

Your Spanish Wine Collection

From the Bonner Private Wine Partnership



BONNER
PRIVATE WINE
PARTNERSHIP

Cover Photo: Bodegas Casado Morales

An Adventure in Every Bottle

Searching the world for astonishing
wines from little-known winemakers

Our Online Store is Open!

Don't Run Out Of Wine! Certain bottles are available for purchase at our online shop. Log into your profile on www.bonnerprivatewines.com to see what's in the cellar. You can also always give us a call at 844.733.5249.



Photo: Torelló Viticultors

Dear Member,

It's been two years since we sourced a Spanish collection. In preparation for this one, we looked back at our previous booklets. We noticed a lot of waxing on about the past. In most places vines grow, whether in Spain or elsewhere in the Old World, there tends to be a lot of past to talk about.

We have a wine in this collection grown on the very same grounds where a world-famous Spanish writer wrote his most famous work (no, it's not Don Quixote), another made in a 16th century farmhouse (itself built over the foundation of an old Roman villa), and still another from a bodega that's been making wine since 1395. If you want to go back even further, one of our partner wineries gets its edge from a geological phenomenon called a petrocalcic horizon, created when water dissolves calcium carbonate found in the soil and carries it deep underground.

So we can't claim ours is a modernist collection, exactly. Yet, with this 2024 Spanish collection, we sought out twists on tradition rather than its repetition: a pinot in Valencia, an earthy cabernet (with a surprising secondary grape), a gentle Toro, and more.

In short, we looked for winemakers, generally operating on small plots by hand, who want to create their own traditions, rather than go through motions created by someone else.

You'll also notice that every wine in this collection is organic (save one, which is made following traditional methods but without the organic label). That was not on purpose. But it does tend to work out that way with winemakers who genuinely care about wine as a living art, not a commercial commodity.

In this box, you will find six bottles:

- ① Hispano+Suizas Bassus Pinot Noir 2021
- ② Alonso del Yerro 2019
- ③ Casado Morales EME Mazuelo 2015
- ④ Torelló Cava 2a 18/19
- ⑤ Vetus 2019
- ⑥ Mas Vilella 2021

With apologies that it has taken us so long to return to Iberia's many delights...

Salud,

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

Will Bonner
Founder, Bonner Private Wine Partnership

The Bodegas



A Quick Note on Wine Tasting

On the next few pages, we've included tasting notes. 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 ordinary noses will never be able to detect.

Now. If you don't pick up on the same flavors, does that mean you're doing it wrong?

No. Tasting is subjective. Pronounced flavors on my palate may present themselves as secondary or tertiary notes for you. Remember, 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!

Email us at feedback@bonnerprivatewines.com.

2024
Spanish
Collection

Bonner Private Wine Partnership

Hispano+Suizas

Bassus 2021

Organic
Pinot Noir



As you head inland from Valencia, on Spain's Mediterranean coast, the seaside orange groves give way to olives trees by teal blue lakes, and grape vines.

Tempranillo doesn't work here; it has no acidity to it. Petit verdot does well, as we found out last time we sourced from Valencia. This time, we took a chance on a pinot noir and loved it.

Utiel-Requena is the warmest of Valencia's wine regions, similar, in some ways, to a Napa or Willamette – with excellent nighttime cooling to keep the pinot happy. As a further protection, the trio behind the wine; Marc, Pablo, and Rafa; harvest in the mornings and macerate the wine in oak barrels, the heads of which have been replaced

with stainless steel cooling plates.

The result is cherry red with hues of violet in the glass; ripe cherry, black currant, and licorice (with a dash of French oak) in the nose; and a full, velvety palate, fruity with toffee undertones. Multi 90+ point scores. Let it sit for a few months to settle, then drink.

Alonso del Yerro

Tempranillo 2019

Organic
Tempranillo



In the middle of Ribera del Duero, there sits a sort of “Orion’s Belt” of Spanish wine – three stars strung along the Duero River. From east to west, these are Vega Sicilia, Peñafiel – world famous, expensive – and the lesser-known village of Roa.

The Romans founded Roa, and planted the first grapes there, during the Iberian conquest. A few thousand years later, in 2002, Javier and Maria Alonso del Yerro founded a small winery on 64 acres below a scrub-covered mesa. Their son, Miguel, now runs the winery, a job that, along with making the wine, also includes making his own compost, and planting wheat along the vine rows to keep the limestone soil from compacting.

As in much of Ribera, the Roa summers are punishing. 2019 was about as brutal as they come until late season storms broke the heat, allowing the grapes to ripen fully. This bottle of the Alonsos’ flagship wine is deep red in the glass, powerfully spicy and fruity on the nose, and concentrated on the palate, with notes of wild flowers, licorice, and a bit of toast. With 90+ scores from Wine Advocate, Suckling, and Atkin. Drink now till 2029.

