

Garnatxa del Po

Clos 93 is one of those cellars in DOQ Priorat that exemplifies how the winemakers in this appellation are more closely resembling those in Burgundy than anywhere else in Spain. With just 12,000 bottles a year in production and a fully family-run affair in the tiny village of El Lloar, they've been able to focus on making very small-production wines from their vineyards.

When the Grenache from one small, 60 year-old plot arrived from the vineyard, it was quite clear that it was 'different'. They would run the analysis of the sugar in these grapes and it would come out considerably lower than the other grapes, usually around 13% in potential alcohol versus 15% or more in regular Grenache. It turned out to be Garnatxa del Po which is a rather obscure clone of Grenache that can be found randomly in vineyards thought to be fully Grenache.

From the tank, it's directly bottled and then aged underground in a tranche of clay in the vineyard for two years. With only 118 bottles produced, they decided to release it in a singular manner with a box made of clay from a local ceramicist, Lluís Riera in the neighboring village of Gratallops. It all makes for an attractive, unique package, albeit, at 89€, this is not a budget wine, even for Priorat.

Garnatxa del Po 2013

Deep, deep purple coloration that crests with a ruby rim. Aromatically, light young plum notes waft from it along with charcoal notes, and then a clay minerality. Wild spiciness emerges with touches of black pepper and cloves. Initially light on the palate with medium acidity, but is bounding in massive, crazy amounts of tannin for a Grenache. Very full in the mouth with a medium plus body, but then a medium finish. This is a wine that will easily stand to bottle age another 3-5 years to fully round out and integrate. 89€