

# R. LÓPEZ DE HEREDIA

## ‘Top 100 Winery’

- Wine&Spirits Mag 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2023

**‘This venerable house has become a modern-day star with its unabashedly traditional Riojas.’ - Wine&Spirits**

**‘María José López de Heredia is a force of nature. She is the fourth generation to run her family’s R. López de Heredia winery in Rioja, Spain, and, like a Russian nesting doll, she seems to carry her whole family within her. When she talks, she speaks not just for herself but for her father, her grandfather and her great-grandfather, who founded the winery in 1877.’ - Wine Spectator**

**Year Founded: 1877**

**Region: La Rioja Alta**

**Owner: Don Rafael López de Heredia y Landeta**

**Winemaker: Julio Cesar López de Heredia, María José López de Heredia and Mercedes López de Heredia**

**Known for: Stands alone in the world for ageing red, whites, and rosés in the traditional manner. A worldwide icon.**

**-Organic-**

There are few wineries in Spain, or in the world, whose name conjures the heritage, and prestige evoked by R. López de Heredia.

Little about this winery has changed in the 137 years, since its founding, by Don Rafael López de Heredia. The family adheres to a winemaking doctrine blueprint ed in the 1880s – to make wine only from their own vineyards.

Fermentation takes place in their 72 large oak vats, some of which are 139 years old. After fermentation, the wines are ready to be aged in 14,000 handmade American oak barrels. The wines will remain at R. López de

Heredias’ underground cellars, stored at perfect temperature and tranquility, for a minimum of 3 to 10 years. The wines acquire their smoothness and bouquet during the bottle aging that follows, a

minimum of 3 years for Crianzas, and 10 years for Gran Reserva wines. Don Rafael López de Heredia acquired Viña Tondonia from a group of clergy in 1913. The Tondonia vineyard is a beautiful vineyard of over 247 acres, 1,600 feet above sea level, situated on the right bank of the Ebro River, in Rioja Alta. The soil is alluvial clay with a high concentration of limestone. There are 4 varieties of red grapes planted in this vineyard: Tempranillo, Mazuelo, Graciano, and Garnacho. The Tondonia vineyard also has a few acres of white grapes (Viura and Malvasia), from which R. López de Heredia makes their Tondonia Blanco. This small section of the vineyard is widely regarded as some of the most definitive “terroir” for white Rioja.





## **2016 'Viña Gravonia Crianza'**

100% Viura. Barrel aged for 4 years, being racked twice per year and fined with fresh egg whites. Unfiltered.

**96 Points – James Suckling** – “Aromas of cashews, roasted almonds, saffron, white truffles, honey, dried lemons and beeswax. Bright acidity with cream, nuts and subtle white fruit on the palate. Long and savory in nature. Such a beautiful wine with a finish that lasts a minute. Classic Lopez de Heredia and one of the best.”

**95 Points – Robert Parker** - “2016 was a superb vintage in Rioja, and the 2016 Viña Gravonia Blanco, which has the cellar aroma that all the wines, especially the whites, have, due to the longer time the wines spend in barrel. The white vines in this vineyard are now 92 years old and their juice was fermented in old oak vats with indigenous yeasts. They explained, “We have never used selected yeasts.” It was matured in their well-seasoned American oak barrels for four years. It's paler than any of the other whites, and it has a little less pungency, with very good freshness. It's elegant, subtle, clean and ethereal.”



## **2004 Gran Reserva White**

Viura (90%) and Malvasía (10%), all from our own vineyards. Aged 10 years in barrel, being racked twice per year and fined with fresh egg whites.

**100 Points - Robert Parker** - “This is a developed white that was matured in well-seasoned, neutral American oak barrels for 10 years in their old caves, where the wine gets pungent aromas of mushrooms, pollen, beeswax, white pepper, kerosene, cereals and something herbal (celery and even asparagus) that reminded me of the 1964. The palate is velvety and dry and super tasty, with a salty twist in the finish. It's still a baby even after years in bottle. This should age superbly in bottle.”

**98 Points - James Suckling** - “Such a beautifully aged gran reserva that shows the more traditional side of Rioja. Dried blood orange peel, white pepper, dried thyme, iron, berries, minerals, black sesame seeds and old books. So bright and firm, with a full body and an extremely bright, lengthy finish. If I bought a bottle, I'd still want to keep it for another few years.”



## **2013 'Viña Tondonia' Reserva White**

90% Viura, 10% Malvasia. Barrel aged for 4 years, being racked twice per year and fined with fresh egg whites. Unfiltered.

**95 Points - James Suckling** - “An open, balsamic expression of Tondonia. It's charming and complex, with white truffles, biscuits, roasted macadamia nuts and a touch of Parmesan cheese. Bright and expressive, with a medium body and a long, fluid finish.”

**95 Points - Vinous** - “This wine defies expectations of youth with its bright amber hue. Subtle aromas of honey, dried apricot, tangerine peel and faint oak greet the senses. Initially rich and overwhelming, it evolves into a gently chalky flow with a refreshing touch on the palate. This complex white wine, with its long-lasting finish and final hint of hazelnut, stands for its aging potential like Rioja whites of old.”



## 2012 'Viña Tondonia' Reserva

'Top 100 Spanish Wines of 2022' -James Suckling

'Top 100 Wines of 2020' -International Wine Report

70% Tempranillo, 20% Garnacho, 10% Graciano and Mazuelo. Barrel aged for 4 years, being racked twice per year and fined with fresh egg whites. Unfiltered.

"A beautiful example of classical Rioja, with the developing aromatic and flavor complexity of a thirteen-year-old wine that is, in reality, just beginning its vinous journey. A very fine example of why one does not have to focus exclusively on Gran Reservas to get the best of Rioja!" -John Gilman

**96 Points - James Suckling** – “Savory berries, plums, iron, minerals, tobacco, ink and blood oranges. Very bright, juicy and structured, with sensational balance, aged savoriness and brightness that are typical of Tondonia reds.”

**95 Points – Robert Parker**



## 2014 'Viña Bosconia Red Reserva'

Top 100 Spanish Wines' - James Suckling 2023

80% Tempranillo, 15% Garnacho, 3% Graciano, and 2% Mazuelo all from our own vineyards. Barrel aged 5 years in American oak barrels with bi-annual racking. Further aged for at least 4 years in bottle before release.

**94+ Points – '14 Robert Parker** - “I loved the nose of the 2014 Viña Bosconia Reserva, a red that sells at an incredible price for the quality, the problem is (like all their wines) finding it. elegant and nuanced, developed but young for its age, with a seamless palate and very fine tannins, with energy and light.”



## 2017 'Viña Cubillo Crianza'

65% Tempranillo, 25% Garnacho, 5% Mazuelo and 5% Graciano. Barrel aged 3 years in American oak barrels with bi-annual racking. Further aged for at least 3 years in bottle before release. Terrific nose of leather, black cherry, dried raspberries, and spice. Full palate with complex development, well-balanced with firm tannins. Notes of red and black fruits with earthy undertones.

**93 Points – '17 Robert Parker**