

2014 MIGUEL MERINO MAZUELO DE LA QUINTA CRUZ

BODEGAS MIGUEL MERINO, RIOJA, SPAIN



THE WINE:

A very rare non-tempranillo based wine from Rioja, this 100% Mazuelo (Carignane) was made by Miguel Merino Sr. The total production was 3,996 bottles. The vineyard has perfect sun exposure and is located in a warm micro-pocket allowing for the late ripening Mazuelo to reach full maturity. Aged for 14 months in French oak.

THE ESTATE:

Bodegas Miguel Merino was formed in 1994 when wine exporter Miguel Merino fulfilled his dream of having a small cellar where only the very best wine of Rioja would be hand-crafted in small bottles. The winery and vineyard are located in Briones, a small village in the Rioja Alta sub region of Rioja where the Tempranillo vines thrive and some of Spain's greatest red wines are born. Today the winery produces only 40,000 batches per year with six different wines. Miguel follows his time proven theory that "It is easy to obtain a mediocre wine from great strains, but it is impossible to create a great wine with bad grapes." With this in mind the vineyards are all older properties grown with minimal interference and done with a deep respect for nature.

TASTING NOTES:

Color: dark ruby

Aromas: blueberry and warm spices with subtle hints of dried violets and crushed rocks

Flavor & Texture: rich and creamy on the palate with ripe red and black fruit, notes of chocolate and spice

Food Pairing: grilled pork chops with a paprika, sea salt and cracked pepper rub

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