

The Master of Wine TIM ATKIN, in an article for the British magazine DECANTER, highlights Marta Ramas and Miguel Fisac as oenologists to follow in Ribera del Duero: "innovative producers who are following their own visions of what their soils and vineyards can achieve".

Valdaya was founded in 2006, but the quality of this small, high-quality bodega's wines improved dramatically with the arrival of Marta Ramas and Miguel Fisac in 2013. (Ironically, the young, well-travelled couple couldn't have picked a more challenging first harvest.) Having studied in Bordeaux under Professor Denis Dubourdieu, they worked in California, South Africa and New Zealand before returning to Spain, giving them a broad international perspective that's reflected in the styles of wine they like to consume at home. 'We drink wines from anywhere and everywhere,' says Ramas, 'as long as we can afford them.' Ramas and Fisac only work with grapes from the north bank of the Duero river, specifically the villages of Baños de Valdearados, Gumiel de Mercado and Sotillo de la Ribera. They draw on 14ha in total, located from 850m-920m and aged between 50-90 years old. Each of their three wines comes from a different soil type: limestone for flagship red Mirum, sand for second wine Valdaya and clay for entry-point Valiente. The philosophy at Valdaya has been pretty much the same since 2013. 'Each year we learn a little bit more about our parcels,' adds Fisac, 'and we've introduced one or two new things like fermentation in concrete for Valiente. But as a rule, we try to intervene as little as possible. It's all about expressing the character of the vintage and of our soils.'

Atkin also places Mirum 2019 among the best wines in the area in his annual Ribera del Duero report



Bodegas Valdaya - Mirum 2019 (14.5%)

One of the great wines of Spain, not just Ribera del Duero, Mirum comes from a single, 1.2-hectare parcel in Baños de Valdearados. Fermented in concrete vats and aged in 20% new wood, it's pure, focused and violet-scented, with pure plum and black cherry fruit, wonderful vivacity and focus, textured tannins, subtle wood spices and a long, chiselled, balanced finish.

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Bodegas Valdaya - Valdaya 2019 (15%)

The straight Valdaya release is made with fruit from three different soil types in remote, high-altitude Baños de Valdearados. Intensely floral and refined as Marta Ramas and Miguel Fisac's wines always are, this is a polished Ribera with chalky intensity, fine-boned tannins and layers of plum and blueberry fruit.

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