



RAFAEL PALACIOS

VITICULTOR EN VAL DO BIBEI - O BOLO - OURENSE - SPAIN

Rafael Palacios,

`As Sortes Val do Bibei` Valdeorras Godello 2023

Valdeorras, Galicia, Spain



PRODUCER

Since starting his own winery in 2004, Rafael Palacios has fast become one of Spain's pre-eminent producers of white wine. His 32 parcels of Godello, which are spread over 19.5 hectares in the Val do Bibei in Valdeorras, Galicia, produce some of Spain's most interesting white wines. The vines are planted on steep hills turned into terraces buttressed by stones. Rafa's viticulture is sensitive to the fragile nature of these old terraces, and he has adapted his approach to ensure these magnificent structures are preserved. His viticulture is low intervention, with some of the older plots (or 'sortes' in Galician) being farmed biodynamically.

VINEYARDS

This wine is produced with grapes sourced from six small 'sortes', planted in the late 1970's and early 1980's. They are some of the oldest vineyards owned by Rafael Palacios, around 40 years old, located in Santa Cruz do Bolo on the north side of the Bibei Valley. The soils here are pure granite sand, with low fertility. This, combined with an altitude of over 680 meters above sea level, results in low yields and as a result, wines with a true sense of place.

VINTAGE

The 2023 growing season began with a mild, rainy winter, ensuring good water reserves in the soils. Moderate rainfall continued through the spring, supporting steady vine development and balanced growth. Summer was warm and predominantly dry, though not excessively hot, allowing for gradual and even ripening. Timely rainfall in September proved decisive, refreshing the vines and enabling the grapes to reach optimal phenolic maturity while retaining freshness and acidity. These favourable conditions resulted in a vintage of excellent quality, combining precision, balance and purity of fruit.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were pressed and the must then fermented with indigenous yeasts in 500 litre French oak barrels. The wine was then aged on lees for a further eight months in barrel prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

On the nose, this wine is intensely aromatic showing citrus fruit, white stone fruit, and some herbaceous notes. The palate displays a lovely richness and weight, underpinned by a fresh acidity and granitic minerality that drives a long, refined finish.

Grape Varieties	100% Godello
Winemaker	Rafael Palacios Muro
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	14.5%
Residual Sugar	1.23g/L
Acidity	7.38g/L
Wine pH	3.13
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic