



Viña Ijalba Dionisio Ijalba

(dec-oh-NEE-see-oh ee-HAHL-bah)



LOCATION

La Rioja, España.
(Logroño)
80 hectares. 400 - 580 meters.



ESTATE

Viña Ijalba.
(VEEN-yah ee-HAHL-bah)



WINEMAKER

Dionisio Ijalba.
(dec-oh-NEE-see-oh ee-HAHL-bah)



ENOLOGIST

Cesar Simon Echevaria.
(SAY-zar see-MOHN
ay-chay-VAH-ree-ah)



ENVIRO-COMMITMENT

Hand-harvested. No irrigation.
Chemical-free. Certified organic.



ESTATE PRODUCTION

16,000 cases.



PARTNERSHIP

Dionisio has been part of the Small
Vineyards family since 2008.

From the famed Rioja, Viña Ijalba may be the only certified organic estate in the zone. A virtual petting zoo of rare grape clones (including the ultra-anonymous and stylish Graciano grape), this estate is “serious about the relationship between man and nature,” says the fascinating owner, Dionisio. (His name is Spanish for Dionysus – need we say more?) A bicycling fanatic, his prized possession is a bicycle and jersey signed by Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain – which he keeps at the vineyard. “My two favorite things in one place!”, he grins. This passion is evident in his wines, which, interestingly, have become much better since they have focused on organic production. Au naturale winemaking has forced them to pay ever-closer attention to the vines, and in the process, they have become a better vineyard, setting the new earth-friendly standard in Rioja. Of course, being in Rioja, their neighbors are in endless pursuit of building Spain’s best high-end wines, and this, of course, is the noblest of pursuits, and while we like Ijalba’s top wines, it is their “every day” wines that we love most. They are pure, fresh, and immediate, with a vibrant whimsy rarely found in the austerity of Rioja. Simply put, their least serious wines are perhaps their best; or, at least, they’re darn good – good enough to place the Small Vineyards seal on the bottle, and with pride.