Valenciso
CEMENTO RIOJA - 2020

REGION: SPAIN - LA RIOJA

VALENCISO

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VALENCISO was born in 1998 when Luis Valentín and Carmen Enciso (Valen-Ciso, Val-en-THEECE-oh), Rioja natives with extensive experience in the region, joined their surnames to make a single wine in the winery of their dreams in La Rioja Alta.
Minority partners include former managers of Radoux, makers of the finest French oak barriques, and growers in the best areas of the Rioja Alta.
Valenciso's objective is to produce a limited number of wines of the highest quality and authenticity. The flagship wine is released as Reserva. The very best Tempranillo grapes come from mature, low-yielding vineyards. Careful harvesting is timed to capture the intensity of the fruit, while avoiding over ripeness or excessive alcohol levels. Aromatic lift rather than physical weight – in the manner of French Burgundy and the greatest Riojas of the past – is the Valenciso ideal. Aging takes place in the finest cork-grade (flor) French oak barriques, one-third replaced each year. Time in oak depends upon vintage characteristics and is determined after exhaustive tasting. The Valenciso wines are balanced offering early accessibility, structure, fresh acidity and fruit intensity promising many years of bottle evolution.
Cement tanks are used for winemaking because they respect the vividness and contribute to the wine's longevity. Aging in French oak barrels gives elegance and richness.

THE WINE

Vineyard Profile

Estate tempranillo vineyards in the the northernmost extreme of Rioja Alta, D.O.C. Rioja.

- Altitude: 1575-2000 feet/480-610 meters
- Soil: Clay-limestones
- Vine Age: eldest planted 1915
- Farmed sustainably and using organic principles since 2017

Harvest Notes

- Hand harvested in October
- Fermented in temperature controlled concrete tanks using only indigenous yeast
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation
- Aged in concrete 2 years, ensuring freshness, temperature constancy and minimizing vibration
- Naturally settled; bottled unfined/unfiltered
- Vegan friendly

Winemaker's Notes

One hundred percent tempranillo from our organically farmed vineyards in Rioja Alta. Aromatic with a touch of minerality and fruit notes. Tasty, candied fruits balanced with liveliness on the palate. Textural and complex, the wine finishes long, round and elegant.

Technical Information

- 100% Tempranillo
- Alcohol: 14%

REVIEWS

Cemento Rioja – 2020

92 Points - jamessuckling.com, December, 2023

Pristine cherries, plums and a touch of grapefruit with grilled herbs and tile. Lovely texture and transparency here with a mineral twist. Tannins are fresh and vertical. Pure and lively. Drink now.

92 Points - © Wine Advocate, February, 2024

The 2020 Cemento ("concrete" in Spanish) is a Tempranillo matured exclusively in… concrete! it comes from a year that was challenging for organic farming (even if the wine does not carry the certification), and the

THE SORTING TABLE

wine shows purity, ripe, fruit-driven flavors, spices and nuts that are very attractive. It has 14% alcohol, a pH of 3.7 and 5.5 grams of acidity. It was bottled after 26 months in concrete that polished the tannins. 10,000 bottles produced. It was bottled in January 2023. 2024 – 2032
Valenciso is one of the most reliable medium-size producers (150,000 bottles) from Rioja, combining modernity and tradition. In 2023, they celebrated their 25th anniversary—congratulations! That year, they also finished a project to reduce sulfites in their wines. Since 2017, their vineyards (31 hectares all around Haro and their winery in Ollauri) are organic (but the wines don't carry certifications for now).

93 Points - Wine Enthusiast, April, 2025
Fermented and aged entirely in concrete, this Rioja carries enticing purity with a burst of plum and resinous herbs. It is a pleasure to taste the transparency, length, and brightness of the wine.

GENERAL INFO

COUNTRY	SPAIN
REGION	LA RIOJA
APPELLATION	D.O.C. RIOJA, SUB APPELLATION Rioja Alta
PROPRIETORS	Luis Valentín and Carmen Enciso
FOUNDED	1998
WINEMAKER	Luis Valentín and Carmen Enciso
ANNUAL PRODUCTION	9,166 9L cases
FARMING (SUSTAINABLE, ORGANIC, BIODYNAMIC)	Organically farmed since 2006 – no herbicides, pesticides or insecticides