

**RIOJA – CLASSIC REDS AND MUCH MORE**

**HEATHER DOUGHERTY**

1. Nivarius Finca la Nevera Maturana Blanca 2019 Rioja Blanco

Finca la Nevera specialise in making only white wines. Maturana Blanca is a re-discovered old variety native to Rioja and it is making some really exciting wines.

2. Bodegas Montecillo Viña Monty Reserva 2018 Rioja Blanco

Viña Monty is the most prestigious range of this venerable producer, made from old vine parcels of the traditional white Rioja variety of Viura. It spends 18 months in French oak before further ageing in bottle.

3. Bai Gorri Rioja Rosado 2024

An authentically deep coloured rosado, as is traditional in Spain, but with modern winemaking to maximise fruit flavour. 55% Viura, 25% Tempranillo, 20% Garnacha

4. Cune Asúa Rioja Reserva 2020

Cune (which stands for the Compañia Vinicola del Norte de España) is one of the best-known names in Rioja, founded by the Real de Asúa brothers, hence the name of this wine. The grapes are all from Cune's own vineyards around the town of Haro, the epicentre of Rioja tradition. 100% Tempranillo, aged for 18 months in French oak.

5. Torre de Oña Finca Martelo Reserva 2016

Finca Martelo is part of La Rioja Alta group, based in the Basque sub-region of Rioja Alavesa. It is a classic, oak aged Reserva, 95% old vine Tempranillo from the high quality and cooler sites of Rioja Alavesa. Aged for 24 months in American (80%) and French (20%) oak barrels.

6. Real Agrado Canterabuey Viñedo Singular 2022

This is a 100% Garnacha/Grenache single vineyard wine. Garnacha flourishes in the warmer part of Rioja (known as Rioja Oriental) and single vineyard wines are fairly recently recognised by the Rioja authorities, so are still quite rare - this wine was the very first one to be made. It was aged in a mix of French and American oak.