

Rafael Palacios

A benchmark expression of Godello , Louro captures the essence of Valdeorras, balancing minerality with vibrant fruit, depth, and texture.

Louro Godello 2024

Galicia, Spain



Region and Vineyards

Located in the heart of **Valdeorras**, Galicia's easternmost wine-growing region, the vineyards of **Rafael Palacios** sit at **elevations of 650 to 740 meters**, where the rugged, mountainous landscape meets granite-rich soils. The **Val do Bibei**, an off-the-beaten-path subzone, is known for its steep, terraced slopes, demanding meticulous viticulture. Unlike the broader Valdeorras DO, which includes **schist and limestone soils**, Palacios' vineyards are planted **exclusively on decomposed granite**, lending a precise mineral backbone to his wines.

The **Godello** vines, some nearing a century old, are a mix of head-pruned bush vines and younger trellised vines, depending on the terrain. The **low-yielding vines** and challenging climate—where frost and even late-spring snow are common risks—result in **concentrated and expressive wines**. Farming is **organic in practice**, reflecting a commitment to sustainability and **respect for the land**. The unique microclimate, with warm, dry summers and significant diurnal shifts, allows for **slow, even ripening**, ensuring complexity while retaining **crisp acidity**.

Winemaking

Louro is crafted primarily from **Godello**, with up to **10% Treixadura**, a co-planted variety that adds additional aromatic lift and texture. The grapes are meticulously hand-harvested from select **parcels in Chandoiro, Lentellais, Outardepregos, and Santa Cruz**, showcasing some of the finest terroirs of the Val do Bibei.

Fermentation takes place in **large French oak foudres**, where indigenous yeasts are allowed to work naturally, preserving the wine's pure, expressive character. The wine is then aged **on its lees for four months**, enhancing its **rich texture and depth** while maintaining freshness. The use of oak is subtle, imparting **structure and roundness** rather than overt flavors, resulting in a **harmonious and balanced** final expression.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 94% Godello, 6% Treixadura

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VINOS BLANCOS VALLE DEL BIBEI

RAFAEL PALACIOS

SOCIEDAD LIMITADA

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: A luminous **pale gold** with greenish reflections, hinting at its freshness and vibrancy.
- **Aroma**: Intense and layered, with **citrus zest, ripe white peach, pear, and floral notes of acacia and chamomile**, intertwined with a distinct **flinty minerality**.
- **Palate**: A precise, elegant structure with **a creamy, lees-driven texture**, yet with a backbone of **vibrant acidity and saline minerality**. The fruit profile unfolds with **green apple, lemon curd, and subtle tropical hints**, leading to a **long, stony, and slightly smoky finish**.

Did you know?

The name **"Louro"** derives from the **laurel tree**, a reference to the surrounding landscape and the aromatic complexity of the wine. **Rafael Palacios**, the younger brother of the famed Álvaro Palacios (of Priorat's L'Ermita fame), has been instrumental in reviving **Godello's reputation**, proving it can produce world-class wines akin to the great whites of Burgundy.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Galician-style Pulpo a la Gallega** – The wine's minerality and bright acidity complement the tender, paprika-seasoned octopus, highlighting both the dish's smokiness and brininess.
- **Grilled Sea Bass with Lemon Butter** – The creamy texture and citrus notes of Louro balance beautifully with the succulence of the fish and richness of the sauce.
- **Mushroom and Truffle Risotto** – The lees-aged roundness and subtle oak influence enhance the earthy umami flavors of truffle and mushrooms.
- **Manchego Cheese with Marcona Almonds** – The wine's acidity cuts through the aged Manchego's nuttiness, while the slight saline notes pair exquisitely with the almonds.



Robert Parker (RP) : 93 Points (2023)

The young, balsamic and still faintly medicinal entry-level white 2023 Louro is dense, ripe and powerful at 13.9% alcohol, pungent and intense with a bitter twist in the finish. It's very tasty, almost salty, with cleanliness and precision, combining power with freshness and elegance. This is quite impressive and a preview of the rest of the 2023s to come. 215,000 bottles produced. Rating : 93+

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Wine Spectator (WS) : 92 Points (2020)

The 2020 Louro is a little riper than the 2019 and has a softer palate. The process was the same as always, fermentation in 3,500-liter French oak foudres, where the wine matured with lees for four months. It has 14.1% alcohol with a pH of 3.26 and 6.6 grams of acidity. It feels very young and a little closed, reductive perhaps. It's quite fruit-driven, and there is a sensation of a little more ripeness here, more balsamic. It's quite round and gentle but with a nice mineral background.Rating: 92+