

VINTAGE SPAIN

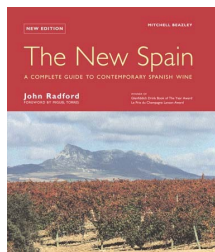
Rutas de vino

Presents

THE NEW SPAIN WINE TOUR

LED BY AUTHOR JOHN RADFORD
Rioja, Ribera del Duero, Toro, Cigales y Rueda

September 18-25, 2005 (7 nights)



We are very pleased to present The New Spain Wine Tour, designed and hosted by John Radford and Vintage Spain. John is one of the most respected wine critics in the world, an extraordinary wine writer, journalist and speaker and a recognized expert in Spanish wines. To celebrate the publication of his two new books, "The New Spain" and "The Wines from Rioja", we decided to organize a tour that reflects its spirit. It is a tour for wine lovers, to have a real life experience of the thrilling and vibrant wine scene in Spain now, with the privilege of being led by a wine expert like John Radford.

Seven days of wine tasting in the wine regions of central Spain: Rioja, Ribera del Duero, Toro, Rueda, Cigales and independent wineries outside the Denomination of Origin system. John has personally selected the wineries to provide a good picture of the New Spain. Chosen wineries are representative of different key aspects in the Spanish wine panorama. Winemakers and winery owners will personally show you their estates and offer you their wines. You'll enjoy interesting and animated wine tasting and discussions with them.

The famous Spanish gastronomy is also a focus of this tour; you will enjoy gourmet food in wineries, and traditional and modern restaurants, even in an optional cooking class. All meals will be commented from a culinary point of view, and will be accompanied with appropriate wines and we will take these opportunities to taste wines from different Spanish regions. But the tour offers more than wine and gastronomy, Spanish culture, art and history will be appreciated during visits to selected sites. Plus there will be plenty of opportunities for shopping. Lodging will be in four star hotels and two winery hotels (including one five star).

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After starting in Madrid on September 18th we will spend two days in Rioja, two days in Burgos and Ribera, and the last three nights in Valladolid. The beautiful town of Valladolid will be our base for exploring Rueda and Toro. The tour will finish in Madrid on September 25th. The tour will be led by John Radford and Vintage Spain owner, Cristina Alonso. John's extraordinary wine knowledge, excellent sense of humour and wonderful personality, combined with Vintage Spain expertise in wine tours and Spanish culture are sure to make this tour the experience of a lifetime.

The New Spain Wine Tour Itinerary:

Sunday September 18th: Madrid. Overnight in Rioja (welcome wine reception, D)

- Welcome wine reception in a centrally located hotel in Madrid and introduction to the tour. There will be a hospitality room available for you to leave your luggage or wait until departure.
- Transfer to Rioja in the afternoon, estimated departure time is 15.00h.
- Hotel check-in before tour presentation and welcome dinner.

Monday September 19th: Rioja. Overnight in Rioja (B, L – 3 Winery Visits (WV))

- There will be two winery visits and wine tasting in the morning followed by lunch.
- After lunch we will visit another winery with wine tasting.
- After three winery visits we will take a step back into time by touring one of the medieval walled towns of Rioja: Laguardia, Briones, San Vicente, Abalos or Santo Domingo. You can choose to relax in the hotel instead.
- Dinner on your own (restaurant suggestions provided). We will organize a wine and tapas tour for dinner that you can join if you like (this is optional, not included in the tour).

Tuesday September 20th: Rioja and Burgos. Overnight in Burgos (B, L – 1 WV, Wine Museum)

- This morning we will continue to know the wines of Rioja with one winery visits and wine tasting and a guided visit to the very famous newly opened Culture of Wine Museum.
- We will have lunch before departing to Burgos, the old capital of Castilla. Hotel check-in upon arrival.
- Visit of the magnificent cathedral of Burgos (entrance tickets provided) and free time to wonder in Burgos, a delicious small town with a lively old part surrounding the cathedral and the Plaza Mayor. The building of Burgos cathedral begun in the 13th century and was completed in the 15th and 16th centuries. Our Lady of Burgos sums up Gothic architecture in all its beauty with a unique collection of reredos, tombs, choir, stalls, stained glass, etc. It has been also declared World Heritage monument by UNESCO.
- Free time in the town and dinner on your own (restaurant suggestions provided)

