

Vega Sicilia

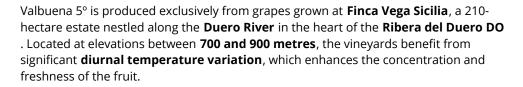
A masterclass in balance and sophistication, Valbuena 5º 2019 offers a radiant, multi-layered expression of Ribera del Duero's finest Tempranillo.



Valbuena 2019

Ribera del Duero, Spain

Region and Vineyards



The vines, averaging 35 years of age, are planted at a density of 2,222 plants per hectare and cultivated under strict, low-yielding conditions—just 21.7 hectolitres per hectare—ensuring remarkable intensity and aromatic precision. The 2019 growing season was marked by **below-average rainfall**, yet ideal end-of-season conditions allowed for slow ripening and **excellent skin maturation**, contributing to the wine's refined tannic profile and depth of flavour.



Valbuena 5° 2019 is composed of 97% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo) and 3% Merlot, showcasing a subtle complexity shaped by **precision viticulture and meticulous élevage**. The harvest, entirely manual and carried out in 12 kg crates, took place between **26 September and 11 October**, ensuring optimal ripeness.

Fermentation focused on gentle extraction to avoid over-concentration, preserving fruit purity and freshness. The ageing process spanned five years, including two years in oak—with a marked reduction in American oak in favour of French oak (lightly toasted)—followed by an extended period in bottle. The first year of maturation in oak vats enhanced tension and energy, while the second year in wooden vats refined texture and complexity, culminating in a wine of elegance, suppleness, and profound expression.





Alcohol: 13,50 %

Composition: 97% Tempranillo, 3%

Merlot







Valbuena 2019

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet with violet hues, dense and luminous.
- **Aroma**: Aromatically complex with layers of redcurrant, ripe cherry, and blackberry, mingled with notes of liquorice, graphite, crushed herbs, subtle cedar, and a touch of vanilla bean.
- Palate: Full-bodied, muscular, yet impeccably balanced. The attack is succulent, with vibrant acidity and a precise tannic structure. Mid-palate shows textural richness and sapidity, evolving into a long, resonant finish with mineral tension and savoury nuance.

Did you know?

The name **Valbuena 5°** refers to the **five years of ageing** the wine undergoes before release—a distinguishing feature that highlights the estate's commitment to crafting long-lived, structured wines. While **Único** remains Vega Sicilia's flagship, Valbuena has steadily earned recognition as a benchmark for Tempranillo expression with **earlier accessibility**, yet with the depth and longevity expected from one of Spain's most revered estates.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- Lamb shoulder confit: The wine's structured tannins and earthy complexity pair beautifully with the rich, slow-cooked texture and umami depth of the lamb.
- **Beef Wellington**: A harmonious interplay between the wine's ripe red fruit, spice, and the savoury mushroom duxelles and puff pastry.
- **Venison with juniper and blackberry reduction**: Echoes the wine's wild berry notes and enhances its gamey, herbal profile.
- Aged Comté or Mahón: These cheeses complement the Valbuena's creamy texture and nuanced oak character.



James Suckling (JS): 97 Points (2019)

Extremely perfumed with violets and a bouquet of flowers. Then there's blue fruits such as blueberries and raspberries. Medium-bodied with beautifully crafted tannins that give a superb mouthfeel and finesse. Refinement with depth and focus. So wonderful to drink now but it will be even better in four or five years.



Wine Enthusiast (WE): 96 Points (2019)

The scent of cherry preserves and violet wafts from the glass. A cloak of elegant tannins is wrapped around Mission fig, cherry preserve, mocha, fennel pollen and rose petal flavors that evaporate into a satisfying and long-lasting finish. (MD)







Valbuena 2019

Robert Parker (RP): 95 Points (2019)



The obsession in 2019 was to avoid excess ripeness and to keep the freshness, so they did a softer vinification, used larger vats for the élevage and used less American wood. The 2019 Valbuena was produced with a blend of Tinto Fino with 3% Merlot. It has 14.5% alcohol, a pH of 3.88 and 4.6 grams of acidity. I love the nose; it is perfumed and subtle. And the wine is beautifully textured; the tannins are very fine, silky even, quite different from the tannins from the other 2019s from the group that I tasted next to this, Macán and Pintia. A triumph over the conditions of the year, it's a more elegant Valbuena than I anticipated. (LG)



