

Blanco Nieva *Pie Franco* Verdejo en Barrica 2009



Wine Ratings -- This Vintage:
89 points – Wine Spectator

Wine Ratings -- Earlier Vintages:
None

Bodegas Vinedos de Nieva – In 1989 Jose Maria Herrero acquired 135 acres of verdejo and 12 acres of Sauvignon Blanc vineyards that had been neglected for many years. The vineyards varied in age up to 150 years old, and Jose Maria saw great potential in them. Jose Maria built his state of the art bodega later that year, which has been upgraded several times to keep up with all of the advancements in technology. The bodega is located in the small village of Nieva in the western portion of Rueda.

Vineyards – The bodega is known in the region for its vineyards, many of which are up to 150 years old. All of the grapes the bodega uses are estate grown, but they only use their top 35% for their wines. They sell the remaining 65% to other bodegas in the region.

This wine – The bodega only produces a very limited production (4990 bottles) of this special wine during very good vintages.

Imported since: 1994

Appellation: Rueda

Composition: Verdejo

Soil: mixture with high concentration of free sand

Elevation: 2790 feet

Vineyard practice: sustainable farming

Vine Age: pre pheloxera, more than 150 years

Yield: 1.2 tons per acre

Harvest Dates: September 11 - 14

Fermentation: 15 days in oak casks with natural yeast

Aging: 5-1/2 months in new French oak casks

pH: 3.20

Residual Sugar: 1.9 grams/liter

Alcohol: 13.0 %

UPC: 8 423231 400036

Region: Most of the white wine in Spain is produced near the coast where the per capita seafood consumption is the highest in Europe and second internationally only to Japan. However, Rueda is in the middle of Spain and only white wines are produced in Rueda. The bodegas in Rueda had a poor reputation for centuries because they only produced oxidized white wines that were beyond their prime. Modern vinification methods came to the region in the 1970's and almost immediately fresh, spicy white wines emerged. The low price category was made from Viura, the mid price from Verdejo, and the high price from Sauvignon Blanc.