

Wine & Spirits

Focus Reds from Rioja

96 | Muga

2016 Rioja Selección Especial Reserva This grows at high altitudes, in high-density plantings on ancient terraces above the Ebro river, some of the vines dating to 1946, the youngest planted in 1986. Those alluvial soils and old vines performed remarkably well in 2016, delivering a fresh blend—tempranillo, garnacha, mazuelo and graciano—with cool, silken tannins and the sort of peppery spice you might find in fresh-pressed olive oil. It's bright and juicy, layering thyme and rosemary fragrance into the fruit complexity. A glorious young Rioja suited to aging, or to drinking now with spit-roasted suckling pig. *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*

