

## Recommended Wines From Rioja

Nearly 825 wines were reviewed for the Spain tasting report, including 200 from Rioja. A free alphabetical list is available at [www.winespectator.com/101512](http://www.winespectator.com/101512). WineSpectator.com members can access complete reviews for all wines tasted using the online Wine Ratings search. For recommended wines from other Spanish regions, see the chart on page 77.

### TOP WINES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>BODEGAS SIERRA CANTABRIA</b> Rioja Finca El Bosque 2009 Toasty and smoky notes frame plum and cassis flavors in this bold red, which has density without heaviness, along with lively acidity.	94	\$170
<b>BODEGAS LUIS CAÑAS</b> Tempranillo Rioja Amaren Reserva 2001 This maturing red is supple yet intense, with harmonious tobacco, cedar, dried cherry, mineral and sous-bois flavors.	93	\$55
<b>BODEGAS LAN</b> Rioja Edición Limitada 2008 Fruit-forward and modern in style, delivering expressive flavors of black cherry, raspberry, chocolate, licorice and mineral.	93	\$45
<b>R. LÓPEZ DE HEREDIA VIÑA TONDONIA</b> Rioja White Viña Tondonia Gran Reserva 1991 This mature white shows the traditional character of dried apple, lanolin, herb and toasty vanilla flavors, with waxy notes.	93	\$106
<b>VIÑEDOS DE PÁGANOS</b> Rioja La Nieta 2009 This aromatic red is intense and modern in its expression of berry, kirsch and vanilla flavors, with a plush texture.	93	\$165
<b>BODEGAS SIERRA CANTABRIA</b> Rioja Amancio 2008 Rich and dense, yet smooth and focused, with black cherry, cassis and pomegranate flavors. Well-structured and balanced.	93	\$174
<b>BODEGAS BERONIA</b> Rioja Gran Reserva 2004 A dense, plush texture carries ripe plum, raisin, tar and tobacco flavors. Expressive and harmonious, with a youthful character.	92	\$28
<b>MARQUÉS DE CÁCERES</b> Rioja MC Paco Rabanne Reserva 2005 Elegant, focused and harmonious, showing plum, dried cherry, tobacco and spice flavors, followed by mineral and herbal notes.	92	\$34
<b>DSG VINEYARDS</b> Rioja Phincas 2008 This vibrant, balanced red is both lively and dense, offering floral, blackberry, anise, mineral and smoke notes.	92	\$38
<b>BODEGAS MARQUÉS DE VITORIA</b> Rioja Gran Reserva 2001 This round red is maturing nicely, with lively acidity keeping it fresh, showing cherry, tobacco, leather and spice flavors.	92	\$33
<b>BODEGAS PALACIO</b> Rioja White Cosme Palacio 1894 2009 Muscular, yet not showy, this big white delivers almond, wax, rose water and dried pear flavors, with bracing acidity.	91	\$30
<b>R. LÓPEZ DE HEREDIA VIÑA TONDONIA</b> Rioja White Viña Tondonia Reserva 1996 This traditional white is lean, but still very fresh and focused, with dried apple, subtle vanilla, herb and lanolin flavors.	90	\$53
<b>BODEGAS VALDEMAR</b> Tempranillo Blanco Rioja Inspiración 2011 Smoke, honey and almond notes frame roasted apple and dry honey flavors in this distinctive white. Balanced and rich.	90	\$40

### TOP VALUES

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>VIÑA HERMINIA</b> Rioja Reserva 2005 Powerful yet racy, this youthful red boasts a beam of black cherry and boysenberry fruit. Fresh, harmonious and graceful.	93	\$24
<b>ROMERO &amp; MILLER</b> Rioja Rentas de Fincas Reserva 2005 Still youthful, delivering intense flavors in a plush texture, with cherry, berry and spice notes. Stays focused and fresh.	92	\$18

### TOP VALUES (continued)

WINE	SCORE	PRICE
<b>BODEGAS ONTAÑÓN</b> Tempranillo-Graciano Rioja Reserva 2004 This energetic red shows cranberry, licorice and cedar flavors carried across the palate by racy acidity.	91	\$21
<b>BODEGAS DINASTÍA VIVANCO</b> Rioja Selección de Familia Crianza 2008 Velvety and voluptuous, this generous red delivers plum, blackberry, chocolate and toast flavors, with a graceful finish.	90	\$18
<b>BODEGAS VALDEMAR</b> Rioja White Conde de Valdemar Finca Alto Cantabria 2011 This expressive white shows pear, lanolin, almond and herbal flavors that are lean yet polished. A traditional style.	90	\$15
<b>CUNE</b> Rioja White Monopole 2010 A firm, focused white, with pear, ginger, smoke and herb flavors and a solid structure. Not showy, but has depth and vibrancy.	89	\$13
<b>BODEGAS FRANCO-ESPAÑOLAS</b> Rioja Bordón Crianza 2008 Notes of toasted spices and warm brick suffuse this traditional red, accenting cherry, berry, leafy and vanilla flavors.	89	\$12
<b>BODEGAS PATROCINIO</b> Rioja Señorío de Uñuela Crianza 2008 This fresh red offers a nice combination of raciness and density, with black cherry, licorice, toast and tobacco flavors.	89	\$14
<b>TORRE DE OÑA</b> Rioja Finca San Martín Crianza 2009 There's good density to the ripe flavors in this supple, velvety red, with black cherry, kirsch, cola, leaf and licorice notes.	89	\$16
<b>MARQUÉS DE CÁCERES</b> Rioja Crianza 2008 This focused red is subtle but harmonious, with well-integrated black cherry, toast, herbs and spice flavors. Crisp and fresh.	88	\$15
<b>BODEGAS BURGO VIEJO</b> Rioja Montebuena 2009 This red is light-bodied, yet shows intensity, displaying vibrant cherry, kirsch, vanilla and leafy flavors, with lively acidity.	87	\$13
<b>HACIENDAS MARQUÉS DE LA CONCORDIA</b> Rioja Signa Crianza 2007 Ripe cherry and plum flavors mark this plump red, with notes of chocolate and tobacco that show a spicy undertone.	87	\$13
<b>BODEGAS MUGA</b> Rioja Rosado 2010 A lively dry rosé, offering crisp berry and watermelon flavors.	87	\$12
<b>BODEGAS MURIEL</b> Rioja White 2010 This juicy white offers bright flavors of pear and tangerine, with light herbal notes. Shows good weight and drive.	87	\$12
<b>BODEGAS VALDEMAR</b> Rioja Rosado Conde de Valdemar 2011 An expressive dry rosé, with cherry, berry and watermelon flavors.	87	\$10
<b>BODEGAS Y VIÑEDOS ILURCE</b> Graciano Rioja Rio Madre 2010 Shows marked varietal character, with black fruit and licorice flavors.	86	\$10
<b>VIÑA PALACIEGA</b> Rioja Crianza 2007 Light yet focused, with a mix of cherry, tobacco, leather and spice.	86	\$10
<b>BODEGAS VALDEMAR</b> Garnacha Rioja Rosado 2011 A full-flavored rosé, with exuberant berry, cherry pie and spice notes.	86	\$9
<b>MARQUÉS DE CÁCERES</b> Rioja Rosado 2011 Crisp and lively, this rosé shows floral, herbal and citrus flavors.	85	\$9
<b>CUNE</b> Rioja White 2010 A vibrant white, offering flavors of almond, ginger and herbs.	85	\$12