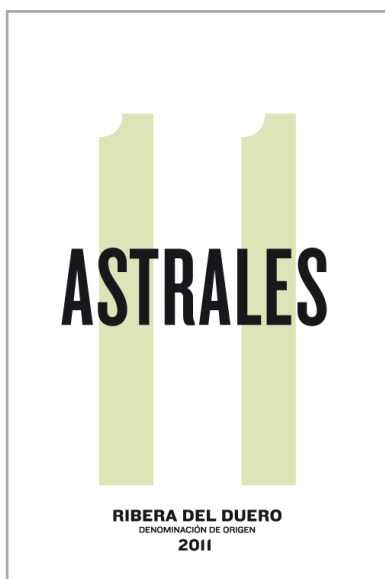


# Astrales 2011



**Winery:** Bodegas Los Astrales

**Region:** Ribera del Duero D.O.

**Grapes:** 100% Tinto Fino

**Winery:** Bodega Los Astrales began work at the end of 2000 by the hands of the Romera de la Cruz family – a family with 3 generations of wine growers – who were grape suppliers for other wineries but now they bottle their own production with Eduardo Garcia as Technical Director. Eduardo is the enologist at Mauro, Maurodos (family estates) and partner at Leda and the Paixar. After he finished his studies in Bordeaux, he trained at Cos D’Estournel, Hubert Lignier and Ridge.

The focus of the winery is to extract all of the character of old vine, head pruned, organically farmed Tinto Fino. The clay soils and cooler than average microclimate are key to producing wines with excellent balance, length, aromatic complexity and fresh acidity.

**Wine:** The Romero de la Cruz family has twenty nine hectares planted composed of Tinto Fino vines which were grafted with their own clones by means of mass selection. This wine is produced from 12 hectares comprised of 7 different vineyards, around the village of Anguix. The soils surrounding this village are composed of clay and sand leading to a finer texture of tannin in finished wines. Organic methods are followed (not certified).

Native yeast, relatively short macerations, and pumping over as opposed to punch downs, are key in maintaining all the fruit character and getting the highest bouquet intensity. Movement of the grapes proceeds by gravity throughout the winery with the goal of avoiding a rough extraction of tannins. The wine was aged 20 months in 80% French oak barrels and 20% American, 30% of which were new.

**Reviews:** “I always love this wine, but due to a very prominent overlay of oak in this vintage, it will take a little longer than usual for the 2011 to display all of its charms. Impressively dark in color, its appearance is very promising, but the aromas are dominated by scents of toast and smoke. The palate displays much more generosity, with dark berry and cherry flavors and pleasantly earthy, savory undertones. The finish then turns a bit hard and dry, with wood tannins re-asserting themselves. Very good now, and quite probably outstanding in another 5 years, this is a good bet for the cellar.”

**93 points** *Wine Review Online* “Keeping Spain on the Map” October 21, 2014

“Ripe, loamy aromas of black fruits are accented by notes of sandalwood, graphite and exotic spices. This is chunky and a bit jammy in feel. Flavors of smoky oak, berry fruits and chocolate finish with bakingspice flavors that are woven into black-fruit tastes. Drink through 2021.”

**92 points** *The Wine Enthusiast* Issue 2710, November 2014



Selected by Aurelio Cabestrero®

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