

# DRINK RIBERA. DRINK SPAIN.

## QUICK FACTS



### GEOGRAPHY/LOCATION

Located in Spain's northern plateau approximately one and a half hours from Madrid, Ribera del Duero extends over four provinces of Castilla y León: Burgos, Segovia, Soria and Valladolid. Ribera, which means "river bank," is defined in geographic and growing terms by the horizontal axis of the Duero River; 150 km (93 miles) from east to west, and 35 km (22 miles) wide.

### MAJOR CITIES

Aranda del Duero, Burgos, Peñafiel, Roa, San Esteban de Gormaz, Segovia, Valladolid

### HISTORY

The Denominación de Origen (D.O.) of Ribera del Duero was founded on July 21, 1982. Winemaking in Ribera dates back over 2,000 years to the Roman era, and experienced a revival during the Middle Ages, driven by foreign monasteries such as the Cistercian and Benedictines in the 12th and 13th Centuries. Ribera wines were highly regarded for export at the height of the Spanish Empire in the 17th and 18th centuries, and in more recent times the founding of Bodega Vega Sicilia in 1864 heralded the quality credentials of the region.

### CLIMATE

- **Type:** Mediterranean with Continental influences. Extreme conditions, ideal for quality winemaking.
- **Elevation:** Among the highest elevations for red wines in Europe; vineyards are planted between 2,500 to 2,800 feet (760 to 850 meters) above sea level.
- **Rainfall:** 18 inches on average per year
- **Temperature:** Cold winters. Summers are short and hot with temperatures ranging from 65 degrees at night to over 100 degrees during the day. Rapid daily temperature changes during the growing season facilitate healthy ripening, balanced acidity and aromatic complexity.

### PRODUCTION

- **Yield:** Maximum yield: 7,000 kg/ha (3.1 tons/acre). Average yield for the last 22 years: 3,600 kg/ha (1.6 tons/acre).
- **Vineyard Area:** 51,274 acres planted to vine
- **Total Wineries (2008):** 249
- **Average Annual Production:** 70,302,378 kg of grapes

### PRINCIPAL GRAPE VARIETIES

- **Reds – Tempranillo (also known as Tinto Fino, Tinta del País):** 95% of all production; **Cabernet Sauvignon:** 1% of all production; **Merlot, Garnacha Tinta,** and **Malbec:** combined <1% of all production.
- **Whites – Albillo:** 3% of all production.

### WINE CLASSIFICATIONS

- **Joven:** Joven wines have no oak at all. "Joven Roble" and "Joven Barrica" are interchangeable terms that refer to wines aged for only three to six months in oak, released soon after harvest.
- **Crianza:** Aged at least two years, a minimum of twelve months in oak barrels.
- **Reserva:** Aged three years, a minimum of twelve months in oak barrels.
- **Gran Reserva:** Wines of outstanding quality, made in select vintage years only. Aged a minimum of 60 months, with a minimum of 24 months in oak barrels.
- **Rosado:** Rosé wines are fermented without the skin of the grape and are available shortly after the harvest. Easy to enjoy, with refreshing wild-berry flavors.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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