



90+

2015 Herència Altés L'Estel

The new 2015 L'Estel was also available for tasting when I encountered their wines for a second occasion. This blend of Garnacha, Syrah and old Cariñena is a selection from their best vineyards from a warm and healthy vintage. The different varieties were fermented separately in stainless steel and oak vats. There is a creamy note here with some spices and a core of red and some black fruit. 2015 was a very warm and dry vintage and the wine shows surprisingly fresh for those conditions. There is great harmony and balance here with a more commercial profile that makes it easier to understand by a wider audience than say, La Peluda. 8,000 bottles were produced in 2015. It had only been bottled a few days before I tasted it, in September 2016.

- Luis Gutiérrez (September, 2016)

Copyright 2016, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission



93+

2015 Herència Altés La Serra Negra

The 2015 La Serra Negra is a blend of old-vine Cariñena with 20% Garnacha from a single vineyard that names the wine. I see a lot less oak here, and the wines are showing better balance, more purity and letting the terroir shine through. This is a great Cariñena with the floral and tree bark notes, both earthy and ethereal. The palate shows some grainy, chalky tannins that provide a very tasty, almost salty finish. 2,000 bottles produced.

- Luis Gutiérrez (September, 2016)

Copyright 2016, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission



92

2014 Herència Altés La Serra Blanc

The white 2014 La Serra is sourced from their best vineyard which was planted at the beginning of the 20th century on clay and limestone soils. The whole clusters were pressed and the juice let to settle and put to ferment in oak vats with dry yeasts. The first two months, the lees were stirred and total time in oak was some ten months. Very pale and with a serious, slightly reticent nose, it's produced in a very elegant way. The aromas are subtle and insinuating, with nicely integrated oak tones complementing the fennel, licorice, yellow plum and waxy apple aromas. The palate is very lively, vibrant with clean acidity and a fine, subtle minerality that provides length. Super. 1,900 bottles were filled in July 2015.

- Luis Gutiérrez (July, 2016)

Copyright 2016, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission



93

2015 Herència Altés La Serra Blanc

I had the chance to taste some more wines a few weeks later, including a new vintage of the white 2015 La Serra Blanc, pure Garnacha Blanca from centenary vines on limestone soils. The must fermented in 1,500-liter oak foudres with dry yeasts where the wine also aged for a further ten months. There are no traces of oak, in fact it's very perfumed, with an attractive floral quality. This has beautiful texture, combining the roundness of the grape with the chalky tannins from the soils. The color is a deep golden, and you'd think the wine is more oxidative, but in fact it's super fresh. 1,900 bottles were filled in August 2016, a couple of weeks before I tasted it.

- Luis Gutiérrez (September, 2016)

Copyright 2016, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission



90

2014 Herència Altés L'Estel

The 2014 L'Estel is a blend of Garnacha, Cariñena and Syrah from limestone-rich soils fermented in a combination of stainless steel tanks and barriques and matured in oak for some eight to ten months. The harmonious nose is a mixture of wild berries, flowers and spices, clean and focused. The palate showed fine tannins and a silky texture, elegant and approachable. Delicious. 2,965 bottles produced.

- Luis Gutiérrez (July, 2016)

Copyright 2016, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission



91

2015 Herència Altés Benufet

The intriguing nose of the 2015 Benufet is already developing a petrol-like note combined with the meaty white fruit Garnacha Blanca is able to achieve, especially from extremely old vines like this. There is a 5% Viognier that adds a faint peachy pit note. The palate is very tasty, it makes you salivate. There is a salty feeling to this that I love. It makes it very tasty. It should age nicely. 7,500 bottles.

- Luis Gutiérrez (September, 2016)

Copyright 2016, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission



92

2015 Herència Altés La Peluda

Produced with a specific strain of Garnacha, Garnacha Peluda or hairy Garnacha, the 2015 La Peluda is a new bottling from lime and limestone soils planted with the strain that tends to produce fresher and lighter juice with higher acidity. It fermented in stainless steel with malolactic in barrels and a further ten months in 500-liter French oak barrels. There is a sappy spicy character to this red that I loved, cracked peppercorn with a wild side that made me think of a Syrah from Valais. It's really aromatic and showy. The palate is very refined, with an herbal twist that provides great freshness, perhaps from a relatively early harvest. Impressive!! 6,000 bottles were filled in September 2016.

- Luis Gutiérrez (September, 2016)

Copyright 2016, The Wine Advocate, Inc. - Reprinted with permission