



PAZO BARRANTES  
DESDE 1511

# *La Comtesse* 2019

Rías Baixas, Spain



**VARIETALS**  
100% Albariño

## OVERVIEW

Pazo de Barrantes, a wine that captures the subtle flavor and freshness of albariño, comes from one the largest single estates in Salnés Valley, Rías Baixas D.O. of Galicia, Spain. The wine's true albariño character is a direct reflection of the Creixell family's core values of quality and estate-owned vineyards, paired with a modern winemaking approach and the latest technology.

The grapes used to elaborate the wine are sourced from Pago Cacheiro, a 3.7-acre single-vineyard on the Pazo de Barrantes estate. The shallow soils of the estate are granitic with sand on the surface and the average age of the vineyard is 30 years. The vines are trained high on supporting wires in the 'parral' trellis system (also known as Parron), as is the local tradition, to guard against mildew and rot, and to assist ripening.

## WINEMAKING

Hand-picked in 20kg crates, the albariño bunches are then destemmed before pressing to avoid any herb flavors. The grapes are pressed slowly and gently to respect and extract the intense aromatic potential that these old vine grapes provide. The must is decanted by flotation to ensure greater aromatic purity and then fermented at 50°F in 3,000-liter French Allier oak vats for approximately 85 days.

In an effort to gain more volume on the palate and a balanced mouth-feel, the wine is left in contact with its fine lees for three months. La Comtesse remains in this same wooden vat for 12 months, followed by 12 months in concrete tanks.

## TASTING NOTES

Scented in thousand and one nuances: orange peel, quince fruit, fern, fennel, acacia blossom, eucalyptus... silky texture in the mouth, with volume and plenty of depth. Well-balanced, fine and elegant. Faithful to the variety and extremely suggestive.

**96**  
POINTS  
*Réaumur*  
WINE SPECTATOR

The top-of-the-range 2019 La Comtesse comes from a vineyard called Cacheiro, 1.4 hectares of their oldest vines (planted in 1965) that deliver lower yields and aim to showcase the aging potential of Albariño. The must fermented in 3,000-liter oak vats where the wine was kept for 12 months, the first three with the lees, and then it was kept in concrete for a further 12 months. It has a golden color and an intense nose but with subtle aromas and almost no trace of oak. 2019 was a warmer, very complete and balanced year of powerful wines with concentration, clout and very good balance and freshness. This has 13.5% alcohol, a pH of 3.25 and 7.3 grams of acidity. It has a round and creamy texture and is velvety and tender, sleek and elegant. 9,655 bottles and 400 magnums produced. It was bottled in April 2022.

**94**  
POINTS  
VINOUS

The 2019 Albariño Gran Vino de Guarda La Comtesse hails from Pago Chacheiro, a single vineyard planted in 1965 in Salnes, Rías Baixas. Fermented in oak and aged in concrete vats, this yellow wine features aromas of hops, orange peel and quince, complemented by apricot, jasmine and a delicate hint of oxidized green apple. Dry, creamy and saline, it lingers with a vibrant and tasty medlar finish. This is a truly complex and savory white that showcases the pristine coastal character of the Rías Baixas.

**92**  
POINTS  
Wine Spectator

A graceful white, with well-honed acidity aligned to flavors of ripe pear, tangerine peel, white cherry, vanilla and almond. An underlying streak of salinity provides a lively tang to the detailed flavor range and drives the mouthwatering finish, which shows delicate floral, graphite and spice notes. Drink now through 2030.



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