



Pedro Ballasteros Torres MW is the DWWA Regional co-Chair for Spain and is on the governing board of the Spanish Tasters' Union

Cava: my top 10

With the introduction of a new top-tier classification for Cava in 2017, there's been a renewed focus on quality for Spain's sparkling wines. From boutique wineries carving a niche to established names pushing boundaries, Pedro Ballesteros Torres MW highlights his pick of the premium producers and recommends top wines to try

'Recaredo's most important asset is its exceptional vineyards'

Recaredo

Recaredo offers the purest expression of Cava from Alt Penedès, employing a number of self-imposed restrictions to create its unique wines. Production is focused entirely on vintage brut nature Cavas, with long ageing under cork, as the winery believes this type of closure lends character to long-aged wines. (Gramona also follows this practice.) At Recaredo, disgorgement is done by hand and without freezing the neck of the bottle: lees are expelled manually by highly skilled workers, a practice that's considered key to the quality of the wines.

All of this attention to detail in the winery would be merely interesting if it weren't for Recaredo's most important asset: its exceptional vineyards. A combination of poor limestone soils, old vines (mainly Xarel-lo), attentive biodynamic-certified viticulture and

tiny yields result in a Burgundy-style grand cru surrounded by several premiers crus.



Recaredo, Turó d'en Mota, Cava de Paraje Calificado 2004 98
£115.99 *Dunell's, Fine & Rare, Les Caves de Pyrene*

The Romanée-Conti of Penedès, coming from a tiny, very old Xarel-lo vineyard, and needing fermentation in oak vats and more than 12 years of bottle ageing to express itself. A most delicate grand cru. Biodynamic. **Drink** 2018-2035 **Alc** 12%

Recaredo, Serral del Vell, Cava de Paraje Calificado 2008 95
£44.49 *Bottle Apostle, Fourteen Drops, Les Caves de Pyrene*

Great purity of expression: elegant structure and creaminess. Very persistent - the long ageing is barely apparent. Biodynamic. **Drink** 2018-2027 **Alc** 12% ➤

Photographs: Horizons WWP-TRVL/Alamy, Santi Cabezas



Above: Jordi Mata, the third generation of the Recaredo family, disgorging bottles by hand