

Wines from Catalonia

Catalonia in the country's north-east must be the most diverse of all Spanish wine cultures. The wines grown between rugged mountains and Mediterranean sea spell discovery and pleasure: Brilliant, sparkling Cava, refreshing whites and generous reds hit the spot every time.

Member estates of the Associació Vinícola Catalana, business association of Catalan wineries, embody what is best in the region. They are united by a focus on quality that combines respect for local tradition with an innovative, progressive approach. Care for the environment is central to viticultural and winemaking decisions. Both indigenous and international varieties thrive and represent fantastic value. Enjoy their unmistakable Catalan accent in your glass. Salut!

Cava

High time to discover what real Cava is: Cava can be so much more than simple fizz: especially when it comes to vintage-dated Reserva and Gran Reserva wines. Long ageing has conferred distinct creaminess to these brilliantly fresh, light-footed yet expressive wines. "Our wines are made to last for a long time," says Xavier Gramona Sande of **Gramona**. Simply all of their wines have Gran Reserva status, maturing from a minimum of 30 months up to 15 years. Extended ageing is also at the heart of **Juve & Camps'** philosophy where a state-of-the-art winery leaves nothing to chance. Both Gramona and Juve & Camps count on the freshness, precision and longevity of the Xarel.lo grape. At **Juve & Camps** this is also aided by the scent of Parellada and the body of Macabeo. At the boutique-house **Roger Goulart** the freshness of the grapes' primary flavors persists through the entire ageing process. Each year, only grapes from select parcels of cool vineyards make it into their Cava. **Sumarroca** impresses with a brut-nature style white single-vineyard luxury cuvées

set a new standard. **Perelada** has the special honor of having made Cava Gran Claustro that became President Dwight Eisenhower's favorite. Allow yourself to be surprised by the fine mousse and expressive flavor of these long-aged Cava: they are the pinnacle of sparkling Spain.

Priorat

Ancient, gnarled vines seem to grow straight out of the weathered slate that is known as *llicorella*. Rows of them trace the contours of rugged mountainsides, enduring hot days and cold nights. The Garnacha and Cariñena wines that grow here speak of wilderness and extremes: they are concentrated and strong, dense with flavour, structure and fiery fruit. **Cellers Unió**, a co-op of local farmers, allows the grapes to speak of their land and their people who cultivate these hills. As Oscar Ruiz says, "Our goal is to preserve rural life." He should know: **Cellers Unió** is affiliated with local almond and olive oil co-ops.

Penedès, Montsant, Costers del Segre, Conca de Barberà and Empordà

The vineyards in these Catalan heartlands reach from the Mediterranean shore to the Pyrenean foothills. Breezy heights take turns with warmer, inland plains in a landscape of vineyards, pine forests, olive



Remei in Costers de Segre turn their ripe, generous fruit into rounded, structured reds by combining local Garnacha, Cariñena, Monastrell with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. They work the same trick for whites that impress with lasting freshness. **Cellers Unió** also cultivate in Montsant where local Garnacha and Cariñena vie with Syrah for attention.

When it comes to internationalism, **Torres** can stand alongside world's finest Chardonnays and clarets but also crafts equally long-lived and impressive reds from indigenous and ancient grape varieties like Garró and Querol. It is remarkable that the same care is lavished on **Torres'** entry level wines as on their top single-vineyard bottlings. **Sumarroca** and **Juve & Camps** present citrus-scented whites based

groves and cypresses. The wines are like the land: full of fruit, bright with sunshine, distinctly Mediterranean. **Perelada** showcases the different accents of the Empordà district with different, spicy but elegant reds, from various fincas, or farms. **Castell del**

on the marvellous Xarel.lo grape while **Perelada** makes whites with exceptional texture from Garnacha Blanca.

Other members of Asociación Vinícola Catalana belong to Apellations Alella, Catalunya, Pla de Bages, Tarragona and Terra Alta, where high quality wines are made following the special characteristics of each area.

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Castell del Remei
1780
DO Costers del Segre
castelldelremei.com

Cellers Unió
Perlat
DO Montsant
cellersunio.com

Gramona
III Llustros
DO Cava
gramona.com

Juve & Camps
Reserva de la Família
DO Cava
juvecamps.com

Perelada
5 Finques
DO Empordà
perelada.com

Roger Goulart
Gran Reserva Vintage 2011
DO Cava
rogergoulart.com

Sumarroca
Brut Nature Gran Reserva
DO Cava
sumarroca.es

Torres
Salmos 2013
DOQ Priorat
torres.es