms of age, architecture and dimensions, extending over one half mile in length, they are a splendid jewel of great heritage value. They are also a remarkable combination of beauty and practical sense – these cellars are still used to store bottle collections from legendary vintages:

1892, 1918, 1948, 1964... In their mysterious corridors you can still breathe the traces of the ancestral wine culture and the imprint of an ancient skill.



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