

Rioja Blanco 2017
Rioja Alavesa, Rioja, Spain



Grape Varieties **70% Viura**
 10% Grenache/Garnacha
 10% Malvasia
 10% Tempranillo

Winemaker	Ruth Rodríguez
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	13.5%
Residual Sugar	1.3g/L
Acidity	6.4g/L
Wine pH	3.19
Bottle Sizes	75cl

PRODUCER

Izadi is based in Villabuena in Rioja Alavesa, the highest part of Rioja. The hillside winery (whose precipitous slope allows for gravity assisted production) was founded in 1987 by Gonzalo Antón as a modern breakaway from the traditional style of wine produced by other members of his family. As his son Lalo, who now runs the estate, says: "the whole concept of Izadi really started around wanting to produce wine to satisfy the needs of our friends over a meal". Izadi produces modern, international wines that are true to their roots and a natural expression of the area.

VINEYARDS

The grapes for the Izadi wines are grown on 178 hectares of vineyard, all of which are either owned or leased on long term contracts, so Izadi have full control over production. Fruit for the Rioja Blanco comes from the Villabuena and Samaniego vineyards. All the vineyards have traditionally trained bush vines, a method which they believe gives better exposure of the grapes, leading to evenly ripe and matured fruit.

VINTAGE

2017 was a complicated year. Early spring was cold and wet, but February and March were dry with higher than average temperatures. April was also warm, but a late frost caused significant damage across the region before May saw a return to good conditions for flowering and fruit set. After a very dry August, September storms provided the much-needed water required to complete the ripening process. With harvest commencing on the 15th September, this was the earliest vintage in the history of the area.

VINIFICATION

The hand-harvested grapes were destemmed and softly crushed before fermenting in fine grained new French oak cask (Bertomieu) for three months with Batonnage (lees stirring) taking place daily for the first few weeks.

TASTING NOTES

This wine is straw yellow in colour with youthful tones. With succulent citrus and yellow stone fruit on both the nose and the palate, this well-balanced wine combines a richness and freshness frequently missing in white Rioja.