Vega Sicilia

A joint venture between Tempos Vega Sicilia and Baron Edmond de Rothschild , this wine showcases the precision and innovation behind one of Rioja's most ambitious modern projects.

VEGA-SICILIA

95 WINEENTHUSIAST

Macan Clasico 2019

Rioja, Spain

Region and Vineyards

Macán Clásico 2019 originates from the **Sonsierra region**, located in the northern reaches of Rioja, along the foothills of the **Sierra de Cantabria**. This area is prized for its **elevated vineyards**, alkaline sandy-clay soils, and centuries-old viticultural heritage. With an average altitude of **483 metres**, the vineyards benefit from natural ventilation and protection from Atlantic storms, while maintaining a Mediterranean influence that favours balanced ripening.

The fruit is sourced from a mosaic of **100 hectares of Tempranillo vines**, spread across villages such as **San Vicente de la Sonsierra, Labastida, Ábalos, Navaridas**, and **Elvillar**. Vines average **32 years in age** and are planted at **3,333 plants/ha**, delivering low yields of **4,000 kg/ha** (28 hl/ha), which ensures concentrated fruit with vibrant acidity.

Winemaking

Macán Clásico is made from **100% Tempranillo**, hand-harvested between **26 September and 9 October 2019**, following a year that was one of the **warmest of the decade**. A prolonged drought through spring and summer led to small berry size and naturally low yields, concentrating the fruit. Fortunately, **80 mm of rainfall in early September** refreshed the vines and allowed the berries to swell slightly, improving balance.

Fermentation was approached with **gentle extraction techniques**, described as "infusion-like," preserving finesse and avoiding over-extraction in a naturally potent vintage. Aging occurred predominantly in **French oak barrels**, with a **reduced presence of American oak**, enhancing the wine's freshness and purity of fruit. The final blend was bottled in **August 2021**, following extended maturation.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Tempranillo

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with violet reflections, signalling concentration and youth.
- **Aroma**: Complex and inviting, with layers of **ripe black cherry, cassis, wild herbs, and violet**, complemented by nuances of **cedar, cocoa, and subtle toast** from the oak.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied yet refined, with **ripe tannins, vibrant acidity**, and a linear structure. The fruit is dense but not heavy, supported by minerality and a persistent, elegant finish.

Did you know?

Macán Clásico is the result of an extraordinary partnership between two wine dynasties: **Tempos Vega Sicilia**, Spain's most iconic estate, and **Baron Edmond de Rothschild**, renowned for Château Clarke and involvement in Château Lafite Rothschild. This venture represents their **shared vision to redefine Rioja's fine wine identity**, with Macán Clásico serving as the estate's more approachable, early-drinking expression compared to the flagship "Macán."

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Iberico pork tenderloin with roasted figs**: The fruit-forward profile of the wine complements the sweetness of the figs and the richness of the pork.
- **Lamb chops with rosemary and garlic**: A classic pairing where the wine's tannins and structure elevate the savoury character of the meat.
- **Mature Manchego cheese**: The wine's acidity and subtle oak nuances balance the cheese's nutty intensity.
- **Duck breast with blackberry reduction**: The dark fruit and freshness in the wine resonate with the dish's sweetness and gamey notes.

95 WINEENTHUSIAST

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2019)

This dark violet-colored wine has aromas of cranberry, milk chocolate and rose. Milk chocolate transitions to the tastebuds and is accompanied by black cherry, blackberry, violet and orange-zest flavors. A layer of velvety tannins lingers on the tongue and gums.

VEGA-SICILIA

Macan Clasico 2019

Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2019)

The second wine in the Bordeaux sense is the 2019 Macán Clásico, a more concentrated and powerful wine cropped from a warmer and drier year that was saved by the 80 liters of rain in the first half of September. It fermented in stainless steel with 10% of their own yeasts, and the élevage was 22% in stainless steel and the rest in new and used oak barrels, mostly French but with around 5% of them American, and lasted 12 months. It has a moderate 14% alcohol, mellow acidity and good freshness and balance. 2019 was a dry and warm year when they did a soft vinification to avoid harsh tannins. The nose is ripe without excess, and the oak is neatly integrated. The palate is juicy and round, with fine tannins and a velvety texture. 77,316 bottles, 1,050 magnums and some larger formats produced. It was bottled in August 2021.

James Suckling (JS) : 93 Points (2019)

Rich, but refined and layered nose that unwinds dark plums, dried strawberries, olives, cocoa beans and some savory Mediterranean spices. Medium-to full-bodied palate, framed by an abundance of powerful, fine-grained tannins that give a grippy texture.