

2016 Leon Dormido Single Vineyard Reserva Rioja Alta, Spain



The Wine:

100% Tempranillo from the Mendiguerra vineyard owned by Bodegas Miguel Merino, in the Rioja Alta sub-region of Rioja. Vines were planted in 1931 with very narrow spacing between rows allowing only hand harvesting. Grown without pesticides or herbicides. The wine was made by Miguel Merino Jr in his father's winery, Bodegas Miguel Merino. Aged for 36 months in 33% new French and American oak. There were approximately 235 cases made in 2016.

The Estate:

Leon Dormido wines are all hand-crafted by Miguel Merino Navajas. Named for the famous mountain in Rioja (Sleeping Lion) these small production wines are fruit focused; a departure from the heavily oaked wines of Rioja's past. Miguel's deep knowledge and passion for the native Tempranillo and Garnacha grapes are on full display.

Tasting Notes:

Color: dense violet - ruby

Aromas: black plums, cherries, vanilla pipe tobacco and violets

Flavor & Texture: ripe black fruits and toasted bourbon barrel lead to a rich and velvet soft texture with plush tannins

Food Pairing: serve with a tapas plate of thinly sliced jamon serrano, salty Manchego cheese, and a bowl of ripe green olives

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