

Wine Spectator

7 Fun Wines to Discover Spain

Look beyond Rioja and explore the country's diverse bounty with these new reviews



Photo by: Carles Fortuny

Herència Altés is located in the up-and-coming Terra Alta region in northeast Spain.

[Thomas Matthews](#)

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Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

One of wine's great virtues is its diversity. Distinct grapes give different expressions of the wines they make that reflect the *terroirs* they're grown in and each year's growing season.

Spain is the original home of around 400 different wine grapes, including some that have achieved greater fame in foreign lands—Grenache, for example, the pillar of Châteauneuf-du-Pape in France, was likely an emigrant from Spain, where it is known as Garnacha.

Today, about 20 grapes account for the majority of Spanish wine, but winemakers are increasingly looking to more obscure varieties to showcase emerging regions. Here are seven wines, all made from different grapes, that offer fine quality and value.



L'Estel 2016

HERÈNCIA ALTÉS Terra Alta L'Estel 2016 Score: 92 | \$20

WS review: This firm red delivers mineral and sanguine notes that frame a core of plum and licorice flavors, revealing a balance of savory and fruity character. Shows depth, with well-integrated tannins and balsamic acidity. Drink now through 2026. 672 cases imported.—*T.M.*

Why it's of note: The Terra Alta region, like its more famous neighbor Priorat, uses mainly Garnacha to make its red wines. The vineyards are planted at high elevations and are subject to strong winds; this allows the grapes to ripen fully without over-ripening. This [Herència Altés](#) cuvée blends Garnacha with Cariñena and Syrah, all grown organically.
