

Élite Amontillado

VARIETALS: Palomino Fino, Moscatel

ORIGIN: D.O. Jerez, Spain

SOLERA: Familia Páez Morilla, 35 years old

ALCOHOL CONTENT: 18.0% by Vol.

Tasting Notes: Leading with a sweet aroma of butterscotch and hazelnuts, caramel and spice, this Amontillado fits nicely whenever good taste and sophistication reside. We recommend pairing it with the smoky taste of grilled mushrooms or roasted glazed chicken. It also works incredibly well as a deglazing wine for any poultry or meats.

Background: The company traces its origins to 1765 where it was based in Jerez de la Frontera, the heart of the sherry-producing region. The bodegas consisted of twelve cellars collectively known as “Los Doce Disciples” – the “Twelve Disciples.” Of these twelve cellars, the principal cellar, Bodegas Dios Baco, named for the Roman god of wine Bacchus, was built in 1848. This is the foundation of the Sherries currently in production at Bodegas Dios Baco.

In 1992, the cellars and 40 hectares of traditional vineyards were purchased by the family firm Páez Morilla. After acquiring the property and the vineyards, José Páez Morilla oversaw renovation throughout the entire complex. Together with his daughter, Alejandra, their mission is to handcraft limited batches of Fino, Manzanilla, Amontillado, Oloroso, Cream and Pedro Ximénez Sherries that are more traditional and complex in style.

Vineyards: The Páez Morilla family owns 100 acres throughout the D.O. Jerez which is located in the south eastern corner of the country where the warm sea has a major influence on the regions. The climate in the area is hot and dry and is quite consistent, with 300 days of sunshine per year. The landscape consists of the famous white “albariza” soil, which is very high in calcium carbonate. This type of soil is able to soak up and conserve the rains from winter and spring. The combination of warm, dry weather and proximity to the sea create a unique ability to produce a variety of natural yeasts. It is these yeasts that form the basis of Sherry and set these wines apart from every other region of the world.

Vinification: After initial fermentation and examination of the flor that develops inside the barrels of still wine from the Palomino Fino grapes, a determination is made for each barrel whether it is to become Fino or Oloroso. The wines are then fortified 15%-17% alcohol and they become part of a solera. Fino remains pure palomino and great pains are taken to maintain its vigorous Flor. Oloroso has some sweet muscatel blended in. Fino ages a minimum of 5 years while Oloroso ages for at least 8. Manzanilla is a Fino whose aging takes place in the town of Sanlúcar de Barremeda. Amontillado is a Fino whose Flor has not held up and thus is fortified with more alcohol and sweetened. Cream is highly sweetened version of the Oloroso. Fractional blending takes equal amounts from the bottom barrels of the oldest wines and refills from barrels of younger wines above as the oldest wines are bottled. Pedro Ximénez begins by sun drying grapes prior to pressing. Once the must is fermented, they are then added to their own “PX” solera for aging.



“91 Points”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado, *Wine Spectator*, February 2019

“90 Points”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado, *Wine Spectator*, October 2018

“92 Points – Year’s Best Oxidative Sherries”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado, *Wine & Spirits*, October 2017

“Top Sweet Wine, Class Champion, Double Gold”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado, *Houston Int’l Wine Competition*, November 2016

“95 Points – Finalist”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado Sherry, *Ultimate Wine Challenge*, June 2016

“Best Sherry – Double Gold Medal”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado, *NY World Wine & Spirits Comp.*, Sept. 2015

“91 Points – Gold Medal”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado Sherry, *San Diego Int’l Wine Competition*, January 2015

“92 Points”- Dios Baco Élite Amontillado Sherry, *Tasting Panel*, July 2014