

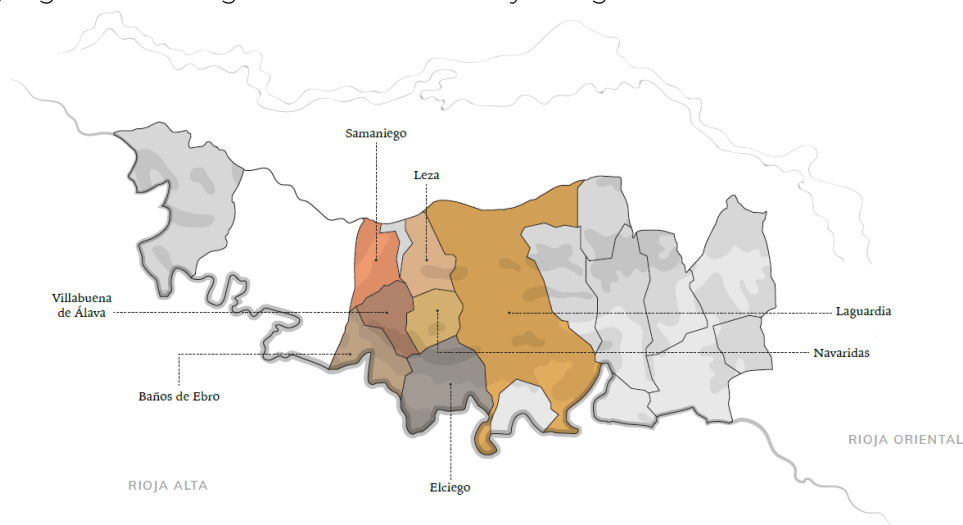
# BIDEONA

RIOJA ALAVESA  
VIÑEDOS SINGULARES

## Bideona Vinos de Pueblo

This range is at the core of our endeavour to make Rioja Alavesa wines that truly express their origin in the glass. Each Vino de Pueblo is made exclusively from vineyard plots in their individual village. Our aim is to reflect the notable differences in character among the great, historic wine villages of Rioja Alavesa where we have vineyards. Those differences have traditionally been well understood by local vine growers, but were unfortunately lost in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, during the industrialization of modern Rioja wine, more focused on blending, branding and winemaking technique than on origin and terroir.

We own or manage over 300 parcels of extraordinary vineyards in the villages of Villabuena de Álava, Leza, Baños de Ebro, Laguardia, Samaniego and Elciego, on the foothills of the Sierra Cantabria. The average age of our vineyards is around 50 years and many were planted in the 1920s, 30s and 40s, before the availability of high-yielding clones. We believe that the quality and diversity of genetic plant material in our parcels contributes both to the complexity of the wines as well as to the differences between villages, besides differences in altitude, aspect and mesoclimates. Vineyards are on hillside slopes or terraces on soils with a high percentage of limestone, a characteristic that sets Alavesa apart from the rest of Rioja, together with higher altitude and vineyard age.



The lack of focus on terroir in Rioja is also reflected in the current regulations of the Denominación de Origen, which regrettably defines and allows the use of a village name by the location of the winery – the building – and not the vineyards. Our winery is located in the village of Villabuena de Álava, where we make beautiful wine, but many of our vineyards are spread around the neighbouring villages. Despite having full traceability of each vineyard parcel, we cannot legally state these village names on our labels, even though the parcels are only a few kilometres away from our winery. We are confident that these incoherent and harmful regulations will eventually evolve into something more sensible, allowing Rioja to develop its potential as one of the world's great wine terroirs. In the meantime, we have chosen to substitute all village names with acronyms that we have registered as brands. So SAMANIEGO becomes Bideona S4MGO, LEZA becomes L3Z4, LAGUARDIA becomes L4GD4 and VILLABUENA becomes V1BN4.

The 2019 vintage was characterized by low production and small berries, providing structured, intense and rounded wines. A mild winter was followed by a warm spring with some episodes of unstable weather, resulting in poor fruit set and loose bunches. The average rainfall was considerably lower than usual and the summer was hot, resulting in small, concentrated grapes.

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## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Vintage: 2019  
DOCa Rioja – Rioja Alavesa  
Variety: Mostly Tempranillo  
with others in field blend  
Alcohol: 14,3% ABV  
Residual Sugar: 1,9 g/L  
Total Acidity: 5,06 g/L  
pH: 3,65

## Bideona S4MG0 (Samaniego) 2019

Transitioning from Villabuena to the higher slopes closest to the Sierra Cantabria, Samaniego produces some of the most sought after grapes of Rioja Alavesa. The wines have a powerful frame with fresh acidity and firm, but velvety tannins. The fruit tends towards sour cherries and a minty, spicy complexity. The wines have the structure and depth to age beautifully for decades, but show remarkable grace in their youth also.

All our village wines are made in the same way. Grapes from the selected parcels in each village are handpicked in small crates and manually selected on a sorting table. We consciously do NOT use our optical sorting equipment for our fine wines, because manual, human sorting allows us to keep the desirable diversity and subtle variation in ripeness and grape morphology, adding complexity and personality of the individual parcels of old vines to the final wine. Alcoholic and malolactic fermentation processes are simple, in small stainless steel tanks. Maceration times and gentle pump-overs are decided individually by tasting, looking for balance and the maximum expression of personality, but not for high extraction of colour or tannins.

We decide on ageing vessels and time individually for each vintage, combining stainless steel and concrete tanks with bigger and smaller oak vessels, both new and used. The aim is to understand and respect the expression of the unique village character, without excessive use of new oak or oxidative ageing. In the case of Bideona Samaniego 2019, 60% of the wine was aged in first and second use barriques of 300 litres of French oak, for 13 months. The rest of the wine was aged for the same time in tank. Both elements were blended and bottled in August the 26<sup>st</sup> of 2021.

5.343 bottles were made.