

The Specifics



Wine Details

Wine Name:	Celler Cal Pla Black Slate Porrera
Vintage:	2020
Varietal(s):	70% Grenache, 30% Carignan
Appellation:	Priorat
Country:	Spain
Alcohol:	15.0%
Production:	12 months in neutral French and Hungarian oak



What Is It

Grenache is native to Spain which makes sense as the grape buds early and yet ripens late therefore requiring extended hot and dry growing conditions. The resulting wines are rich, flavorful red wines that are medium- to full-bodied, long on the finish, with relatively low tannins and substantial alcohol content. Grenache is highly valued in blends as it brings fruitiness without adding tannins.

Carignan is another Spanish native, though its widely planted in southern France. It's primarily used as a blending grape thanks to its combination of bold red fruits, spice, smokiness, firm tannins, and high acidity. It is not uncommon to see Grenache and Carignan blended together.

The Celler Cal Pla Black Slate Porrera is all about a sense of place. Priorat is one of only two regions in Spain that rank at the highest level of qualification of Spanish wine regulations (the other being Rioja). This has intense aromas of black fruit, licorice, and graphite. The palate is earthy, reflecting the unique black slate and quartz soil of Priorat, known as licorella. Pair with bold flavors - grilled meats and aged cheese that will stand up to the wine. Avoid spicy foods that will only accentuate the already high alcohol level.

Who Made It

Celler Cal Pla is on its eighth generation of winemaking with vines up to 100 years old. Originally, they sold their grapes in bulk to the residents of the nearby village of Porrera. That changed in 1996 when Joan Sangenis started making boutique wine through modern oenological methods. Farming is done organically and the grapes are harvested by hand which might sound delightful in such a warm, dry environment until you realize the sheer incline on which the vineyards rest. These are hillsides you must walk down diagonally in order to not tumble down them entirely.

Doug's Deep Thoughts

Everyone knows Rioja. Its reputation is well deserved. But, while everyone else is in Rioja, get yourself to Priorat. This tiny region is about 1/10th the size of Fauquier County and yet it produces spectacular wines that are clearly from one very specific place in the world. The Black Slate Porrera offers up the big flavors of Grenache combined with the flintiness and minerality that is distinctly Priorat. I shouldn't play favorites within the Winehouse - I'm proud of all of our offerings - but, if I'm being completely honest, the Black Slate Porrera is one of my very favorites in the shop.