

Your Spanish Collection

from the Bonner
Private Wine Partnership



BONNER
PRIVATE WINE
PARTNERSHIP



America's Most Unique Wine Club

Dedicated to searching the world for astounding
wines from little-known winemakers

...Can We Ask A Small Favor?

Can we “compare notes” with you on these wines?

Maybe you picked up on aromas that we didn't. Maybe you just fell in love with a particular bottle. Or maybe the exact opposite. Whatever the case, we want to hear from you. Because you're part of this. And we can only keep this mission going if you're onboard.

Shoot us an email at feedback@bonnerprivatewines.com

Dear Member,

In January of last year we wrote of Spain, “nowhere else in Europe do the echoes of the ancient and medieval ages still reverberate so clearly.”

In this second Spanish collection, we find ourselves thinking about history still – of the lost Kingdom of Navarra; of the peasant pilgrims doing penance along the Way of St James; of St Fermin of Pamplona, murdered by the Gauls he sought to convert (and whom the Spanish honor every year in the running of the bulls); of the 13th century Suso Monastery and its wine poet monks; of the fall into obscurity and rebirth of wine regions like Alicante and Toro.

Even the vines in Spain often look like historical artifacts “gnarled in agony” as one critic put it. That’s partly due to the way they are pruned (in the head pruning style) but also their age. The first wine in this collection, a tempranillo with grapes from both Toro and Ribera del Duero, comes from vines that average 50 years old (some are 100). Others average 25 to 40.

The wineries, too, are steeped in history. Our 2013 Navarra was made alongside a ruined monastery that once offered respite to pilgrims making their way to Santiago de Compostela. Our Rioja 2016 comes from the oldest winery in Haro, whose lower galleries run into Haro Castle’s ancient tunnels. Our sparkler (not a Cava) comes from an estate established in 1395.

If you notice a French influence here, that, too, has historical significance. Located near Spain’s northern border, Navarra has had strong ties to France since the Carolingians began trying to conquer the place around the 8th century. In the early 19th century, before the railway link with Haro in Rioja was built, Navarra was Bordeaux’s main trading partner. We missed out on Navarra in our previous collection but have made up for it with two wines from there, including a bottle from the first French style winery built in the area.

Beyond Navarra, the French influence extends to both Toro (a region revived by none other than Frenchman Michel Rolland, who founded

the winery Campo Eliseo, where our own Julien Miquel worked), and Ribera del Duero where the winery Vega Sicilia, aka the Latour of Spain, produced two winemaking alums who contributed bottles to this collection.

And yet, you will not confuse any bottle in this collection with a Bordeaux. Even where tempranillo's tobacco and cherry tones cede the spotlight to, say, a merlot or cabernet, these vintages remain, above all, local wines. Products of a specific place. A specific history. A unique combination of Spain's many elements – Iberian, Roman, French, Moorish.

In this box, you will find six bottles:

- ① Mas de Leda 2018
- ② Raso de Larrainzar Reserva 2013
- ③ Berceo Reserva 2016, Limited Edition
- ④ Pago de Otazu 2018
- ⑤ Finca Can Martí Brut Corpinnat 2015
- ⑥ Laudum Nature Petit Verdot 2019

Should we even call this our “Spanish” collection? It is, in fact, Castilian. Navarran. Valencian. Catalan. Riojan. With maybe a little French thrown in for an extra kick. Enjoy the complexity.

Salud,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Bonner', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Will Bonner
Founder, Bonner Private Wine Partnership

A Quick Note on Wine Tasting

On the next few pages, we've included tasting notes from our resident "sommelier," French winemaker Julien Miquel. Here's a quick tip on how to approach them.

What makes a wine expert is not just depth of knowledge – which anyone can achieve – but sensitivity to taste and smell. A great wine expert will find a hundred little aromas that most will never be able to detect.

Now. If you don't get the same flavors, does that mean you're wrong?

