

# FINCA LA EMPERATRIZ GARNACHA CEPAS VIEJAS 2012

**Vintage:** 2012

**Weather:** Winter 2011/12 was mild and dry in Rioja Alta, leading to a very early bud break. Thankfully spring rains restored a required level of humidity in the soil, so growth was normal. The cooler areas of Rioja withstood the long hot summer better than the traditionally warmer parts, many of which suffered a drought. Autumn was very wet, but thankfully we managed to harvest these grapes before the heaviest rains set in, in the second and third weeks of October.

**Harvest:** Hand-picked between the 16th and 18th of October

**Varietals:** Garnacha 100%

**Wine-making:** After harvesting, the grapes were stored in a refrigerated container overnight, followed by a cold maceration. There then followed a cold soak at 5°C for one week. Afterwards, the wine was fermented in 500 litre barrels (standing on end), with a daily punching down of the cap. Malolactic fermentation also took place in the barrels and the wine was aged in its fine lees.

**Ageing:** Aged in new and second-year French oak for 11 months

**Analysis:** Alcohol: 14.2% abv / pH: 3.55 / Total acidity: 4.8 g/l / Volatile acidity: 0.47 g/l

**Tasting Notes:** Colour of strawberry jam of medium density with a hint of violet at the edges. It is a remarkably perfumed wine, with a subtle complexity: raspberry, violets, white pepper, inconfusably varietal yet difficult to place. On the palate it is fresh and of only medium weight yet nevertheless with great length and flavour. A wine which is longer than it is broad with a persistent aftertaste.



## ORIGIN

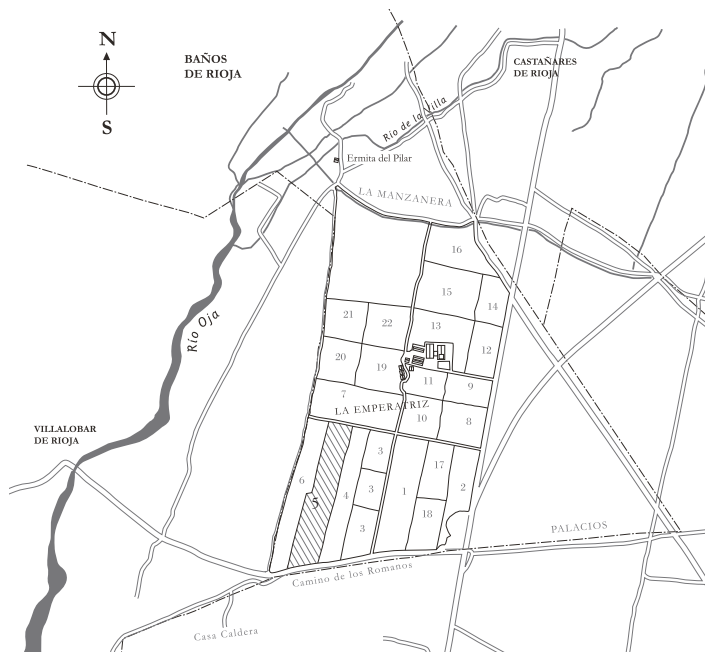
**Region:**  
Rioja Alta – PDO Rioja.

**Plot:**  
The plot of Garnacha is number 5, one of the stoniest of the whole vineyard

**Terroir:**  
Impressive terroir with a layer of large white pebbles to a depth of about 40cm, covering a loose, sandy sub-soil. This is an ideal soil to grow vines as it has excellent drainage, plenty of light and the roots are well placed to receive all the nutrients they require. The wines produced from this type of soil are fine and elegant.

**Vineyard:**  
67-year-old bush vines with yields of 2,400 kg/ha (16.8 hl/ha).

**Production:**  
Total production of 6,975 75 cl bottles and 100 magnums.



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**La Emperatriz**

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