

IMPERIAL

GRAN RESERVA 2004

Imperial is one of the big names of Spain. It is a true classic in Rioja and was first produced in the twenties. Its name comes from a special bottling for the English market, in a measure called 'Pinta Imperial' or 'Imperial Pint' which is approximately half a litre. It has always been characterised by its very high and constant quality in every vintage.

Name of Wine:	IMPERIAL
Type of Wine:	Red Gran Reserva
Region of Production:	Rioja Alta
Year:	2004
Vintage Rating:	Excellent
Grape Varieties:	85% Tempranillo, 10% Graciano and 5% Mazuelo.

Bottle Type:	Bordeaux
Case / Bottle Size:	C/6 – 75 cl, Magnum 1.5l

Alcoholic Volume:	13.8 % Vol.
Total Acidity:	5.7
pH:	3.60
Volatile Acidity:	0.64
SO2 Free / Total:	30/90
Int. Colour:	14.06

WINEMAKING

This wine is produced from grapes harvested in vineyards that are over 20 years old in the area around Villalba and Haro in Rioja Alta. They are bush pruned, with low yields, and hand harvested. Only the healthiest and ripest grapes are selected, and following destalking, the grapes are cold macerated prior to a cold temperature fermentation. Following a long maceration to achieve optimum colour and structure, the wine goes through a malolactic fermentation, to refine the wine, and to leave it with the necessary acidity to complete its American and French oak maturation, and subsequent bottle ageing prior to its release to the market.

VINTAGE / HARVEST DESCRIPTION

Abundant rainfall and the absence of extreme temperatures during winter allowed the vineyards to keep enough water reserves for an optimum growth. The cycle slowed down some weeks during July and August, but a sunny and dry September favoured a very good phenolic maturation of the grapes. Selective harvest in the vineyards and further hand sorting at the wineries was necessary. Harvest in our vineyards took place from mid-September until early November, with a good quality for young wines in the first weeks and the ideal quality for reservas and up in the last weeks.

TASTING NOTES

The nose is rich and enticing with black and red berry fruit and liquorice notes. The palate is generously fruity with toasty oak, supple tannins and savoury balsamic nuances and a long finish.

Wine Spectator 2013: 95 points



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