Wednesday September 21st: Ribera del Duero. Overnight in Ribera del Duero (B, L, D – 3 WV)

- Today we change regions. After breakfast we will enjoy a short ride to the Ribera del Duero region.
- Following our pattern of winery visits we will visit two wineries in the morning and then have lunch.
- Transfer to our hotel, a fabulous five star winery hotel surrounded by vineyards.
- After check-in we will enjoy a little bit of history in the castle of Peñafiel or Monastery of Santa María of Valbuena. The castle of Peñafiel hosts now a wine museum.
- Before dinner we will visit the winery and have a walk in the vineyards. Dinner in the fabulous restaurant of the hotel with wines from the winery.

Thursday September 22nd: Other wines and Cigales. Overnight in Valladolid (B, L – 3 WV)

- The wine journey will take us today to a winery that although very close to Ribera del Duero is not under the umbrella of the Denomination of Origin (DO). The second winery of the morning will be either another non DO winery or another Ribera del Duero winery.
- After lunch we will keep on moving west, to the lesser known region of Cigales where we will visit another winery.
- Transfer to the town of Valladolid that will be our base for the rest of the trip.
- Free evening and dinner on your own (restaurant suggestions provided)

Friday September 23rd: Rueda and Other wines. Overnight in Valladolid (B, L - 2 WV)

- Today we will go to Rueda, the region of the white grape variety verdejo where we will visit a winery.
- Then we will transfer to another winery very close to the Toro region, but outside its regulatory council, where we will have lunch after touring the winery and tasting its wines.
- After lunch we will go back to Valladolid, to enjoy a visit of the town and some free time.
- You can have dinner on your own in one of the many great restaurants of this town or you can join and optional cooking class for the more gastronomic adventurous. (The cooking class will be followed by dinner consisting on the dishes cooked, the class is optional and the price is not included in the tour)

Saturday September 24th: Toro. Overnight in Valladolid (B, L, D – 2 WV)

- Depart to the wine region of Toro. One of the newest revelations in Spain. We will visit two wineries and we will have lunch.
- Back to Valladolid where you will have free time to relax, shop or visits some of the many cultural sites that this historical town offers.
- Farewell dinner, a food and wine matching experience where multiple dishes will be paired with Spanish wines.

Sunday September 25th: Back to Madrid (B)

- Transfer to Madrid after breakfast.

LEGEND: B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner, WV – Winery visit with wine tasting.

WINERIES

Rioja: López Heredia, Fernando Remírez de Ganuza, Miguel Merino, Ysios

Ribera del Duero: Ismael Arroyo – Valsotillo, Arzuaga Navarro, Legaris and Aalto

Other Wines: Abadía Retuerta, Dehesa de la Granja (This is Alejandro Fernández – Pesquera - winery in the Toro region)

Cigales: Emeterio Fernández – La Legua

Rueda: Palacio de Bornos – Cuevas de Castilla

Toro: Bajoz, Dos Victorias

PRICE: The price per person in double occupancy is **2695 euros** (Aprox 3368 USD). Single supplement 295 euros.

The 7nights New Spain Wine Tour includes:

- Two nights in Rioja. Either a boutique hotel in a winery, Vina Villabuena or Los Agustinos in Haro (4*)
- One night in Burgos. Hotel NH Palacio de la Merced (4*)
- One night in Ribera del Duero. Winery Hotel Arzuaga Navarro (5*)
- Three nights in Valladolid. Hotel Tryp Recoletos (4*)
- Breakfast seven days
- Six gourmet lunches with premium wines
- Three gourmet dinners with premium wines
- One welcome wine reception in Madrid
- Hospitality room in Madrid the morning before the afternoon tour departure
- All winery visits and tastings
- All entrance fees to monuments as per itinerary
- Tour commentary by John Radford
- Tour assistance by owner. Bilingual English/Spanish
- Transport by deluxe air conditioned coach
- Guided visit of the cathedral of Burgos
- A package with tour information, detailed itinerary, wine region brochures, wine tasting book.
- An autographed copy of the New Spain or The Wines of Rioja and a wine gift
- Taxes

Accepted payment methods:

Credit cards VISA and Master Card and bank transfers. Payment has to be made in euros.

