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Catalunya 2026 Sparkling Wine Special Report

BY TOM HEWSON

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BODEGA	BRAND	VINTAGE	CLASSIFICATION	CATEGORY	RRP €	SCORE
Recaredo	Turo d'en Mota	2012	Corpinnat	Prestige & Library	155	97
Recaredo	Serral dell Vell	2018	Corpinnat	Super Premium	43	95
Recaredo	Reserva Particular	2017	Corpinnat	Prestige & Library	87	94
Recaredo	Subtil	2019	Corpinnat	Super Premium	39	93
Recaredo	Intens	2022	Corpinnat	Rosé	35	93
Recaredo	Terrers	2020	Corpinnat	Super Premium	29	91

Rosé

Catalan Rosé Sparkling Wine Of The Year – Recaredo Intens Rosat 2022

Rosé remains a puzzle in Penedès, with styles deeply individual. If you haven't tried Recaredo's rosé in recent years, the style has refined itself beautifully, showing that Monastrell and Garnacha are still very much worth considering for deeper styles. This is a vinous, food-friendly rosé, but one that avoids weightiness or astringency. A delight. Honourable mentions, too, to Sabate i Coca's wonderful (if seemingly impossible to find) Reserva de la Familia Rosé, as well as fine rosés this year from Kripta, Raventós i Blanc', AT Roca and Vins el Cep, not to mention Juvé y Camp's 'La Siberia', one of Penedès' top Pinot Noirs.



Recaredo, Intens 2022

Corpinnat

Intens is enjoying itself in drought-affected, ripe 2022, playing Monastrell and Garnacha fruitiness of deep pomegranate, cooked plum and red cherry fruitiness to perfection.

Gentle almond paste richness, plenty of bite and bittersweet fruit skin detail and, despite the sense of extraction, no sense of harshness – this is a deep rosé to place on the dining table. 2026-2032

97

Recaredo, Turo d'en Mota 2012

Corpinnat

This single plot of old-vine Xarel-lo, vinified in oak and aged for almost 13 years, is one of Catalunya's most original and complex sparkling wines, typically explosive in 2012 with deep veins of caramelised orange peel, fig, roasted spices and toasted nougat over a persistent, driving palate of dried lime and smoky, charry details. It's vinous and dense without veering into sheer toughness or extraction, buzzing with Xarel-lo energy but beautifully mellowed and velvety with time, too. Another memorable release. 2026-2035

94

Recaredo, Reserva Particular 2017

Corpinnat

From 1950-planted vines (with no wine made in 2015 or 2016), this cuvée leans heavily on its historic Macabeu over Xarel-lo. After 80 months on lees, it opens with aromas of dried peach, candied citrus fruit and a seductive brown butter richness, the palate is forward and broad in toasty, nutty maturity – more so than the restrained Serral del Vell – showing a heady, more old-school Catalan expression. Fine, demonstrative and engaging. 2026-2030

95

Recaredo, Serral del Vell 2018

Corpinnat

Recaredo's classic Xarel-lo expression is on song today from this balanced vintage, with heady, fragrant fennel and pollen notes meeting delineated, deep and salty notions of clementine, fresh nut and stony, racy build. It's maturing now in its honey and dry citrus complexity, for sure, but the force of personality in the fruit is very much leading the way still, plumped up with just 15% Macabeu. 2026-2032

93

Recaredo, Subtil 2019

Corpinnat

Always a highlight in Recaredo's portfolio, Subtil 2019 is now maturing, although it still shows the distinct character of Xarel-lo on the richer soils chosen for this wine, which tone down the punch and citric bite of the grape in favour of more salty, chewy peach, roasted red apple and baking spice, voluminous and textured with a nice snap of cooked lime on the back end. Already fairly open, this does not need further ageing. 2026-2027

91

Recaredo, Terrers 2020

Corpinnat

Terrers 2020 remains a solid effort in this deeply challenging vintage, relying heavily on Xarel-lo (91%) which survived the mildew onset better than the other varietes. Still, it's a relatively forward, open Terrers with some apricot, honey, cooked apples and bitter herbs, expressive and immediate – expect a more classic edition from 2021 onwards, however. 2026-2027