

Spain's Top 100: From Polished Elegance to the Revolutionary Robust

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This year no Spanish wines earned a perfect 100-point score from JamesSuckling.com, but that this doesn't mean that no Spanish wines blew our minds. We rated five of the 2,800-plus Spanish wines 99 points and 12 wines earned 98 points. Although, given Spain's historic strength in powerful yet refined reds and wines of this kind dominate our Top 100 for Spain, it's interesting that the no. 10 wine this year is a sherry: the unique Tio Pepe Cuatro Palmas Amontillado NV from Gonzalez Byass, with 98 points. It is an astonishing by-product of the production of Tio Pepe, the most famous brand of fino sherry.



James standing this summer in cellars of Bodegas Roda in Rioja.

In first place in our Top 100 for Spain is the super-sexy and polished red [Rioja Aro 2015](#) from [Muga](#) that rated 99. It's a near-perfect example of what make the new Spanish red wines from the native tempranillo grape so special. We suggest you cellar it until at least 2023 to get the best out of this world-class red. You can say much the same of our no. two wine, the [Rioja Roda I Reserva 2011](#) from [Bodegas Roda](#), which also comes from Rioja and rated 98. It already drinks beautifully and has an incredible combination of dark berry fruit and transparency.

There are also some very graceful reds in our Top 100 for Spain, as the [Valdeorras O Diviso 2015](#) from [Compañía de Vinos Telmo Rodriguez](#) in the province of Galicia, shows. The floral delicacy of this filigree red from some of the most spectacular steep vineyards in the world is remarkable. [Telmo Rodriguez](#) was also responsible for the highest placed white wine, the [Rioja Blanco 2015](#) from [Granja de Nuestra Señora de Remelluri](#). It has stunning richness and complexity, yet remains beautifully balanced. The first of these wines rated 98 and placed fifth in our Top 100 from Spain; the latter rated 97 and took 17th place.

"Spain is determined to amaze the world with its new wines!"

Another striking feature of this Top 100 is the number of red wines from the indigenous garnacha grape, better known by its French name grenache. It was long regarded by the majority of Spanish red wine producers as a blending component to soften and/or lighten tannic tempranillo reds or as the base for soft easy-drinking reds. That's what happens when it is cultivated in warm places with fertile soils like the Rioja Baja sub-region. However, when it is grown in cooler higher altitude locations with stony or sandy soils, it brings wines that are

aromatic, fresh and elegant. Wines like the [Garnacha Vinos de Madrid Peña Caballera 2015](#) from [Bodega Marañones](#) close to Madrid remind us of pinot noir, but with more floral aromas and a crisper finish. It rated 95 and placed 29th in our Top 100 of Spain.



Comando G sets the tone for new Spanish wines just outside of Madrid.

There's also a stunning silky rosé made from garnacha in our Top 100 for Spain, the [Rosado Flor de Muga 2017](#) from [Muga](#), that rated 94 and made 19th place due to the incredible value for money this wine offers. Even more astonishing for us is the [Rioja Gran Reserva Viña Tondonia 2008](#) from [Lopez de Heredia](#) in 32nd place, due to its rather high price and the difficulty to track down; it's a sought-after limited-production wine. The unique style of rosé marries mature and fresh elements so miraculously that we rated it 97.

Another remarkable achievement is the debut of wines from [Terroir Sense Fronteres](#) in Montsant, 2017 being the first vintage for the new project of Dominik Huber, founder of [Terroir al Limit](#) in neighboring Priorat. Of these, the enormously concentrated and seriously tannic Montsant [Guix Vermell 2017](#) rated highest with 97 points and placed 28th in our Top 100 for Spain, followed by the Montsant [Vèrtebra de la Figuera 2017](#) rating 95 and placing 41st. These are revolutionary red wines for Spain with enormous mountain freshness. They prove Spain is determined to amaze the world with its new wines! – *Stuart Pigott, Senior Editor*

SORT BY:

