

EXPLOR



ERS

CL

UB

CHATEAU LABALLE “LES SABLES FAUVES” 2018, LANDES, FRANCE

Tracing their roots back to 1820, Chateau Laballe started by making high-quality Armagnac. Throughout the years the Chateau has been passed down to each generation. It was in the 1970's, under the 8th generation of family ownership, that the Chateau switched its focus to making dry wines on the estate.

“Les Sables Fauves” is composed of a blend of two local varietals, Colombard and Gros Manseng, along with Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. With rich tropical fruit notes upfront and roundness on the palate, this white wine finishes with a bright streak of acidity and minerality that maintains its dryness. Try pairing with soft French cheeses alongside fruit jams and preserves.



NOVEMBER 2020

EXPLOR



ERS

CL

UB

LA RIOJA ALTA “VIÑA ALBERDI,” 2015, RIOJA, SPAIN

Fans of Rioja wines will know that there are a small handful of truly classic producers known worldwide. La Rioja Alta is a winery of that caliber. Tracing its roots back to 1890, La Rioja Alta now helms several different wineries throughout Spain with La Rioja Alta remaining its crown jewel. Viña Alberdi was formed by La Rioja Alta in 1978 in order to produce wines that still had the signature style and power that the original was known for while offering wines that were more immediately enjoyable in their youth.

The Viña Alberdi Rioja is composed of 100% Tempranillo from five of their premier vineyard sources with vines 40 years old on average. The wine was aged for 2 years total in American Oak barrels that were manufactured on their property. For the first year, the wine was aged exclusively in new oak barrels and for the second year it was aged in four-year-old barrels so as to mellow out the assertive oak profile.

Deep cherry notes alongside mocha, earth, and a touch of coconut and dill from aging in American Oak combine to make this Rioja powerful yet approachable. Try pairing with grilled meats.



NOVEMBER 2020

COLLECT



ORS

COTO MAYOR 1988 RESERVA, RIOJA, SPAIN

It is always an immense pleasure when we find an older vintage wine that is drinking at its peak. That moment is made even better when we find enough of it to share with you, our loyal Wine Club members! For your enjoyment, we have this stunning vintage example of a Rioja Reserva by Coto Mayor.

While 1988 is generally considered to have been just a good, not great, vintage for Rioja overall, this particular bottling is a testament to what a skilled winemaker can do in less than optimal years. Still showing a fair amount of fresh cherry fruit and fig, this Rioja also has complex layers of earth with incredibly intermingled acidity. We recommend not sitting on this wine or aging it for much longer as it is showing well within its window of drinkability. Do exercise care when opening it up as the corks are old albeit in good shape. If you happen to have an Ah-So wine opener, we recommend using it.

We also recommend pairing this wine with all of your holiday meals this season.

CL

UB



NOVEMBER 2020