EXPLORE RIOJA

THREE MIXED CASES

BEST BUYS FROM £7.50

NAVAJAS: MUGA: VINA REAL: LA RIOJA ALTA
This offer is our mini guide to Spain’s most famous wine region, Rioja. From traditional, ready-to-drink, smooth tempranillo aged in American oak to innovative modern terroir-focused reds and delicious individual whites and rosado, there’s something here for everyone.

We include exquisite, complex wines from Rioja’s finest historic bodegas – those that represent the very best of the classic style – to more contemporary examples from the region’s most inventive producers. Reds continue to be Rioja’s speciality but the whites represent some of the wine world’s most individual flavours.

There is no doubt that these are exciting times for Spain’s leading fine wine region as it skilfully combines respect for tradition while embracing modern improvements. Three specially selected mixed cases make exploration of this dynamic region a breeze.

**Navajas Crianza, Rioja 2011 (T)**
Navajas get their hands on some of the finest fruit from the region’s best vineyards and make an excellent traditional Rioja which combines attractive oaky, leathery flavours with fresh, bright fruit and supple palate. The 2011 is full and powerful. 14%

ref RJ-SP10361
£7.75 bottle £93 dozen

**Glorioso Crianza, Rioja 2011 (M)**
Glorioso is a different style of crianza aged in French oak (rather than American) and rests its quality on elegance, structure and cedar fruit. The 2011 is a richly flavoured vintage with dark fruit flavours. 14%

ref RJ-SP9651
£7.95 bottle £95 dozen

**NEW Vallobera Crianza, Rioja 2012 (MC)**
A round, plump and seriously fruity Rioja made from 100% tempranillo grown in a high-altitude vineyard near Laguardia in Alavesa. This pure style is aged for 14 months in a mixture of French and American oak. Decant an hour before serving. 14%

ref RJ-SP10271
£9.50 bottle £114 dozen

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**CRIANZA**
Good Rioja crianza is about sheer drinkability: soft, mellow fruit enhanced with just a touch of oak. We have selected four benchmark examples. The Society’s is the epitome of good old-fashioned, leathery Rioja; Navajas is more flashy with its oak; Glorioso is refined and structured; and the new Vallobera a fruit-forward, pure example of tempranillo from the Alavesa region of Rioja.

**The Society’s Rioja Crianza 2011 (T)**
The new 2011 vintage of this traditional-style Rioja is plumper and riper than the previous blend yet still retains the round, smooth and savoury fruit from careful barrel ageing in American oak (just under two years). Try with lamb stew and decant an hour before serving. To read more about blending the latest vintage, visit SocietyGrapevine.com, The Wine Society blog, and search for ‘Rioja’. 14%

ref RJ-SP10031
£7.50 bottle £90 dozen

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**RIOJA MINIMUM AGEING LAWS**

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**IN WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW**

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Pierre Mansour
Society Buyer

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**TRADITIONAL (T)**
Fragrant, silky, fine. Long ageing in casks and bottle. Ready to drink on release.

**AMERICAN OAK BARRELS**

**MODERN-CLASSICAL (MC)**

**MODERN (M)**
Richer, velvety wines aged for less time, and in newer oak. Released earlier and mostly need keeping.

**FRENCH OAK BARRELS**
RESERVA
Superior fruit selection and longer ageing means reserva wines represent model Riojas: elegant, layered and age-worthy. Two classics, the Exhibition Reserva and Muga, are joined by the excellent value Lopez de Haro Reserva 2005, and the polished, pure Tobelos.

Lopez de Haro Reserva, Rioja 2005 (T)
Behind the striking retro label lies a classic, old-fashioned oaky style of Rioja reserva (aged for two years in American and French oak) which is graceful and harmonious with tobacco flavours. Decant an hour in advance. 13.5%
ref RJ-SP9951
£13.95 bottle £167 dozen

The Society’s Exhibition Reserva 2008 (T)
This comes from the famous La Rioja Alta bodega, whose wines are known for their finesse as well as depth of flavour. We chose them because they make the very best traditional style of Rioja, released only after long ageing in barrel and bottle. Elegant, cedary and silky, the 2008 shows vibrancy and charm. Now to 2018. 13.5%
ref RJ-SP9951
£13.95 bottle £167 dozen

