

# Red Squirrel

Drinking outside the box since 2012.

## LAVENTURA RIOJA BLANCO 2013

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**Winemaker:** Bryan MacRobert

**DO:** Rioja

**Country:** Spain

**Grapes:** Viura (90%), Garnacha Blanca, Malvasía Riojana, Calagraño

**Vintage:** 2013

**Cellaring:** 2021

**Closure:** Cork

**Bottle size:** 75cl

**Bottles:** 3,000

**ABV:** 12.5%

### METHOD

Bryan is searching for a purer, more elegant, and ultimately more traditional style of Rioja that puts vineyard before cellar. This is an old-vine field blend from Rioja Alavesa consisting mostly of Viura, with a smattering of Garnacha Blanca, Malvasía Riojana (aka Alarije) and Calagraño (a grape banned in Rioja unless vines were planted before 1970). The vineyard, planted 80 years ago, is largely clay with some calcareous elements. The 2013 vintage, Bryan's first in Rioja, was relatively cool with a very damp August – quite a baptism of fire! Fermented naturally in new 600-litre Austrian oak barrels.

### TASTING NOTES

A world away from the 'traditional' oxidative styles of white Rioja wines. Very floral, notes of geraniums, dandelions and fruits such as pear, white peach and some citrus. A bit of a biscuit flavour to taste, subtle citrus fruit, soaring, mouth-watering acidity and mineral backbone.

### VICTUALS

Grilled swordfish, calamari, paella, stuffed peppers