



# Vega Sicilia

From the foothills of the Sierra de Cantabria, this vintage captures the spirit of a standout Rioja year, exuding lively energy, polished tannins, and vibrant freshness.



## Macan Clasico 2021

Rioja, Spain

### Region and Vineyards

The Macán project is based in the foothills of the **Sierra de Cantabria**, in the Rioja DOCa, particularly the Sonsierra area. This northern zone of Rioja Alavesa is distinguished by its poor limestone and clay soils, moderate rainfall, and protective mountain barrier. The Sierra shields the vineyards from harsh Atlantic influences while allowing cooling breezes, which preserve freshness and slow ripening.

The estate controls around **100 hectares across villages including San Vicente de la Sonsierra, Labastida, Álbalos, Navaridas, and Elvillar**. Vines average 30 years of age, with plant density around 3,333 vines per hectare. At an elevation of 483 meters, these vineyards benefit from a marked diurnal temperature range, which helps to retain acidity and aromatics in the Tempranillo grapes. Yields are kept low, about **30 hectolitres per hectare**, enhancing concentration and balance.

### Winemaking

Macán Clásico 2021 is crafted predominantly from **Tempranillo**, harvested by hand between 19 September and 7 October. Grapes were carefully selected and transported in 12-kg boxes to preserve integrity. For the second consecutive year, a **small field blend of Garnacha** was included, lending an extra layer of brightness and lift.

Fermentation and élevage follow a philosophy of precision and restraint. The wine was aged for **12 months in French oak barrels**, followed by an extended **18 months in bottle** before release. This maturation enhances structure while allowing the vibrant fruit profile to remain at the forefront. With **14% alcohol** and excellent balance, the wine shows both accessibility and longevity, with a cellaring potential of over 15 years under proper conditions.



Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 95% Tempranillo, 5%  
Grenache



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### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Bright, deep ruby with youthful violet hues.
- **Aroma:** Expressive notes of red and black fruits such as cherry, plum, and blackberry, with subtle floral hints, spice, and a touch of fresh earth. Gentle oak tones of vanilla and cedar are seamlessly integrated.
- **Palate:** Juicy and vibrant, offering ripe fruit wrapped in fine, polished tannins. Medium to full-bodied with lively acidity, showing freshness, elegance, and persistence. The finish is long, silky, and harmonious, with echoes of fruit and spice.

### Did you know?

Macán is the result of a **joint venture between Vega Sicilia and Benjamin de Rothschild**, first released in 2009. Its name derives from the traditional nickname for the people of San Vicente de la Sonsierra, "Macanes," connecting the wine deeply with its local identity.

### Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast lamb with rosemary:** The savory depth of lamb harmonizes with the Tempranillo's dark fruit and gentle oak spice.
- **Rioja-style braised beef cheeks:** The wine's acidity cuts through the richness of slow-cooked meat, elevating the dish.
- **Manchego cheese:** The nutty, slightly tangy character of Manchego complements the wine's fruit and fine tannins.
- **Grilled tuna with Mediterranean herbs:** The freshness and structure of the wine balance the meaty texture of tuna.



#### Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 97 Points (2021)

*From the sister property of Vega Sicilia in Rioja, a partnership between the Alvarez and Rothschild families, the 2021 Macan Clasico has unrelenting freshness and is gorgeously aromatic. The vintage conditions were perfect and the wines able to achieve exceptional quality. Here, the Tempranillo is joined by 3% Garnacha, which provides additional brightness to juicy layers of red berry, cigar, and dried herb, with a foundation of supple tannins. Medium-bodied, the oak is well-integrated, interweaving the lilting spice and toast notes from a combination of French and American barrels that aged the wine for 14-16 months. With a long, silky, and finessed finish, it's drinking perfectly now. Continue to enjoy over the next 10-15 years.*



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### Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)

*The 2021 Macán Clásico comes from a fantastic year in Rioja; it was the second vintage where they used some Garnacha (maybe 5% this year, they are increasing slowly). It was harvested at the same time as Tempranillo and adds freshness. It was a year of above-average rain, a mild spring and some hail in mid-June that affected seven hectares of vines but didn't touch the rest. The weather was stable during the harvest, with mild temperatures. The wine has a moderate 14% alcohol with a pH of 3.7 and 4.7 grams of acidity. Fifty percent of the volume was inoculated with their native yeast, and fermentation was in stainless steel. Forty percent of the wine matured in new French oak barrels, 30% in used French oak, 5% in American oak and the remaining 25% was kept in stainless steel. It has an herbal twist and a more Atlantic character, reflecting a cooler (less warm) vintage. It's fine-grained, textured and chalky, with very fine tannins and great balance. This is a production of 222,532 bottles, 2,001 magnums and some larger formats. It was bottled in August 2023.*



### Decanter (DCT) : 93 Points (2021)

*Beautiful take on modern Rioja with great purity of fruit (led by red plum, cranberry and red cherry) and a lively acid line supporting the fine, savoury tannins. The latter are lined with dried mountain herbs and lightly sprinkled with white pepper. Pretty, hovering notes of dried violets and rose.*



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