NEW Tobelos Reserva, Rioja 2010 (M)
A deeply coloured, full reserva aged in a mix of American and French oak. This modern Rioja exudes class and purity with seriously good fruit and length. A polished and toasty style that will age well. Decant. Now to 2022. 14%
ref RJ-SP10241
£19.50 bottle £234 dozen

Muga Selección Especial Reserva, Rioja 2009 (MC)
2009 is a brilliant vintage for Muga, reminiscent of the density of 2004 and the elegance of 2005. The ‘Selección Especial’ is more than a reserva wine in that it is aged for 34 months in barrel (mostly new French oak) and at least a further 12 months in bottle. This creates a highly scented style which is fuller and more concentrated than Muga’s standard reserva and so ages well. Decant. Now to 2023. 14%
ref RJ-SP8041
£20 bottle £240 dozen

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GRA N RESER VA
Officially the highest-quality wines, gran reservas spend a minimum of five years ageing before release. Two exemplary estate’s wines make the cut this year; Viña Real and La Rioja Alta 904.

Viña Real Gran Reserva, Rioja 2008 (T)
One of the classic names of Rioja. This is mostly tempranillo with 5% graciano all grown in the Alavesa sub-region. The youthful 2008 has lovely depth of fruit and effortless balance. Decant an hour in advance or better still hold in the cellar for a few more years. Now to 2022. 13.5%
ref RJ-SP9741
£19 bottle £228 dozen

La Rioja Alta 904 Gran Reserva, Rioja 2004 (T)
One of the great Riojas and one of the few to be offered after four years in cask and proper bottle age in the classic tradition which has allowed it to develop stunning bouquet and fine long-lasting flavour. The savoury, intense and sophisticated 2004 is outstanding. Now to 2025. 13%
ref RJ-SP9731
£32 bottle £384 dozen

WHITE & ROSADO
Rioja’s recipe of ageing the local white grape viura (aka macabeo) oxidatively in oak results in one of the world’s most individual and compelling white wine styles. They appeal for their round texture and savoury flavours, which are perfect for food. For a revitalising aperitif, Muga’s delicate and vibrant rosado is deliciously refreshing.

Navajas Blanco Crianza, Rioja 2011
This traditional, oaky white Rioja made from viura, combines delicious fruitiness and complex toasty, nutty flavours from oak ageing. 13%
ref RJ-SP9541
£7.95 bottle £95 dozen

NEW Muga Rosado, Rioja 2014
A whistle-clean, pale-coloured rosé made from red grapes garnacha (60%) and tempranillo (10%) with 30% viura (the local white grape of Rioja). Delicate and refreshing, this would make a delicious aperitif on a summer’s day. 13%
ref RJ-SP10261
£8.50 bottle £102 dozen

NEW B de Basilio Izquierdo, Rioja 2009 (M)
With more than 30 years as head winemaker at CVNE, Basilio Izquierdo know a thing or two about Rioja. This is his own project and is an outstanding example of contemporary Rioja. Its black fruit is backed by a mineral cedary note, a full rich body and beautifully structured tannins. This rare wine (just 300 cases made) will reward patience. Exclusive to The Wine Society. Now to 2025. 14%
ref RJ-SP10311
£30 bottle £360 dozen

NEW-WAVE RIOJA
The most exciting development in Rioja has been the rise of a new generation of producers obsessed with expressing the character of their vineyards in their wines. Telmo Rodriguez of Lanzaga is a pioneer, as is Basilio Izquierdo who has celebrity status here having been head winemaker at CVNE/Viña Real for decades. His limited-production Rioja is exquisite and exclusively available to Wine Society members.

Lanzaga, Rioja 2009 (M)
From an ancient vineyard near Lanciego in the Alta sub-zone, this fine, velvety Rioja is crafted to reflect the unique terroir where the influence of the Mediterranean and Atlantic meet. It combines rich black fruit and spice with fantastic backbone, freshness and length. Decant. Now to 2025. 14.5%
ref RJ-SP8891
£24 bottle £288 dozen

NEW-WAVE RIOJA
This offer is open until Sunday 21st June 2015, while stocks last.