



International Wine of the Month Club Selections for January 2012

Austum 2010 - %100 Verdejo

Tasting Notes

A pale color with greenish hues, this white wine is intensely aromatic, delicately effervescent and incredibly refreshing. The results of a natural harmony of late spring showers and a moderate summer, this Verdejo possesses a uniquely floral nose, complex citrus flavors of lemon, lime and grapefruit. On the palate, an enticingly sharp acidity is balanced by subtle mineral tones and a slightly creamy mouthfeel to ensure this tiny production Verdejo shows true to form. In short, the Austum Verdejo is an elegant, complex white wine with a lenthly finish. Enjoy on its own or pair this versatile Spanish white with salad greens, salted cod, or rosemary seasoned grilled chicken.

The Winery

Founded in the year 1994, Bodegas Tionio began producing white wines in the D.O. of Alella, several miles north of Barcelona. The success of those wines has allowed it to open up wineries in Ribera del Duero and Rueda where it has begun focusing on high-quality reds made of 100% Tempranillo and 100% Verdejo, respectively. In 2008, Bodegas Tionio produced its very first vintage of Austum Verdejo which has become an immediate success.

The Region

Surrounded by a smattering of enchanting medieval villages, Spain's most expansive province of Castilla y Leon is littered with castles of great historical significance. Once a vanguard of the centuries long battle to expel the moors, the high golden plateaus of Rueda are now the vanguard of one of Spain's most beloved native grape varieties.



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Ventoso Vines 2009 – 100% Bobal



Tasting Notes

Produced entirely from Spain's indigenous Bobal (also known as monastrell or mourvedre) grapes, this distinctively Spanish wine was hand selected for the enthusiastic American palate. An appealing bright, inky purple color Ventoso Vines is a vibrant wine of body and well-balanced acidity. An aromatic nose brings fresh black fruits to mind. Fruity, flowery flavors follow, accompanied by hints of a brief passing through oak. This soft, easy-natured wine is great for all occasions. Bobal is an ideal pairing for manchego cheese, roasted or grilled poultry or even spicy southwestern and curry dishes.

The Winery

Founded in 1969, Vitivinos winery has nearly 4,000 acres planted in grapevines. Located about 2,600 feet above sea-level, Vitivinos benefits from a special microclimate which combines dry continental and Mediterranean climates. The resulting benefits include a slow ripening of the grapes, and unique aromas in each grape variety. Vitivinos is one of very few wineries to earn international awards for its red wines made exclusively from Bobal.

The Region

Part of the province of La Mancha, Manchuela is one of Spain's best emerging appellations. Constant breezes create the diurnal temperature variations necessary to balance body with acidity. Picture a rolling rustic landscape covered in low-bush vines, their roots digging deeply into thick clay soils. Imagine rows and rows of brightly colored Bobal berries soaking in the intense Spanish summer sun, and watching the Mediterranean breezes make neighboring windmills dance along the plateau.



Thanks to Travis Vernon of the Spanish Wine Importer, LLC for this month's write-up.