

Dominio de Es

Discover the exceptional Dominio de Es La Mata, a powerful and refined wine from the prestigious Ribera del Duero region, showcasing the finest expression of Tempranill o.

La Mata 2020

Ribera del Duero, Spain



Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 100% Tempranillo

Region and Vineyards

The **Dominio de Es La Mata** is sourced from the renowned **Ribera del Duero** region, specifically from the valley of Atauta in Soria, at an altitude of approximately **1,000 meters above sea level**. This high-altitude vineyard, known as La Mata, spans a modest **0.33 hectares** and is composed of **pre-phylloxeric vines** over **100 years old**. The vineyard's soils are a mix of **sandy, silty limestone over clay**, which, combined with the harsh climatic conditions of extreme temperatures and significant diurnal variation, contribute to the wine's complexity and intensity .

The Ribera del Duero region is famed for its rigorous climate, where the combination of hot summers and cold winters, along with substantial temperature differences between day and night, ensures the grapes develop a rich concentration of flavors while retaining a refreshing acidity. This unique terroir, enriched by the diversity of soil compositions and the careful management of ancient vines, sets the stage for producing wines of exceptional depth and character.

Winemaking

The **Dominio de Es La Mata 2020** is a blend primarily of **93% Tinto Fino (Tempranillo)**, with **6% Albillo** and **1% Alicante Bouchet**. The grapes are carefully hand-harvested to ensure optimal ripeness and quality. Once harvested, the berries are **100% destemmed** and undergo a meticulous vinification process that includes a **54-day maceration** at controlled temperatures ranging from **15 to 27°C**. This extended maceration allows for the full extraction of flavors, colors, and tannins, contributing to the wine's robust structure and complexity .

The aging process is equally meticulous, with the wine being aged in a combination of **French and American oak barrels**. This dual-barrel approach imparts subtle nuances of vanilla and spice, enhancing the wine's aromatic profile and adding layers of complexity. The careful balance of oak influence ensures that the wine's inherent fruit character remains prominent, providing a harmonious and integrated flavor experience.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Very deep cherry red, indicating a wine of substantial concentration and depth.
- **Aroma:** The nose is intriguing and complex, featuring notes of **roasted coffee**, **aromatic herbs**, and a blend of **red and black berries**. Subtle hints of **licorice, violet**, and **black sesame** add further depth, creating a rich and inviting aromatic profile.
- **Palate:** On the palate, the wine is dense and dry, with a chalky texture that highlights its structure and balance. It showcases robust flavors of **ripe fruits** and a **smoky aftertaste**, with **round tannins** that provide a smooth yet firm mouthfeel. The finish is long and mineral, leaving a lasting impression of elegance and power .

Did you know?

Did you know? The La Mata vineyard, where the Dominio de Es La Mata originates, has a unique streak of clay in its otherwise sandy and limestone-rich soils. This specific plot, registered since 1904, is currently undergoing organic certification, reflecting the winery's commitment to sustainable practices. The dedication to preserving these ancient vines and their unique terroir underscores the wine's exceptional quality and distinct character .

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Lamb Chops with Rosemary:** The wine’s robust tannins and rich fruit flavors enhance the savory and herbal notes of the lamb, creating a harmonious balance that highlights the dish's complexity.
- **Manchego Cheese:** The acidity and fruit profile of the Dominio de Es La Mata balance the creamy, nutty flavors of this traditional Spanish cheese, providing a delightful contrast that elevates both the wine and the cheese.
- **Wild Mushroom Risotto:** The earthy undertones of the wine complement the umami-rich mushrooms, enhancing the dish’s depth and complexity while providing a luxurious pairing experience.
- **Iberico Ham:** The wine's acidity cuts through the rich, fatty texture of the ham, while its fruity notes enhance the meat’s subtle sweetness, making for a perfect culinary match that highlights the best of Spanish cuisine.

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Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2020)

Their small plot in the La Mata Valley is the only one with a streak of clay, and the bottled 2020 La Mata (which I already tasted from barrel), which comes from a generous crop, is the most powerful of the single-vineyard bottlings. It's from a 0.2-hectare plot (in the process of obtaining organic certification) that was already registered in 1904 (but is probably older) planted mostly with Tempranillo and some white Albillo and Alicante Bouschet (Garnacha Tintorera). It fermented in an oak cask with 53 days of maceration and matured in four new Burgundian barrels for 17 months. It's only 13.02% alcohol and has a pH of 3.73, and the long élevage in new barrels has made it a bit shy and austere and seems to have covered the floral character of the younger wine from when I tasted it almost one and a half years ago. These 2020s are going to require more time in bottle to show their true colors and to polish the abundant and slightly dusty tannins. 970 bottles produced. It was bottled in May 2022.