

# DIEZ-CABALLERO GRAN RESERVA 1998

D.O.Ca. Rioja (Rioja Alavesa)  
Bodegas Diez-Caballero  
Spain

## Information on the Appellation – Rioja

Spain's most recognized wine region for centuries is actually named after the rio Oja (river Oja) and is located in the Ebro river valley in the northeast of Spain. Rioja is divided into three zones: Rioja Alta, Rioja Alavesa, and Rioja Baja. The climate of Rioja is milder than many of the wine-growing regions of Spain. The Sierra de Cantabria mountains in the north and the west shield the region from the Atlantic winds and rains. The altitude ranges greatly; from 300m above sea level in the east to 800m above sea level in the North West. Rioja Alta and Rioja Alavesa share a similar climate, although Rioja Alta has clay and limestone soils, while Rioja Alavesa comprises of chalkier soils and higher elevation. Climatic generalizations and comments about soil and condition are difficult to make about Rioja. The region is so large, and sub-climates so varied, that there are many different wine producing regions within the one region. Tempranillo is the main variety grown in Rioja, with smaller plantings of Garnacha, Graciano, and Mazuelo (Carinena). The white varietals are Viura (the majority), Malvasia, and Garnacha Blanca. White wines are primarily produced in Rioja Baja.

## Information on the winery – Diez-Caballero

Diez-Caballero is a small, family owned winery set on the hills of Elciego, with plots scattered throughout the town. Total production at the winery last year ascended to 140,000 bottles. The winery are producing their ultra-premium red wines from a precise selection of grapes coming from 24.5ha of estate owned vineyards, where the average age of the vines is 45-60 years old. For their 'Select Vintage' and Gran Reserva wines, the grapes are handpicked to optimize the ripeness levels in Tempranillo. The overriding goal of the Diez-Caballero winery is to create wines which reflect the characteristics of the terroir of the individual vineyards from where they are sourced. The bodega was formed by the combination of two families approximately 30 years ago and is now run by Doña Victoria and her son Antonio. The vineyards, however, have been in the families for generations. Their famous vineyard sites in and around Elciego such as "La Media Lengua", "Los Campos", "Losares" and "Vialba" produce true "Pagos", or estate wines using modern, ecologically focused viticulture methods, while still reflecting the family's commitment to creating wines in the traditional style of the region.



## Technical Specifications

VINTAGE: 1998  
VARIETAL(S): 100% Tempranillo  
ORIGIN: Rioja Alavesa (DOCa Rioja)

The Diez-Caballero Gran Reserva 1998 vintage produced only 5,000 total bottles of this exceptional wine. There is not a Rioja Tempranillo available in the US market today which has this wonderful mix of age and structure. This wine was aged for 24 months in 55% American and 45% French oak barrels, and then kept another 24 months in the bottle before release. Vines used to produce this wine were on average 60 years old.

## Tasting Notes:

Color: Intense ruby red color. Aging is very noticeable in the color.

Nose: Smoky notes with vanilla spice, some oak.

Palate: Generous, elegant, with a lingering finish. Intense and mellow flavors with creamy vanilla hints enhanced by the spicy notes of the oak. Wine with magnificent texture showing the genuine traditional way of Rioja winemaking.

## Analytical Parameters:

- Alcohol (%): 14%

## Food Pairing:

We recommend pairing this wine with red meats (steak or lamb). It can also be consumed on its own without food.

## Temperature:

58° - 64° F.

## Packaging:

Bottle: 75 cl

Case: 6 Bottles



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