

MicroBio Wines, Rack (2018)

Producer	MicroBio Wines
Distributor	Zev Rovine Selections
Supplier/Importer	Selections de la Viña
Category	Wine - Still - White
Grape variety	Verdejo
Region	Castilla y León, Spain
Appellation	Castilla y León
Vintage	2018

Sizes

750 mL × 12 — 17-0074-18
1.5 L × 6 — 17-0074M18



Distributor's notes

This wine is a very radical experiment where Ismael explores the elasticity and potential of Verdejo by working with musts and fermentations intentionally with very high turbidity, thus looking for reduction. And therefore, a self-protection of the wine. As long as the reduction / oxidation balance is high there is no risk of generating a lot of volatility.

100% Verdejo, very old ungrafted, pre-phylloxera vines, organically grown on calcareous sandy soils at an elevation of 900m around Segovia. All of the grapes are hand harvested.

Think of this like a solera-style Verdejo experiment. A mixture of all of the musts of every white wine in the winery in various states of fermentation are then combined with fresh new whole clusters of later-harvested Verdejo grapes. All of this is in stainless steel tanks with only native yeasts. This ages for 3 months in tank, with no batonnage or movement of the fine lees to not lose any of the intentional reduction. Bottled unfined, unfiltered, with zero SO2.

About the producer

Welcome to the República Independiente del Verdejo under President Ismael Gozalo. Many know him for his work at Ossian, one of the more respectable houses in Rueda, where he was the winegrower and maker since founding it in 2004. Ismael's family owns some of the oldest (between 100-200 years old) ungrafted pre-phylloxera vines, most of which in the town of Nieva, province of Segovia. Characterized by its sandy soils, these head trained vines never saw any chemicals over the different generations that cared for them. Though outside of the D.O. for never budging to the region's modern and manipulative techniques, to this day Ossian remains one of the few organic producers in Rueda. Today, under the Pago de Carraovejas umbrella, Ossian continues to make some of the more interesting wines of the region but Ismael took his talent elsewhere, bringing his family's most prized vineyards with him.

Microbio (Micro-Bio or Microbio, depending on how you look at it) was actually founded by Ismael in 1998 before Ossian even existed but it wasn't until he left that we was able to employ his heart and soul into his solo project. Coined by some as "El Mago de las Verdejos", he practices his sorcery in his medieval underground cellar located in his native town of Nieva. Barrels, fudres, anforas, damejeannes, stainless...young, old, skin contact, sparkling, biological and oxidative aging...you name it, he's got it. Tasting in his cellar for a whole day and part of the next morning was a helluva ride, as soon as you think you've seen it all, he somehow finds a way to exceed your expectations. How Verdejo picked so ripe can still preserve such freshness and acidity is something only he can tell.

In addition to Verdejo, he works with Mencía from Bierzo, Garnacha from Gredos, and Rufete from Sierra de Salamanca. With Microbio, he's able to express himself to the fullest and all of his wines, whether red or white, represent him and they're region to the fullest with purity being the common denominator throughout. He lets the land speak through his wines, pure fermented grape juice without interference of any kind.

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