

LUXUS ONE CRIANZA RED BLEND

2018/\$15.99



DESCRIPTION

Terra Alta is the most southerly wine DO wine region in Catalonia, northern Spain. It lies on the border of the inland section of Tarragona. It also has the highest altitude, with the mountain peaks here reaching 950 meters (3,000ft). The vineyards are located further down, in the foothills and on valley floors. Unsurprisingly, Terra Alta means 'high land' in Catalan. The picturesque region has been captured in several paintings by the renowned artist Pablo Picasso, who spent some summers here. Terra Alta was awarded DO status in 1985 and has undergone a period of modernization since its promotion.

The Ancient Romans are thought to have introduced viticulture to the area, as their Roman road connecting Zaragoza to Tortosa passed through the region, bringing settlers. In medieval times, the Knights Templar also tended to vines in the area. Its isolated location led to many vines being pulled out in favor of olives. A particular style of oxidized wine from the region gained popularity in the 19th Century, but the phylloxera louse devastated Terra Alta at the end of the century, interrupting wine production for close to half a century. Until relatively recently, the region's wines were destined for local consumption, but nearby Priorat, to its east, has raised the area's profile and been a catalyst for change.

The climate is a mix of Mediterranean and continental, with long, hot summers and very cold winters, when the temperature falls as low as 23°F (-5°C). El Cierzo, a local dry wind which originates in the Ebro River valley to the west, plays a vital role in moderating temperatures during the growing season, as well as helping to prevent mildew diseases on the vines. The soils are clay and coastal limestone, with good drainage.

The region produces a wide range of wines from grape varieties such as Garnacha Blanca, Parellada, Macabeo, Moscatel, Chardonnay, and Chenin Blanc for whites, and Garnacha, Carinena, Syrah, Ull de Llebre, (Tempranillo), Merlot, and Cabernet Franc for reds.

The local Consejo Regulador wine authority permits the production of white, rosé, and red wines. Some winemakers are experimenting with cold fermentation to produce fruitier, fresher styles of wine. Some barrel-aged wines are also authorized, including Crianzas. More-traditional wine styles such as oxidized rancio wines and sweet wines from over-ripened Garnacha grapes are also produced.

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The Terra Alta (Terra Alta = High Land) Designation of Origin is in the southwest of Tarragona, bounded by mountains and the Ebro river. This red wine is made of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 50% Grenache grapes.

The grapes are crushed and macerated in their own skins in steel tanks at a controlled temperature of 22 °C – 24 °C. This wine is aged in American and French oak barrels for 6 months and finish the vintage in the bottle until it acquires an exceptional bouquet.

Tasting Notes

Nose:

Aromas of violets, black cherry, blackberry, and black currant mingled with vanilla.

Palate:

This full-bodied red is powerful, smooth, and has nice grippy tannins.

Pairing:

Luxus One red blend pairs well with red meat, hearty stews, game, lamb, grilled vegetables, spicy foods, and tomato based pasta.

Fun Facts

The color of blueberry pie, this wine has aromas of blackberry, cassis and violet. It is smooth on the palate, with silky tannins, well-balanced acidity and flavors of black cherry, Mission fig, lavender, milk chocolate, and a hint of dried thyme that lingers on the taste buds. —

Wine Enthusiast **91 Points**

Terra Alta D.O., Catalunya, Spain

