Alto de INAZARES 1373 m. WINES

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Alto de Inazares
family owned winery

The **Alto de Inazares** family owned winery is located at an altitude of 1,373 meters above sea level in a secluded spot, immersed in a Mediterranean forest environment, located in the northwest of the Region of Murcia, Spain.

With **varieties planted for the first time in Europe at this extreme altitude**, the winery produces high quality wines characterized by their freshness, fruity and floral aromas and the unmistakable mark of the terroir.

·The editions are exclusive, very limited, and the winemaking is of minimal intervention. At Alto de Inazares, the focus is on the meticulous manual work in the vineyard, from which we obtain high-quality grapes year after year.

The grape varieties, from northern and central France, are white (**viognier, chardonnay, gewürztraminer, riesling, sauvignon blanc**) and red (**pinot noir and syra**h).

As we belong to the Region of Murcia, we could not fail to produce wines based on the Monastrell grape, the queen of the Mediterranean, to which we imbue freshness and elegance with the stamp that identifies the winery.

Heroic Viticulture

The winery is a member of the CERVIM association of extreme wine producers, which promotes heroic mountain viticulture. At the altitude of our vineyard, growing involves great difficulties and risks: we have to protect the plantation from persistent hail, late frosts and snowfall, and from the wildlife encroachment, which finds in our Inazares vineyard an oasis of greenery and coolness during the summer.

One of the distinguishing keys of this vineyard is that it is literally planted on the 250-million-year-old limestone bedrock. The thin layer of arable soil, barely 20 cm, forces the vines to dig their roots deep into the fissures of the rock in search of the freshness that is stored inside. The nature of the rock and the poverty of the soil provide grapes with excellent acidity, as differentiating element between Mediterranean wines.

This vineyard is unique in Europe due to the singular combination of its borderline altitude and a latitude far south of the continent, where it enjoys 3,000 hours of sunshine a year. Although it is only 80 km inland, the climate is semi-continental, with large seasonal differences (winters as low as -18°C and summers up to 36°C).

Thanks to the large temperature range during growing season, with average night-time temperatures of 15ºC, the grapes preserves their acidity right up to the moment of entry into the winery. This is the key for balanced wine in a natural way, bringing into freshness, deep aromas and agility in the palate.

Another natural factor is the high concentration of aromas, thanks to the extreme UV index to which the vineyard is subjected. It is not for nothing that Inazares was declared by NASA, in 2000, as the **cleanest sky in Europe for astronomical observation**.

In order to protect itself from this incidence of ultraviolet rays, the grape reduces its size, creating small and compact bunches and, in turn, generates a thick skin where more aromas and tannins are concentrated.

Summers are dry and temperate, which lets the grapes to ripen slowly and fully, giving ripe and **elegant tannins that allow the wines a great evolution in the bottle**.

The Wines

In this high Mediterranean enclave, the wines produced in Alto de Inazares show a singular typicity that tends towards floral, herbal and spicy, depending on the variety. The grapes are carefully selected on the vine during the family harvest, and the impeccable health of the grapes is guaranteed by the constant dry breeze coming from the sea. The grapes are picked in 12 kg cases and take no more than three minutes to enter the cellar, which is located in the vineyard itself. There it remains refrigerated before cold maceration as a preliminary step to fermentation.

We mainly produce single-varietal wines and, and also signature wines that arise from the inspiration offered by the palette of musts of each vintage. Depending on the variety, the grapes are crushed for semi-carbonic fermentation. The fermentations are carried out under strict temperature control and with daily tastings. Ageing is carried out on fine lees in stainless steel tanks.

For Alto de Inazares, the time spent in oak must be subtle and provide a note of elegance, without masking the aromas and flavours of the grapes. Only some of our wines contain a part of wine aged in barrels of various uses, in 225-litre American oak.

The Winery

The vision of Alto de Inazares is based on differentiating wines that come from a unique place. The project stems from the initiative of the Prieto & Pina family, who saw the opportunity to conquer the highest vineyard in the European continent in 2010. A challenge that entailed a significant risk.

The plantation was established on a hitherto untouched-by-man estate. Inazares, a hamlet of 16 inhabitants, was a Berber stronghold in the 11th century that lived through the Reconquista during the Middle Ages, as it was located in the so-called Land of Frontiers, between the Christian and Arab kingdoms. The surroundings are full of purity and authenticity.

We practice organic and regenerative agriculture, following the biodynamic calendar. In addition, we have taken this interest in sustainability to the design and construction of the winery, which is made from recycled materials and blends in with the landscape.

Awards

Critics rate Alto de Inazares wines as excellent. Since its first vintage in 2017, the winery has received medals in several international competitions and ratings above 90 points in the iconic Peñin Guide.

Monastrell 2019

Gold Medal: Mondial des Vins Extrêmes 2021
Extreme Wines International Contest, Milano. XXIII Edition
93 points Peñin Guide

Pinot Noir 2020

Top 5 Outstanding Wine
95 points at Akatavinos International Contest

Mulato 2019

Silver Medal: Mondial des Vins Extrêmes 2021
Extreme Wines International Contest, Milano. XXIII Edition
91 points Peñin Guide

Syrah 2020

Gold Medal: Akatavinos International Contest, 93 points
Gold Medal: Premios EcoVino, XIII International Organic Wine Contest
92 points Peñin Guide

Palmarés

Viognier 2020

Gold Medal: Akatavinos International Contest, 93 points
90 points Peñin Guide

Monastrell 2020

Silver Medal: Akatavinos International Contest, 92 points
93 points Peñin Guide

Chardonnay 2020

92 points Peñin Guide

Blanco de Blancas 2019

90 points Peñin Guide

Palmarés

Syrah 2019
92 points Peñin Guide

Syrah 2017
91 points Peñin Guide

Blanco de Blancas 2017
91 points Peñin Guide

Pinot Noir 2017
90 Puntos Peñin Guide

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