

LA CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS

TABERNA DEL

WASHINGTON D.C.

ALABARDER

Thursday, March 14, 2024

PASSED HORS D'OUVRES JAMÓN IBERICO CON PICOS

IBERIAN HAM WITH BREADSTICKS

CHUPITO DE GAZPACHO SHOT OF GAZPACHO SOUP

TOSTA DE MATRIMONIO CON

EMULSIÓN DE PIPIRRANA

TOASTED BREAD WITH DUO OF ANCHOVIES OVER "PIPIRRANA" EMULSION

CROQUETAS DE JAMON IBERICO

IBERIAN HAM CROQUETTES Hiruzta Txakolina, 2023, Hondarribia Spain

1ST COURSE

ARROZ NEGRO CON CARABINEROS Y ALIOLI

BLACK RICE WITH RED PRAWN AND ALIOLI SAUCE Bodegas Exopto Horizonte de Exopto Blanco 2021, Rioja DOCa, Spain

2ND COURSE MERLUZA EN SALSA VERDE CON ALMEJAS

HAKE IN TRADITIONAL GREEN SAUCE WITH CLAMS Bodegas Avancia Godello Old Vines 2021, Valdeorras, Spain

3RD COURSE COCHINILLO CONFITADO CON MANZANA EN TEXTURAS

BERIAN SUCKLING PIG CONFIT WITH APPLE IN TEXTURES Bodegas La Val Finca de Arantei Albariño 2022, Rias Baixas, Spain

DESSERT

CANUTILLO RELLENO CON CREMA PASTELERA DE CABRALES

PUFF PASTRY "CANUTILLO" FILLED WITH CABRALES BLUE CHEESE CREAM Emilio Lustau Moscatel Emilin Sherry NV, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain TABERNA DEL ALABARDERO WASHINGTON D.C.

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MIGNARDISES

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Hiruzta Txakolina, 2023 Hondarribia Spain

Located in the small fishing village of Hondarribia on the Bay of Biscay at the border with France, the Hiruzta winery was founded by Asensio Rekalde and his two sons, Txarli and Angel. The winery's name is derived from *hiruen uzta*, meaning "three-person harvest" in the Basque language. Hiruzta's first vines were planted in 2007 and its first vintage was in 2011.

This petillant wine is made with 100% Hondarrabi Zuri, a grape native to the region, from the winery's own 42-acre south-facing vineyard. Despite a very rainy spring in 2023, the grapes ripened beautifully, leading to an early harvest and an excellent vintage.

Bodegas Exopto Horizonte de Exopto Blanco 2021 Rioja DOCa, Spain

Bodegas Exopto was founded in 2003 by Tom Puyaubert, with the aim of recovering old vineyards on the slopes of the Sierra Cantabria and Monte Yerga mountains in northern Spain.

This evening's wine is a blend of Viura (85%) and Garnacha Blanca (10%) along with Malvasía, Torrontés, Moscatel, and Jaen from the cool, high, old-vine vineyards of San Cristobel (elevation 2100 feet, planted in 1976) and Perquita, (elevation 1500 feet, planted in 1965). It is fermented primarily at a low temperature in concrete tanks and aged for 12 months on lees – 50% in *foudres*, 25% in concrete, and 25% in large, old French oak barrels.

Bodegas Avancia Godello Old Vines 2021 Valdeorras, Spain

Bodegas Avancia is located on the slate slopes of Valdeorras, above the Sil River in northwest Spain. Named for Roman mining activity in the area – *Val-de-Oras* translates from Latin as *Valley of Gold* – the soil and climate are ideal for two native grape varieties, Godello and Mencia. Godello was almost extinct at the end of the 1980s, so it is extremely rare to find a Godello produced from a single vineyard.

Tonight's wine is 100% Godello from vines planted between 1939 and 1962. After hand harvesting, the wine is fermented with indigenous yeast and aged on lees with *battonage* for 10 months in in 500-liter French oak barrels.

Bodegas La Val Finca de Arantei Albariño 2022 Rias Baixas, Spain

Bodegas La Val was founded in 1985 in O Rosal, at the mouth of the river Miño, near Spain's border with northern Portugal. It was one of the first wineries in the Rias Baixas *Denominacion de Origin* when that D.O. was established in 1988.

Unlike most wineries in the region, La Val uses only grapes grown on its own estate. Grapes for this evening's wine come from La Val's Finca Arantei vineyard, which was planted in 1989 in the Condado de Tea sub-region of Rias Baixas. Further inland than the estate's coastal plots, the Arantei's climate is warmer and drier, yielding more full-bodied, ripe, and voluminous wines. Longer than usual aging on lees (6-8 months) softens and rounds Albariño's classic acidity.

Emilio Lustau Moscatel Emilin Sherry NV Jerez de la Frontera, Spain

This sherry is made from 100% Moscatel grapes from Lustau's "Las Cruces" vineyard in Chipiona on Spain's southwest coast. This hilly region is distinct for its white limestone soil, known as *albariza*, that retains moisture from the rainy fall and winter to sustain the vines through the sunny spring and summer growing season when temperatures can top 100°F.

For this sweet sherry, Lustau dries the grapes in the sun to increase their natural sugar. Fermentation is halted early with the addition of grape spirits to obtain the desired level of sugar and alcohol. The sherry is aged eight years and blended with previous years' wines in the classic solera method.

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