Vega Sicilia

A monument of Spanish fine wine, Vega Sicilia Único Reserva Especial 2025 delivers layered depth, aristocratic poise and extraordinary longevity, uniting three vintages in one seamless, hauntingly complex expression.

VEGA-SICILIA

99 James Suckling

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 96% Tempranillo, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon

Unico Reserva Especial 2025

Ribera del Duero, Spain

Region and Vineyards

Vega Sicilia sits in **Ribera del Duero**, where the estate overlooks the Duero River and draws on a remarkably complex patchwork of vineyard sites. The property includes about 210 hectares under vine for Vega Sicilia, planted chiefly to Tinto Fino with a small proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2025 release comes from vineyards averaging 36 years of age, planted at 2,222 vines per hectare, at elevations between 700 and 900 metres. Yields are notably restrained at 3,000 to 3,500 kilograms per hectare, a key factor in the wine's concentration and finesse.

The wider estate is celebrated for its diversity of soils and exposures. Oxford notes vineyards on varied soils, mainly marl with some gypsum, while Vega Sicilia highlights the subtle distinctions between numerous plots across the finca. That combination of altitude, low yields and geological variety gives Reserva Especial its hallmark tension: dark, savoury fruit wrapped in freshness, structure and unmistakable **Ribera del Duero** authority.

Winemaking

Único Reserva Especial is not a vintage wine but a **multi-vintage blend**, a historic Spanish practice now almost extinct apart from this cuvée. The 2025 release combines the 2011, 2012 and 2013 vintages of Único, blending their different virtues into a single, house-shaped expression. The cépage is 96% Tinto Fino and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, harvested by hand in 12-kilogram boxes. It was bottled in May 2021, with production of 18,518 Bordeaux bottles and 261 magnums.

While Vega Sicilia does not publish a separate full élevage note for this release, Reserva Especial is built from mature stocks of Único, the estate's flagship wine. Único itself is famed for one of the world's longest ageing regimens, typically around ten years between oak and bottle, including French and American oak and large wooden vats. That long maturation helps explain the Reserva Especial style: a wine of developed complexity, seamless tannin and calm, monumental length rather than overt youthful fruit.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep cherry to garnet with a lightly evolved rim, suggesting both maturity and concentration.
- **Aroma:** Intensely layered and refined, with blackberry, dark fruits, incense, cedar, tobacco leaf, fine spice, balsamic lift and dark chocolate, all delivered with remarkable subtlety and poise.
- **Palate:** Powerful, structured and profoundly silky, combining savoury depth with freshness, tension and ultra-polished tannins. The texture is velvety, the finish exceptionally long, and the overall impression is one of restrained grandeur rather than sheer force.

Did you know?

Reserva Especial revives an old Spanish fine-wine tradition in which estates blended their best vintages and lots into a prestige non-vintage bottling. Vega Sicilia is virtually alone in preserving this practice at such a high level today, which is one reason this wine remains so distinctive in the world of collectible reds.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Aged rib of beef:** The wine's density, cedar nuance and polished tannins are superb with richly marbled beef and deep roasting flavours.
- **Hare à la royale:** Its gamey richness, dark sauce and spice echo the wine's savoury, balsamic and chocolate-toned complexity.
- **Iberian charcuterie:** Jamón ibérico and other cured meats highlight the wine's subtle evolution, umami depth and lifted aromatics.
- **Mature hard cheeses:** Aged Manchego or Comté work beautifully with the wine's concentration, salt-savvy freshness and long, spicy finish.

99 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 99 Points (2025)

This is Vega Sicilia's 2025 release. A mix of three vintages: 2011, 2012 and 2013. Blackberries, ashtray, incense, fine spices, dark chocolate and touches of black pepper and balsamic. Almost something bloody, but the highlight is really the sheer, velvety sheet of sweet, fully melted tannins, which are ultra-polished and refined. The long finish goes on well over a minute. Drink on release or hold.

98 Robert Parker

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2025)

The NV Único Reserva Especial 2025 Release was produced with a blend of wines from 2011, 2012 and 2013, with 14% alcohol, a pH of 3.86 and five grams of acidity. It has the core of the 2012 vintage, possibly the higher percentage in the blend too, providing the power and structure to go along with the freshness and tension of 2013, which also contributes some balsamic characteristics, and it has less of the 2011. The wine shows extra complexity and elegance, and it has the Único nose with more nuance and subtleness. But what I like the most is the silky texture and the elegance of the tannins—as usual, they combine more developed characteristics with elegance and freshness. This is another stellar release of their non-vintage classical blend, slowly going back to the style of yesteryear.

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