No. Tasting is subjective. Besides which, wines are always evolving in the bottle. That hint of cherry from a few months ago might present itself differently now. So, if you detect a flavor or aroma you don't see on the tasting sheet, add it. See what your friends say. Better yet, if you have a tasting that differs markedly from what's written here, send us your notes. We'd love to compare them!

2018 Mas de Leda (Castilla y Leon)



Old Vines (avg. age
50 yrs)
90 pts (Wine
Advocate)
Organic, Dry
Farmed, Indigenous
Yeast
Tempranillo

In northwestern Spain, on the plains of what was once the Kingdom of Old Castile, the Duero River (“the Golden River”), flows west past the small town of Tudela de Duero. There, the Masaveu family, winemakers since the 1800s, produce limited batch, high quality wines with a fixation on soil. Their partner, Mariano Garcia, is a “Master of Duero” – Spanish aficionados will know him from Vega Sicilia, Spain’s answer to Latour, and the first vineyard to prove what Ribera del Duero could do.

The winery, Leda, lies just outside Ribera’s boundaries, nestled between it and the smaller Toro region to the west (home to Michel Rolland’s acclaimed Campo Eliseo, where our own Julien Miquel worked for a time). This 2018 (organic, dry farmed, indigenous yeast) combines grapes from both regions to create an expression of tempranillo completely different from the Rioja in this collection. With 90 points from Wine Advocate, a red fruit and balsamic nose, and a long silky finish on the palate.

Drink 2021-2024



2013 Raso de Larrainzar Reserva (Navarra DO)



Avg. vine age 30 yrs
90 pts (Suckling)
Traditional Method
Tempranillo, Cab
Sauv, Merlot,
Grenache

In 814 AD, a hermit in northwestern Spain saw strange lights in the sky. The lights led him to the tomb of St James, Santiago to the Spanish, the man who, legend has it, brought Christianity to the Iberian Peninsula. Since then, Santiago de Compostela has become one of Christianity's three pilgrimage sites (along with Rome and Jerusalem).

The main route, the Way of St James, passes through Navarra, in northwestern Spain. Navarra was once Bordeaux's main trading partner. Today, the region retains a chimeral identity, as evidenced by the French/Spanish grape mix in this 2013.

The winery, Larrainzar, lies on the Way of St James itself, alongside a ruined monastery and 150-year-old tempranillo vines. 10 minutes down the road is Arinzano, one of just 19 Spanish wineries to earn its very own "Pago" appellation (their Gran Vino goes for \$100 a bottle). Some say Navarra reservas are essentially back-door Riojas. And the stony clay soil here is, geographically speaking, a Rioja Alavesa soil. But the hint of chocolate and spice underneath classic tempranillo flavors of black cherry and plum make this elegant 2013 a wine all its own.

Drink 2021 to 2026.



2016 Berceo Reserva, Limited Edition (DOCa Rioja)



Avg. vine age 40 yrs
90 pts (Wine
Enthusiast)
Hand harvested
Tempranillo,
Grenache, Graciano

Our 2020 Spanish collection included a wine from this same winemaker, Borja Ripa (the magnificent Manzanos 2008). This year, we sample his work from Berceo, in the town of Haro, perhaps our favorite wine town in Europe.

Founded in 1801, Berceo is the oldest winery in Haro. It is built into a hill – the winemaking process literally flows downhill, eventually winding up in underground galleries that were once the ancient tunnels of old Haro Castle (this type of vertical winemaking process reduces air exposure and disruption of the must).

With 90 points (Wine Enthusiast), and a Gold Medal from Mundus Vini, this limited-edition 2016 combines ancient tradition and ultra-modern technique. The classic Rioja flavors are there - red and black cherry, prune, and tobacco. Plus, 24 months in oak give it a spicy vanilla finish. Note the label – that’s the nearby Suso Monastery, the “cradle of the Spanish language” known for its wine poetry.