Casado Morales

EME Mazuelo 2015

Traditional
Mazuelo



This 2015 is a rarity. Many years ago, winemakers in Rioja added white wine to their reds to bolster tempranillo's mild acidity. Under the rules of the DOCa (Spain's most elite appellation), the practice is no longer allowed. They now use mazuelo, a red grape known in France as carignan, as their primary mixing grape.

A 100% mazuelo is rare in Rioja. Ten years ago even they were non-existent. With this 2015 from winemaker Joseba Casado, perhaps Riojan mazuelo is ready to take first chair.

Joseba's family has been making wines along the Ebro River for a century. The modern incarnation of his Casado Morales winery dates back to the 1960s. In the 18th century, the property was home to Félix Maria de Samaniego. If you don't know his name, you know his stories, including "the Fox and the Grapes," written, it is said, on the very soil that yielded the very wine you now own.

You'll find no sour grapes in this bottle but rather a bounty of blueberries, wild herbs, summer flowers, and spice in the nose; then a good body (not too big) on the palate, where juicy blueberry and flowers take the fore. Only 3,500 bottles made. 91 pts (WA, Suckling). Drink now till 2028.



Torelló

Cava 2a 2018/2019

Organic
Xarel.lo, Macabeo,
Parellada



In 2021, we brought Torelló to our Partnership for the first time. We knew it wouldn't be the last. Winemakers since 1395 (Paco de la Rosa Torelló is the 23rd generation to stand at the helm), Torelló makes what used to be called Cava, and is now called Corpinnat, the result of a defection from the Cava DO (denominación de origen) towards a new, more exclusive Corpinnat DO by several of the top Cava producers from Penedès.

Torelló's secret (one of many we are sure) lies in a distinctive buildup of calcium carbonate in their soil, a "petrocalcic horizon" that both enriches the soil with minerals while also limiting the vines' access to water.

The wine's name references the two vintage years it contains: 2018 and 2019. The latter was wet with a delayed harvest. The former was blistering, as two heat waves rolled over Catalonia. The winemakers opted to combine the two extremes for a sparkler so clean yet so deep, you could imagine sipping it (and we've heard you can) in a Michelin star restaurant – fine, clean bubbles; citrus and pear notes; dry, and well balanced with a taste of Mediterranean herbs. Long aging potential (up to 11 years). 91 pts (Penin Guide).

Vetus 2019

Organic
Tinta de Toro,
Garnacha



We started sourcing Toros back in 2021 because it reminded us of our own Calchaquí roots. Toro was once a pre-eminent region in Spain. In the 20th century, however, it fell into decline and would have been almost completely forgotten were it not for Michel Roland, the man who brought Argentina back to life.

We can see why he took to the place. The landscape is rough. The wines come out like bulls on parade. The grape vines, mostly a local variant of tempranillo called “tinta de Toro,” are often ungrafted and thus very old. (The sandy soil makes it difficult for root-destroying phylloxera bugs to take hold. Most other European vines are grafted onto American rootstocks, which are resistant to the bug.)

Bodegas Vetus, founded in 2003, is 49 acres of tinta with a smattering of garnacha. Winemaker Alvaro Trigueros prizes elegance over pure power. He works in small batches, with a great care to domesticate his bulls. Fermented in stainless steel, followed by 12 months of French oak, this 2019 pours into the glass with deep cherry hues that yield black fruit and sweet spice aromas. 92 pts (Wine Advocate, Suckling), 90 pts (Wine Spectator). Drink now to 2030.

Mas Vilella

2021

Organic
Cabernet Sauvignon,
Sumoll



The 16th century farmhouse where Albert Jané makes his small batch wines may sit on what was once a Roman villa with a wine cellar. Amphora and earthenware jug necks have been found in the vineyard.

The Janés arrived a good bit later, with Albert's grandfather opening their first winery in 1914. Albert's parents planted the exact vines that produced this 2021 back in 1984.

You may have never heard of “sumoll” grapes before. They are native grapes from the Penedès region of Catalonia. Elsewhere they are almost entirely unknown. Even in Catalonia, they have become a rarity since Spain's entry to the EU in 1986 (creating a common market which brought all of Europe's winemakers into direct competition with one another).

In this 2021, the sumoll adds an interesting earthiness, a distinctly Mediterranean quality to what could have easily become a California-like cab sauv. Dried herbs join creamy oak and fruit in the nose which then becomes powerful ripe fruit and spice on the palate. With multiple 90+ point scores. Only 1,105 cases made. Drink now till 2036.



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.

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