Conditions:

- **Deposit:** A 300€ per person non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking. Full payment of the total tour price (the 300€ deposit is then applied) must be received 30 days before the starting of the tour.
- **Cancellation policy:** More than 30 days before the tour starts we will keep 300 euros as a handling fee. Less than 30 days before the tour there is no refund. Tour cancellations must be made in writing.

NOTES:

- The capacity of this tour is limited to 20 people.
- We can arrange so you can start the tour from a different city, please ask for details.
- If for any reason any given establishment is not available during the dates requested, we will change the winery, hotel or restaurant for a different one within the same category and level of service.

HOTELS:

Rioja (2 nights)

Los Agustino in Haro * in Haro.*** www.aranzazu-hoteles.com

A historic four-star hotel located in the small city of Haro, the wine capital of Rioja. It was a former monastery and has been converted in a charming hotel.

Alternative: Winery hotel Viña Villabuena, in the Viña Izadi winery exclusive for the group. www.izadi.com

Burgos (1 night)

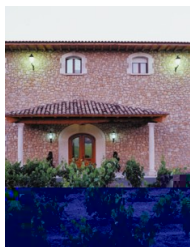
Palacio de la Merced. *.*** www.nh-hoteles.com

The hotel is located in the heart of the city, on the banks of the River Arlanzón, overlooking the Cathedral, the Arco de Santa María and the Paseo del Espolón. The NH Palacio de la Merced occupies a landmark building dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth century, with a magnificent blazing gothic cloister in the hotel's interior. The hotel offers an excellent restaurant services.



Ribera del Duero (1 night)

Hotel Winery Arzuaga Navarro***** in Quintanilla de Onésimo. www.arzuaganavarro.com .



Arzuaga Navarro winery is a classic in Ribera del Duero. Its crianzas, reservas and gran reservas are between the most prestigious in the region. Located in La Planta estate, in Quintanilla de Onésimo (Valladolid), enjoys a privileged situation for vine growing, the production of high quality wines and the unforgettable stay at its five stars hotel. Located within the same building as the winery is the five stars hotel, perfect to enjoy a good wine in a classical and elegant atmosphere. Although it has an independent entrance, you can access from the cellar through an elevator. The hotel is perfectly integrated with the winery, standing wall-to-wall with the working installations and with the vineyard running up to its foot. There is no missing detail to provide all commodities for their guests. It has 24 rooms, all of them equipped with hydro massage shower and Jacuzzi. The atmosphere is rustic and luxurious at once, employing quality materials and particularly wood for its warmth and solidity. The offer is completed with a great restaurant where one can enjoy the local specialties matched with the Arzuaga Navarro wines.

Valladolid (3 nights)

Tryp Recoletos *.*** www.solmelia.com

The new-built hotel is situated in one of the most emblematic manor houses of the "Recoletos-Row", located in the historical city center of Valladolid. Dating back to the times when people used to travel in carriages, the entrance is unusual large. This hotel's jewel is the covered patio.



JOHN RADFORD'S BOOKS

THE NEW SPAIN. *New Edition. A Complete Guide to Contemporary Spanish Wine.* Published by Mitchell Beazley, Sep 2004.

Witty, inspired text, comprehensive guide to the DO regions, plus Vinos de la Tierra and other wine-producing areas. Fabulous photographs; such stuff as vinous dreams are made on, including the new Spanish national wine law of 2003, new DOs and other wine areas, and fully updated bodega profiles for every region.

THE WINES OF RIOJA. Published by Mitchell Beazley Classic Wine Series, Nov 2004.

The first book devoted exclusively to the wines of Rioja since 1987, it covers the history, geography and development of the wines, soils, grapes and winemaking technology. Detailed profiles of more than 100 bodegas, some historic, some ultra-modern and some slightly unhinged. There's a full list of all the bodegas in the region and a definitive translation of the current reglamento, at a time when regulation is changing radically in a ground-breaking move unprecedented anywhere else in Spain.