1Muga Rioja Aro 2015

2Bodegas Roda Rioja Roda I Reserva2011

3Contino Rioja Vina del Oliva 2016

4Artadi Alava La Poza de Ballesteros 2017

5Compañía de Vinos Telmo Rodriguez Valdeorras O Diviso 2015

6Envínate Almansa Albahra Vinos Mediterráneos 2016

7López de Heredia Rioja Reserva Viña Tondonia 2005

8La Rioja Alta Rioja Gran Reserva 904 2009

9Losada Vinos de Finca Mencía Bierzo Altos de Losada La Bienquerida 2016

10Gonzalez Byass Jerez Tio Pepe Cuatro Palmas Amontillado

11Bodega Lanzaga Rioja Las Beatas 2015

12CUNE Real de Asua 2015

13Artadi Alava El Carretil 2015

14Bodegas Roda Rioja Cirsion 2016

15Granja de Nuestra Señora de Remelluri Rioja Blanco 2015

16Vega Sicilia Ribera del Duero Reserva Especial Unico

17Vega Sicilia Ribera del Duero Unico 2009

18Terroir Al Límit Priorat Arbossar 2015

19Muga Rioja Rosado Flor de Muga 2017

20Gonzalez Byass Jerez Apostoles Vinum Optimum Rare Signatum 30 Años

21Olivier Rivière Rioja Pozo Alto 2016

22Daniel Gómez Jiménez-Landi Castilla y León Las Iruelas 2015

23Alvaro Palacios Priorat L'Ermita 2016

24Comando G Vinos de Madrid 1er Rozas2016

25Bodegas la Horra Ribera del Duero Corimbo I2010

26Bodegas y Viñedos Ponce Bobal Manchuela Pino2016

27Losada Vinos de Finca Mencía Bierzo2016

28Terroir Sense Fronteres Montsant Guix Vermell 2017

29Bodega Marañones Garnacha Vinos de Madrid Peña Caballera2015

30Numanthia Toro N 2015

31Dominio de Pingus Ribera del Duero Pingus 2015

32López de Heredia Rioja Gran Reserva Viña Tondonia2008

33Alion Ribera del Duero 2015

34Altos de Rioja Rioja Pigeage 2015

35Jorge Ordoñez Selections Moscatel España Esencia 42013

36Pegaso Sierra de Gredos Barrancos de Pizarra 2013

37CUNE Pagos Viña Real 2015

38Dominio de Es Ribera del Duero Viñas Viejas de Soria 2016

39Bodegas Langa Garnacha Centenaria Calatayud Marco Valerio Marcial2016

40Celler Capçanes Montsant Peraj Ha'abib Flor de Primavera 2016

41Terroir Sense Fronteres Montsant Vèrtebra de la Figuera 2017

42Olivier Rivière Rioja Losares 2016

43Comando G Vinos de Madrid Las Umbrías2015

- 44Viña Pomal Rioja Gran Reserva 2011
-
- 45Dominio de Pingus Ribera del Duero Flor de Pingus 2015
-
- 46Itasmendi Bizkaiko Txakolina 7 Parcelario 7.2 2016
-
- 47Envínate Tenerife Táganan Vinos Atlánticos 2016
-
- 48Bodegas Benjamin de Rothschild & Vega Sicilia Rioja Macán Clásico 2015
-
- 49Silice Viticultores Vino de Mesa Finca Rosende 2016
-
- 50Alvaro Palacios Priorat Dofi 2016
-
- 51Codorníu Cava Ars Collecta 457 Gran Reserva Brut 2008
-
- 52Bodegas Palacio Rioja Cosme Palacio 2015
-
- 53Bodega Marañones Vinos de Madrid 30000 Maravedíes 2016
-
- 54Bodegas Albamar Albariño Rías Baixas Alma del Mar 2016
-
- 55Terroir al Limit Priorat Torroja 2016
-
- 56Marqués de Murrieta Rioja Castillo Ygay Gran Reserva Especial 2009
-
- 57Celler Capçanes Garnatxa Montsant Cabrida 2016
-
- 58Suertes del Marqués Listán Negro Valle de la Orotava Medianías 2016
-
- 59Lar de Paula Rioja Reserva 2012
-
- 60Torres Conca de Barberà Grans Muralles 2014
-
- 61Legaris Ribera del Duero Alcumbilla de Avellaneda 2015
-
- 62Atlan & Artisan Yecla Epistem No 3 2016
-
- 63Luna Beberide Mencía Bierzo Finca la Cuesta 2016
-

64Valderiz Ribera del Duero Juegabolos 2015

65Teso la Monja Toro Alabaster 2015

66Pradorey Ribera del Duero Adaro Crianza 2015

67Contino Graciano Rioja 2016

68Francois Lurton, Dany & Michel Rolland Rueda Campo Eliseo 2016

69Orben Rioja Malpuesto 2016

70Finca de la Rica Rioja Las Cabezadas de Matadula 2015

71Abadia Retuerta Syrah Castilla y León Pago Garduña 2015

72Diez-Caballero Rioja Vendimia Seleccionada 2016

73Bodegas y Viñedos de Gómez Cruzado Rioja Cerro las Cuevas Selección 2015

74Canals Munné Cava Reserva d'Avi Gran Reserva Brut Nature 2013

75Attis Bodegas y Viñedos Caiño Blanco Rias Baixas Atalante 2016

76Jean Leon Cabernet Sauvignon Penedès Vinya La Scala Gran Reserva 2012

77Benjamín Romeo Rioja Colección No. 2 Gran Reserva 2012

78Bodegas Peñafiel Ribera del Duero La Milla de Miros 2014

79Can Ràfols dels Caus Penedès La Calma 2014

80Ferrer Bobet Priorat Vinyes Velles 2015

81Palacios Remondo Rioja Crianza La Montessa. 2016

82Granja de Nuestra Señora de Remelluri Rioja Reserva 2012

83Dominio del Águila Ribera del Duero Picaro Viñas Viejas 2016

84Vilarnau Chardonnay Pinot Noir Cava Albert de Vilarnau

85Marqués de Murrieta Rioja Limited Edition Gran Reserva 2012

86Pintia Toro 2014

87Bodegas la Horra Ribera del Duero Corimbo I 2012

88Ossian Verdejo Castilla y León 2015

89Jiménez-Landi Méntrida El Corralón 2017

90Pago Casa Gran Valencia Casa Benasal CruX 2016

91Edétaria Terra Alta Finca la Personal 2015

92Valdaya Ribera del Duero Mirum 2016

93Bodegas Loli Casado Tempranillo Rioja Polus 2015

94Bodegas Ramírez de la Piscina Rioja Gran Reserva 2010

95Valdemonjas Tempranillo Ribera del Duero Entre Palabras 2015

96Scala Dei Priorat Heretge 2016

97Protos Ribera del Duero Crianza 2014

98Marqués de Riscal Rioja Elciego Chirel 2015

99Alejandro Fernández Ribera del Duero Condado de Haza Crianza 2015

100Faustino Rioja Faustino V Reserva 2013
