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Castillo Ygay Gran Reserva Especial 2012

There will be no Castillo Ygay reds in 2013, 2014 or 2015, so its many fans would be well advised to stock up now. Made in a vintage that María Vargas regards as outstanding, this partners Tempranillo with 19% Mazuelo. Aged in American and a smaller amount of French oak, it has appealing balsamic, tobacco leaf and aromatic spice aromas, wonderful structure and depth, layers of blackberry, fig and red berry fruit and a persistent, acid-driven finish. 2026-40

Dalmau 2020

96

Dalmau is a unique blend of Tempranillo with 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Graciano from a nine-hectare single vineyard called Pago Canajas. Entirely aged in French oak, it's the most international wine in the Murrieta range, with graphite and dried herbs aromas, flavours of fig, cassis and cigar box and plenty of supporting, bottle age-friendly acidity. 2026-2040

Capellanía 2019

95

This impressive Viura, comes from a six-hectare vineyard called Pago Capellanía that occupies the highest part of the Ygay Estate at 485 m. Still youthful at nearly five years of age, it's a pithy, stylish wooded white that ha a long life ahead of it, with top notes of jasmine and thatch, plenty of focues and minerality and tangy pear and citrus fruit flavours. Give it time. 2024-32

Marqués de Murrieta 2020

94

This won't be ready to drink for some time, but it's well worth buying some now to tuck away for a few years. Sourced from the entire estate, it's a cuvée of Tempranillo with 8% Graciano, 7% Mazuelo and 3% Garnacha tinta, that has appealing American oak sweetness and spices, a ripe, dense, textured palate of blackberry and mulberry fruit and plenty of balancing acidity. 2025-35

Primer Rosé 2022

92

Primer Rosé is a very pale pink that's entirely made from Mazuelo grapes grown in the five-hectare Pago Lucas parcel on the Ygay Estate. Ambitiously priced alongside the top Côte de Provence wines, it's intensely floral and delicate, with impressive finesse, flavours of redcurrant and watermelon and a tangy finish. 2024-25

La Comtesse Gran Vino de Guarda 2018

96

La Comtesse comes from the Pago Cacheiro, a 1,4-hectare parcel planted in 1965, and sees a combination of new and older French wood, followed by a year in concrete eggs. Deliberately made to age, like owner Marqués de Murrieta's white Riojas, this is rich, leesy and textured, with notes of butter and honey, pear and peach skin fruit, a dab of oak spices and a taut, focused, mineral rich core. Rías Baixas meets Meursault. 2023-30

Pazo Barrantes Gran Vino 2020

95

Elena Cores used a little wood on this wine for the second time in 2020, fermenting 15% in acacia barrels and the remainder in stainless steel. Musky, perfumed and layered, with some of the richness of the vintage, it has peach, pear and subtle cinnamon spice flavours and a classic Salnés Valley undertow of granitic freshness and bite. 2023-28