

2011 Emilio Valerio Emilio Valerio

The 2011 Emilio Valerio is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Garnacha from different vineyards around the village of Dicastillo, fermented with indigenous yeast and aged in oak vats. The wine is dark-colored with a nose of coal, raspberry leaf, aromatic herbs and a lactic touch, with complexity and a funky personality. The palate is medium-bodied, with dusty, fine tannins, good acidity and well-integrated oak. A red with personality. Drink 2014-2018.

Laderas de Montejurra is the name of the winery belonging to Attorney Emilio Valerio. He lives and works in Madrid, but his family has roots in Dicastillo in the Tierra Estella zone of Navarra, where he started planting vines and purchasing old vineyards. He also started producing olive oil, has planted aromatic herbs, and is starting a craft-beer business. French winemaker Olivier Riviere, who lives and works in Rioja, but also produces wines in other appellations (including Navarra), arrived in 2010 and since then the wines have experienced a big change. They own 22 hectares of vineyards, around one-fourth Garnacha with some small very old plots they have purchased mostly in the village of Dicastillo (Arambleza is the only one in a different village, Arellano). There ar...

- Luis Gutierrez (June, 2014)

2010 Emilio Valerio Vina de San Martin

The 2010 Vina de San Martin is sourced from a single, fresh, north-facing vineyard planted with old-vine Garnacha in the valley of San Martin belonging to the village of Dicastillo in Navarra. The full-clusters were fermented in small bins and aged in 225-liter barriques. It is very aromatic, with fragrant flowery aromas of violets, ripe blackberries and blueberries, earthy notes and a core of sweet spices. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins and fresh fruit flavors denoting a very young wine with stuffing to develop in bottle. A great Garnacha. Drink 2014-2020.

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2012 Emilio Valerio La Merced

The 2012 La Merced is produced with white Malvasia grapes from a very young vineyard planted in 2006-2007. The first vintage was 2010 and that wine is now very aromatic, complex and mineral, ready for current drinking. The 2012 might have 10% Garnacha Blanca mixed with the Malvasia. This has a bright, light golden color, with an oaky nose to start, with perfumed, flowery and ripe peach notes underneath. This wine is quite peculiar, with strong balsamic aromas and flavors, mixing the spicy oak with flavors of bay leaf, aniseed and white fruit with good freshness and acidity. It has volume, stuffing and good potential. An unusual Malvasia, a wine of strong personality. I'd wait, because the character and minerality should come with bottle aging. Drink 2014-2018.

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2010 Emilio Valerio Vina de Leorin

The 2010 Vina de Leorin is a single-vineyard wine produced with the grapes from an old plot (50 years of age) where the majority of vines are Garnacha and there's 10% Tempranillo mixed in the vineyard. 2010 is the first vintage for this bottling, which they hope to produce again in the 2013 vintage, but from then on they will remove the Tempranillo as they feel the very old Tempranillo grapes provide harsh, drying tannins. Those tannins are there at the end of the palate in 2010, but it's still a very good effort. It displays abundant aromas of black fruits, licorice, aniseed and hints of smoked meat. The palate is quite austere, with dusty tannins, balancing acidity and good length. Drink 2015-2020.

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2011 Emilio Valerio Usaran

The 2011 Usaran, bottled one month ago, is a blend of Garnacha and Tempranillo with a dash of Graciano. In 2011, they made a better selection of the Tempranillo as they identified plots that give astringent tannins and removed them from the blend. The Garnacha is full cluster-fermented and the overall result is much more aromatic than the 2010, more elegant and polished with finer tannins and good freshness. I see a big improvement in quality in this vintage, irrespective of the character of the vintage, because 2011 was warmer and more problematic than 2010, which had almost ideal conditions. Drink 2014-2018.

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