Drink 2021-2026



2018 Pago de Otazu (Otazu)



**Single Estate
Appellation (Pago)**

Founded 1840s

**2x Gold Medal
Winner (Gilbert &
Gaillard, Mundus Vini)**

**Merlot, Cabernet
Sauvignon**

In a small mountain valley near Pamplona, Otazu is one of just 19 Spanish estates unique enough to merit its own appellation, known as a Pago.

With this 2018, we continue to explore the French influence in northern Spain. Otazu has the distinction of being the first winery built in the French style in Navarra, all the way back in the 1840s. The grapes are French, too: merlot and cab sauv. And winemaker Begoña Jovellar is another Vega Sicilia alumna (the Latour of Spain).

Otazu is at once the most subtle wine in this entire collection and the most complex. The nose is clean with a touch of spice. But on the palate, the weight of Navarra's history comes to bear like a crumbling donjon keep. No wonder this vintage has two gold medals, 91 points from Wine Align, and 92 points from Guía Peñín. Cellar if you can.

Drink 2022-2028.



2015 Finca Can Martí Brut Corpinnat (Penedès)



Est. 1395

Sparkling (Corpinnat)

Organic

Chardonnay, Xarel-lo,
Macabeo, Parellada

Penedès (in Catalunya) is Spain's pre-eminent Cava production region. Yet this is not a Cava. Torelló, established in 1395, gave up the Cava DO (a trend among top Cava producers who feel the brand is too broad) for the stricter Corpinnat designation.

The 2015 season began with a heavy snowfall, which kept the ground moist during the broiling summer that followed. Stainless steel fermentation (local yeast). Natural clarification in concrete. Finally, a second fermentation in bottle (as in Champagne).

The bottles sat for 36 months, with *poignettage* (turning the bottles so the yeast mixes back in with the wine for greater depth of flavor), and a final disgorgement by hand (*à la volée*) – a technique to remove the dead yeast by hand (as opposed to machine disgorgement in which the bottle neck is frozen and the deposits removed as a plug).

With 91 points from James Suckling, this 2015 has a citrus and honeysuckle nose, and a touch of balsamic that continues in the palate to counterbalance the fruit flavors.

Drink very cold (46 F), from now to 2025.



2019 Laudum Nature Petit Verdot (Valencia)



Founded: 1987
2280 Bottles Only
Low Temp
Fermentation
Petit Verdot

After James I of Aragon recaptured Valencia from the Moors during the Reconquista, he let the region mostly govern itself. A golden age for Valencia followed in the 16th and 17th centuries. Locals played chess (the earliest records of modern chess are found in Valencia) and produced a sweet wine that Swedish and English merchants distributed all throughout Europe.

After that Valencia's fortunes faded, reaching a nadir under Franco, who suppressed local culture (including the near extinct Valencian language). Today, however, the trend is reversing, as evidenced by this 2019 from the Alicante DO. Valencian wines run the gamut from slightly sweet to bold reds like Californian and Australian cabs. This petit verdot from Bocopa avoids either extreme to great effect – with a nose of forest floor, wild berries, and stone, followed by a lush sweep of the palate by rich fruit and fat tannins. Your patience will be rewarded if you let it linger for a subtle finish. Cellar if you can.

Drink 2024-2029.





Our Mission

At the Bonner Private Wine Partnership, our mission is to bring you unique bottles from all over the world. We seek wines that are bursting with life and character – wines with an adventure in every bottle.

Your Next Quarterly Shipment

As you read this, we are already selecting and arranging to import wines for next quarter's shipment. We will be in touch to share what we've found with you when we get closer to the shipping date. Until then, enjoy your wine! (And let us know what you think!)

Problem with Your Shipment?

Please call our customer service, 9-5 Monday through Friday at 1-844-733-5249. We want everyone to get the most out of this club and these wines. So if there's a problem, we'll do our best to make it right.



Love tasting new wines? Have thoughts about flavor notes and styles? Become a wine tester for us and receive special offers & exclusive wines... in exchange for your tasting expertise! **Sign up at:** www.bonnerprivatewines.com/wine-testing