

## Castellroig, for example

Given that we're in the middle of summer, I feel it a good moment to chat about Cava which is a wine I get very tired of people comparing to Champagne in order to deride it. Indeed, there are three enormous producers that make 95% of all the Cava produced and overall, their portfolio is focused primarily on price as they've been trying to chase Prosecco's massive growth which most warrant hasn't gone as well for Cava as it has for Prosecco.

In the 5% of the producers that remain there are some excellent Cava cellars and one such example I was finally able to get around to visiting was Castellroig. Located in the Alt Penedès County and specifically in a zone known as Vall del Bitlles, the winery sits just outside of Sant Sadurní d'Anoia.

Marcel Sabaté i Coca (the 4th generation of the family to make wine) and I went for a tour of their various properties which are not only close to the winery but also owned by them. There is a strong chalky aspect to most of the soils and it comes through as they do something that isn't often found in Cava, in that they show a sense of place and reason to search out these bottles of bubbly.

### **Gran Reserva 2010**

Lemon pith, cream, light limestone minerality are all found in the aromas. It holds a medium body and medium acidity. Balanced and while shorter in finish, it's easy-going in the mouth and makes for good food pairings. 17€

### **Sabaté i Coca 2008**

A 70 year-old vineyard in the zone of Terroja. One part aged in oak, the other in stainless steel. Pronounced minerality, radically more complex aromatically with layers of white pear, fennel, and white blossoms. Medium body, medium acidity, smooth in the mouth, round & integrated, very smooth in the finish with great deal of life. 30€