Rafael Palacios

Crafted with grapes from high-altitude granite soils, the As Sortes is an elegant and youthful white wine, brimming with freshness and depth, perfect for those who appreciate structured and expressive wines.

VINOS BLANCOS VALLE DEL BIBEI
RAFAEL PALACIOS
SOCIEDAD LIMITADA

As Sortes 2024

Galicia, Spain

Region and Vineyards

The **As Sortes** Godello is produced from six small vineyard plots (called **"sortes"**) located in the **Val do Bibei** region of **Valdeorras**, Galicia, Spain. These vineyards were planted in the late 1970s and early 1980s, making them some of the oldest vineyards owned by **Rafael Palacios**. Situated at an altitude of **over 680 meters**, these steeply terraced vineyards are carved into the slopes of the valley, supported by stone walls. The soils here are composed of **granite sand**, which, combined with the altitude, results in low-yielding vines that produce grapes of intense concentration and character.

The unique terroir of **Santa Cruz do Bolo**, located on the northern side of the Bibei Valley, provides an ideal environment for growing **Godello**, a grape that was once at risk of extinction. The vines, planted from cuttings during a recovery plan to preserve the variety, benefit from the **low-fertility soils** and cooler temperatures, allowing the grapes to ripen slowly and retain vibrant acidity.

Winemaking

As Sortes is crafted with a focus on preserving the purity and intensity of the Godello grape. After careful hand-harvesting, the grapes are gently pressed, and the must is transferred to **500-litre French oak barrels** for fermentation. The wine remains in these barrels for **eight months**, aging **on its lees** to gain richness and complexity. The use of French oak provides subtle structure without overpowering the natural fruit flavors, allowing the **mineral-driven** characteristics of the wine to shine.

Rafael Palacios employs low-intervention methods throughout the winemaking process, in line with his commitment to **biodynamic** and **organic** practices in the vineyard. This ensures that the **As Sortes** reflects the true expression of its terroir, with minimal manipulation during vinification.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Godello

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale gold with a bright, crystalline clarity.
- **Aroma**: Aromatically intense, offering vibrant notes of **grapefruit**, **red apple**, and **wild flowers**, alongside a distinctive **mineral note** and hints of **boxwood**.
- **Palate**: The wine is youthful and tight, with a **rich texture** balanced by refreshing acidity. The palate offers flavors of citrus and orchard fruits, with a persistent, mineral-laden finish.

Did you know?

The term **"As Sortes"** refers to the small, terraced plots where the vines are grown. These plots, or **"sortes"**, are a traditional feature of viticulture in Galicia, where the steep slopes and stone terraces make farming both challenging and rewarding. These vineyards were part of a recovery project in the 1970s to protect **Godello**, a variety that was at risk of disappearing.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled seafood with lemon and herbs**: The wine's acidity and mineral backbone complement the freshness of seafood, while its citrus notes enhance the flavors of the dish.
- **Galician-style octopus**: The savory and rich texture of the octopus pairs beautifully with the wine's vibrancy and aromatic complexity.
- **Goat cheese salad**: The acidity of the wine balances the creaminess of the cheese, while its floral and fruit notes add complexity to the dish.
- **Roast chicken with thyme and garlic**: The wine's fresh acidity cuts through the richness of the chicken, and its herbal notes complement the flavors of the herbs.

95

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2022)

The 2022 As Sortes is evolving quite slowly and is more polished than when I first tasted it in November 2023. It feels approachable now and seems to have calmed down, with a profile that doesn't point at the warm and dry year they had in the zone. It has good ripeness (14% alcohol), a vibrant palate with a pH of 3.02 and 7.2 grams of acidity and a long, dry and tasty finish. Rating : 95+

91 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 91 Points (2020)

Intense aromas of citrus fruit with some creamy, oaky and savory tones. Full-bodied and very ripe, well-textured palate.