

MATUSALEM



Type: Cream VORS

Denomination of Origin:
DO Jerez-Xérès-Sherry

Grape Variety:
75% Palomino, 25% Pedro Ximénez

Ageing:
Average 30 years in American oak casks
following the traditional Solera system

Alcohol: 20.5% vol

PH: 3.4

Total Acidity: 6.8 g/l (tartaric acid)

Volatile Acidity: 0.85 g/l (acetic acid)

Residual Sugars: 130 g/l

VINEYARD FEATURES

The vineyards in Jerez are unique to the area. The soil in Jerez is majority Albariza, a white soil which contains up to 60% chalk and therefore has a large capacity for maintaining moisture, very important given the long, hot and dry summers as irrigation is prohibited. The area has a unique microclimate influenced by the surrounding Atlantic ocean and rivers Guadalquivir and Guadalete. The prevailing winds are moist and warm, and now and again dry and hot levante winds from north Africa. Temperatures are warm with 70% humidity and annual rainfall is 600 litres/m². The harvest in Jerez begins mid August and generally lasts for 3 weeks maximum. The Pedro Ximenez grape, although a white grape, is treated slightly differently as it is destined for sweet wines. The grapes are collected from the vine slightly later and they are then sun dried in a process called 'soleo' when the grapes bunches are laid out on esparto mats in the vineyard for up to two weeks. During this time the grape loses about 40% of its volumen due to evaporation of water which causes concentration of sugars.

WINEMAKING

The Palomino must destined for Matusalem comes from the first press of the continuous presses so as to obtain slightly more structure and body. Following fermentation to between 11% and 12% alcohol the wine is fortified to 18% alcohol and then enters the Oloroso solera. An empty space of 100 litres is left in the casks so that the wine has a large surface area in contact with the oxygen and therefore undergoes complete oxidation. The Pedro Ximenez grape undergoes a strong press similar to olive oil production. The must then begins to ferment although stops at around 7% alcohol due to sugar stress. At this time the wine is fortified to 15% alcohol and then enters into the Pedro Ximenez solera. After ageing separately for more or less 15 years the two grapes varieties are blended, 75% Palomino and 25% Pedro Ximenez. The blend then enters into the Matusalem solera where it will spend a further 15 years.

WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Matusalem after 30 years in cask has acquired an intense mahogany colour with profound aromas of dried fruits, raisins, spices and mature wood. On the palate smooth and sweet, long and velvety. Matusalem has an interesting bitter sweet finish due to the mix of the sweet Pedro Ximenez and bitter tannins from the oak.

SERVING AND PAIRING

This wine should be served slightly chilled in a small wine glass. Ideal with mature cheeses or blue cheeses such as Stilton. Also perfect as a dessert wine with fruit pudding or apple pie.

CONTACT:

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