

Wine & Spirits

Top 100 Best Buys

95 | Atalayas de Golbán

2016 Ribera del Duero Torre de Golbán Reserva Tempranillo Jaime Suárez came to this project in 2016; he says, “The idea was to make a reserva as the wines were originally made in Ribera del Duero, when the best wines were made simply with the best grapes.” He makes the wine at a sister winery to Dominio de Atauta, working with parcels of old vines (past 80 years) in Soria’s sandy soils for 60 percent of this blend, the balance from 40- to 50-year-old vines in the clay soils of Burgos. He makes a strict selection of the grapes at the winery, fermenting them in stainless steel and then aging the wine for 18 months in French oak barrels (35 percent new). The result is a bright, invigorating, absolutely delicious wine. It carries the freshness of the mountains and the clarity of river water at the source. Grown at the headwaters of the Duero, there’s something primal about this wine—one taster compared its scent of fresh grass and herbs to cow’s breath, “sweet and beautiful.” The wine’s integration predicts a long cellar life ahead, its flavors and structure still tightly woven a week after the bottle was first opened. —Reviewed by Joshua Greene.

