

QUINTA DA MURADELLA

‘Quite possibly the most refined European wines that most people have never heard of.’ - International Fine Wines

‘They transcend the appellation and find themselves among the finest wines from Galicia and from Spain.’ - Luis Gutiérrez

Year Founded: 1990

Region: Monterrei, Spain

Owner/winemaker: José Luis Mateo García

Known For: Since the 1990s, this tiny Monterrei passion project has been lovingly run by José Luis Mateo, considered by many to be the greatest vigneron in the red-hot Galicia region.

-Biodynamic, Organic-

For over 30 years, Muradella’s founder, José Luis Mateo García, has worked to give voice to Monterrei’s ancient vineyards. The region’s isolated, mountainous location once yielded wines prized by the Celts and Romans, but production waned after phylloxera and 20th century rural flight accelerated that trend. Yet José Luis knew in his heart that his native region’s diverse soils and unique varieties could yield something special once more. In the late 1980s, a young José Luis Mateo made a decision that shook his blue-collar parents: He was quitting university in Madrid and returning to his far-flung home in Verín, a tiny Galician town five miles from the Portuguese border, to make wine. José came home, and eventually thrived beyond his wildest imagination: He started Quinta da Muradella in 1990, and originally paid the bills by producing wine for the family taberna. But over time, the unassuming vigneron saw his



reputation soar; first in his native Galicia, then among young Spanish sommeliers who were looking for more freshness and terroir in their wines. Finally, the cult became international in scope. Today, José has become one of the most idolized and respected winemakers in all of Spain, and his tiny production has reached cult status. The wines are soulful and singular, with dazzling personalities. They rank among Spain’s very best.

Spain’s verdant Galicia may be better known for Rías Baixas, Ribeiro, and Ribeira Sacra, but its greatest hidden jewel is tiny Monterrei, hugging the Portuguese border. Monterrei is far and away the smallest Galician appellation by vine plantings, and while it remains unknown to many, its history and pedigree run extraordinarily deep. Grape growing can be traced back to Roman times, and Val de Monterrei wines were prized and sold throughout Spain’s American colonies as early as the 1500s. The region boasts an incredible diversity of soils, exposures, and grape varieties. An ancient north-south fault created a valley in the mountains that was eventually filled by the Tamega River. The geological folding mixed an incredible range of slate, schist, and other mineral veins into the hillsides, and the Tamega spread that diversity across the lower elevations. Ultimately, José Luis is among the greatest, most refined wine minds of our time, and his growing cult following is wholly deserved.



2023 Candea Blanco

Treixadura; Doña Blanca; Verdello. Grape varieties are pressed and co-fermented in stainless steel tanks. The wine stays on its fine lees for over a year before bottling. No malolactic fermentation. On the nose, beeswax, honeycomb, golden apple, wet stone. On the palate, mouth-filling and expansive. Ripe apple and pear are framed by stony minerals, lambswool and flowers. Beautifully balanced between fruit and mineral, weight and acidity. Long, mouthwatering finish.

91 Points – Vinous – *“Fragrant, with white fruit aromas alongside herbal and tropical notes. This is creamy, with some tension and a hint of caramel. It is pleasant, with a touch of vanilla on the finish.”*



2022 Candea Tinto

Mencia, Tempranillo (Arauxa), Garnacha Tintorera, Mouraton. Tank fermented with native yeasts 1/3 whole cluster. Maceration time can exceed 30 days. The wine is raked post malo and then aged in tank for at least a year. On the nose, sour cherry and cranberry yield to candied violet, iron and a note of gaminess. On the palate, medium bodied and light on its feet. Bright red cherry and raspberry fruit with impressive concentration and clarity, leading to a savory finish of white pepper and wet stone.

92 Points – Robert Parker – *“A light and fresh, approachable blend of different grapes, has a nose of strawberries and wild herbs, a medium-bodied palate with very fine tannins and a clean and fruit-driven finish, with a fine-grained texture.”*