

KEY LANDMARKS
IN OUR HISTORY



1822

Birth of Luciano Murrieta

Luciano Murrieta García Ortiz de Lemoine was born in Arequipa, Peru, on 1st September 1822. After a short spell in the army, he became the personal aide of General Espartero, a key figure in Spanish history. Their friendship led to Luciano finding his true vocation: wine-growing.



1852

Production of Rioja’s first fine wine

Putting into practice the winemaking techniques he had learned during his trips to Bordeaux, Don Luciano made Rioja’s first-ever fine wine in 1852. It was the first time that a wine produced in the Rioja region proved capable of long-ageing. He was thus the architect of one of the most significant turning points in the Spanish wine sector, which led to the export of the first Rioja wines, shipped to Cuba in that same year.



1872

Granting of the title Marquis

King Amadeo I of Savoy granted Don Luciano the title of Marquis in recognition of his success in achieving high- quality Rioja wine. Until that time, nobody had been able to see the true quality potential of Rioja, and the wines had an image of inferior quality.



1877

Purchase of Finca Ygay

In this year, Luciano Murrieta acquired a vast estate by the name of Ygay on the outskirts of Logroño, a site from which some of the finest wines in the world would later be produced. A year later, the concept of “château” was applied to the estate, whereby a large vineyard surrounded the cellars in one single property, which was unique in Rioja at the time.



1889

Gold medal award in Paris

Murrieta was now reaping the rewards of his efforts, and his wines began to gain awards in some of the most renowned exhibitions and wine fairs. One of these was the Paris Universal Exhibition, in which he won the gold medal award.



1907

Logroño’s adopted, favourite son

In 1907, the local government named Luciano Murrieta Logroño’s “favourite adopted son”, in gratitude for the important economic and social work he had performed in the region. In the same year, Logroño named a street after him.



1911

Death of Luciano Murrieta

Luciano Murrieta died without direct heirs and left all his estate to his nephew, his cousin’s eldest son, the Count of Artaza. His descendants, however, then devoted their efforts to other business ventures, and Luciano’s dreams were shelved for a number of years, before later being revived.



KEY LANDMARKS
IN OUR HISTORY

1925

Foundation of the Rioja
Designation of Origin

On 6th June 1925, the Rioja appellation was given official recognition, which enabled its wine bottles to carry the word “Rioja” on their labels, thus defining the wines as a brand and creating a special seal.



1983

Acquisition of the winery
by the Cebrián Sagarriga family

Vicente Cebrián Sagarriga, a businessman from Galicia and the 10th Count of Creixell, acquired the winery in 1983. With the Cebrián Sagarriga family now at the helm, an essential new chapter was begun in the history of Marqués de Murrieta.



1988

The historic Sotheby's auction

The wines of Marqués de Murrieta were now enjoying a growing prestige that extended beyond the Spanish borders. An exclusive auction was held this year in London, during which three bottles of Castillo Ygay 1917 achieved the highest bid paid until then for a Spanish wine.



1991

Pazo de Barrantes

The Pazo de Barrantes winery was built in 1991 adjacent to the eponymous mansion, which has belonged to the Creixell family since 1511. Pazo de Barrantes is located in the Salnés Valley in Pontevedra province, and its acquisition reflects the strong belief of the Marqués de Murrieta owners in the excellence of the Albariño grape variety.



1996

Death of Vicente Cebrián Sagarriga

After his sad passing, Don Vicente’s children, Vicente Dalmau and Cristina, took over the helm and injected new life into the business, modernising the wines, the winemaking facilities and the estate.



2005

Restoration of Castillo de Ygay

Restoration work was begun this year on the original 19th century winery, Castillo de Ygay. This ambitious and costly project took 9 years to complete.



2014

Inauguration of Castillo de Ygay

King Juan Carlos I inaugurated the newly-restored Castillo de Ygay, the headquarters of Rioja’s first winery venture. The restoration included a unique set of buildings devoted to wine tourism.



KEY LANDMARKS
IN OUR HISTORY

2016

Castillo Ygay 1986 (white)
100 Parker points

Castillo Ygay White Gran Reserva Especial 1986 was the first dry white wine in Spain to achieve the sector’s maximum score of 100 Parker points.



2017

María Vargas
“Winemaker of the Year”

María Vargas, Marqués de Murrieta’s winemaker, was chosen by the renowned British wine critic Tim Atkin as “Winemaker of the Year”.



2019

Marqués de Murrieta
officially recognised as a “museum”

The winery’s prestige was further enhanced during this year when Marqués de Murrieta was officially recognised by the government as a museum -a testimony to the important role it had played in the history of Spanish wine.



2019

New era at Pazo de Barrantes

Pazo de Barrantes revolutionised the traditional approach to the making of Albariño, when it shifted its focus towards the production of long-ageing wines. In its permanent search for excellence, the winery took the decision to hold back its wine for a period of 2 years, in order to give it extra ageing time in acacia barrels and longer ageing in bottle.



2021

Castillo Ygay voted
“World’s Best Wine”

During this year, Castillo Ygay Gran Reserva Especial 2010 was voted “World’s Best Wine” by Wine Spectator magazine. With Marqués de Murrieta achieving the highest rank among the world’s wines, an important landmark for the Spanish wine sector was reached.



2021

New technical facilities

New facilities comprising a complex of buildings covering some 25,000m2 enabled the vinification and ageing cellars to be equipped with the latest technology for the production of the highest quality wines. The complex is set within 50,000m2 of newly planted gardens.



2022

“World’s Best Winemaker”

Marqués de Murrieta’s technical director was voted “World’s Best Winemaker” during the “Women in Wine & Spirits Awards” held in China. This award acknowledged the high quality and excellence of her work.



KEY LANDMARKS
IN OUR HISTORY

2022

Cross of the Order of 2nd May

Vicente Dalmau Cebrián-Sagarriga, the winery's CEO, was awarded the “Cross of the Order of 2nd May”, the highest distinction awarded by the Community of Madrid. This decoration acknowledged the great international renown achieved by Marqués de Murrieta.



2023

Celebration of 40 years of the Cebrián Sagarriga family at the helm

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the family taking over the management of the winery. During those 40 years, they succeeded in establishing their wines in over 100 countries, while at the same time creating a perfect balance between tradition and innovation.



2023

“Best of 2023”
The World’s Best Winery

Marqués de Murrieta was voted 'Best of 2023' by Great Wine Capitals Global Network, ranking it the “World's Best Winery”. The judging panel highlighted the winery's “perfect balance between history and state-of-the-art methods.”



2023

Castillo Ygay -the 100-point wine

The winery's prestigious Castillo Ygay label once again achieved the highest rating in the sector, gaining the coveted score of 100 points by wine critic James Suckling. With this rating, it consolidated its rank as the Spanish wine most often awarded the maximum score by the world's leading wine critics.



2023

Pazo Barrantes, Best Albariño

The 2020 vintage of Gran Vino Pazo Barrantes was voted “Best Albariño of the Year” by the influential editors of the American wine magazine Wine & Spirits.



2024

Inauguration of “Casa Murrieta”

Marqués de Murrieta once again broke new ground in innovation and strategy with the creation of its new headquarters in Madrid, a location covering over 1,500m2 in the heart of the Spanish capital.

