

SPAIN WINERIES

López Cristóbal



Santiago López's dream of creating his own winery started many years before in the 1930's with Santiago's father arriving in the Ribera del Duero region to start a successful farm where the winery is now located. In the 1980's, **Ribera del Duero** received its **Protected Designation of Origin**. So after years of selling his grapes to other wineries, Santiago began making his own wine, thus creating López Cristóbal. After harvesting the grapes by hand in small crates, these family estate grapes go through rigorous hand selection where the grapes that do not meet the high standards are discarded. This hand selection process is done exclusively by family members. The name López Cristóbal is a union of two last names, Santiago López and his wife Lola Cristóbal.

Dionisios, La Bodega de las Estrellas



La Bodega de las Estrellas (The Winery of the Stars) is a traditional winery located in the city of **Valdepeñas**. It is built of typical "La Mancha" construction with thick clay walls, Arabic tiles, and a rock cave hewn out by hand. Only the organically farmed grapes from the Valdepeñas PDO vineyards are used in the wine making process. The owners use the lunar calendar to determine planting and harvesting dates believing the ancient processes of planting vines and making wines are perfectly matched to those of the movement of the planets and stars.

Díez Mérito



Díez Mérito is a wine cellar in the **Jerez** region. This winery brings two hundred years of a history of wine making using a system of criaderas and soleras. In 1876, two brothers Díez and Perez de Muñoz started a wine business and a few years later another brother joined them. Thus “Díez Hermanos” winery was born. At that time, His Majesty King Alfonso XII awarded the company a Royal Warrant as suppliers and by doing so, they could use the Spanish Royal coat of arms in their wine labels and stationery. Later, their heirs acquired the Bodega Marques del Mérito and merged into Díez Mérito. Finally, in 2016, the Espinosa Family from Jerez acquired the company, adding new vineyards and restoring the majestic building, patios and gardens dating back to 1760.

Descalzos Viejos



Just a short walk from the historic city center of Ronda, Descalzos Viejos winery is surrounded by extraordinary views overlooking vineyards sprawling El Tajo River gorge. The winery dates back to the 16th century when it was originally built as a monastery. The Retamero and Salesi families purchased the property in 1998, restoring it from an almost abandoned state. The project recovered the monastery and its beautiful gardens, orchards, ponds, and fountains. Most remarkably, the original frescos on the high altar were discovered underlayers of limestone and most miraculously survived. The location in the **Málaga** region has a diversity of climates influenced by the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean producing a variety of wines.

Can Rafols dels Cau



In 1979, Carlos Esteva began restoring his grandfather’s dilapidated estate and turned it in to one of the best vineyards in the **Penedés** region. Carlos restored the home and replanted the vineyards, olive groves, and almond orchards. The organic farm has a rugged, rocky landscape but its varying microclimates allows for a planting of over 28 grape varieties. Harvested by hand, the grapes are quickly transported to a modern, energy-efficient cellar tunneled deep into the Dolomitic bedrock. The flagship wine on the estate is the Gran Caus Tinto, made from Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon and aged in used French Oak. But the real genius of Carlos is evident with a trio of unique and PDO-defining white wines.

