

BODEGAS CASTRO MARTIN ALBARIÑO

Rias Baixas

The tiny denomination of Rias Baixas is located on the north-west coast of Spain, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The majority of vineyards within our D.O. are extremely small and are dotted around the hillsides like small pocket handkerchiefs (even more fragmented than Burgundy). Our vines are trained overhead using the pergola system, allowing better circulation of air and also permitting some of Galicia's subsistence farmers to grow a second crop at ground level, and providing space to graze their livestock. Being immediately adjacent to the Ocean, our climate is cool and damp, meaning that the region is truly the most verdant corner of Spain. Its Rias (river estuaries) also provide the ideal natural shelter for Spain's extensive fishing fleet. Of course, it is never just a coincidence that the local wine often compliments the local diet perfectly, and albariño, our local grape variety, is no exception. Fish and seafood make the classic pairing with our zesty, refreshing white wine.



Our Bodega

The current bodega was built in 1981, the first vintage being produced in 1982. It was the first large bodega in the region to install stainless steel tanks. At that time our founder, Domingo Martin, was considered foolish for his extravagance (remembering that the denomination itself was not created until 1988). Don Domingo also had the foresight to construct the bodega on three levels meaning that grape juice and finished wine could simply be moved around the cellar using gravity. Perhaps he was not so foolish after all!

Val do Salnés

The denomination of Rias Baixas is divided into five sub-zones. Bodegas Castro Martin is located in the north, at the very heart of albariño country, in the Val do Salnés. The Salnés area alone represents more than 50% of the denomination under vine, has 70% of the registered grape growers and accounts for two-thirds of the total albariño production. Its rocky alluvial soils and cool sea breezes make this zone an ideal home for the albariño grape variety, and it is considered by many to produce the most typical wines of Rias Baixas. Indeed, some would even claim that you can taste the sea.....

