

2010 Bodegas Tobia Tobia Graciano

The 2010 Graciano is sourced from a vineyard in Rioja Baja and has aged for 15 months in new Hungarian barrels, which could be the reason why it smells a bit roasted, with plenty of dark ripe fruit, blueberries and cassis, plus a very polished palate with surprisingly sweet tannins for the variety and a great integrated acidity. A great, exotic, approachable, hedonistic Graciano which is good value. Drink 2014-2018.

Tasting through Oscar Tobia's collection was great fun, as his wines are different and often surprising. It was like a trip on a roller coaster, especially if you taste without looking at the technical sheets or the back labels, something that when you're tasting lots of very similar wines, gives you a welcome break.

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- Luis Gutierrez (December, 2013)

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2009 Bodegas Tobia Alma de Tobia

I also tasted the 2009 Alma de Tobia before looking at the technical data and found an attractive herbaceous, Bordeaux-like nose intermixed with red and black currant notes and some spices. The palate displays extremely fine tannins, it's balanced and supple, with a fresh, minty finish, quite big and powerful. Of course, the blend of 50% Tempranillo and 35% Graciano contains 15% of others, which is the official name that has to be used for other experimental varieties that are given exceptions, in this case Merlot! Drink 2014-2019.

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2011 Bodegas Tobia Daimon

The 2011 Daimon is a showy blend of 50% Tempranillo and 50% Garnacha, very perfumed, with brambly fruit and tons of licorice both in the nose and in the palate. It is a modern, young, fresh wine that is pleasant and easy to drink. Drink 2014-2016.

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2009 Bodegas Tobia Oscar Tobia Reserva

The 2009 Oscar Tobia Reserva is Tempranillo with 5% Graciano aged for 26 months in a mix of French and Hungarian oak barrels, but shows much more traditional and serious with the wood neatly folded into the wine, with cigar box aromas and notes of red and black fruit, cinnamon and vanilla and developing some hints of leather, forest floor and truffle. The palate reveals a medium-bodied wine, with clean flavors and a remarkable finish. Great value, Bravo! Drink 2014-2019.

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2009 Bodegas Tobia Tobia Seleccion Crianza

The 2009 Seleccion Crianza is a blend of 80% Tempranillo, 10% Graciano and 10% Garnacha which comes through as very balsamic, with mint and hints of eucalyptus, very fresh with ripe dark cherries, licorice and spices and a fluid palate, medium-bodied, with good acidity and clean flavors that linger in the mouth. A no-nonsense modern Crianza at a great price. Drink 2014-2017.

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2012 Bodegas Tobia Alma de Tobia Rosado

If the white was unusual, so was the 2012 Alma de Tobia Rosado Fermentado en Barrica, as you don't find many barrel-fermented roses. The nose is creamy with raspberries and strawberries, not as banal as the majority of rosados, with some toasty notes and the palate of a light red, with chocolate-covered strawberry flavors. Very different. This should go well with food, and should last a bit. Drink now-2016.

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2012 Bodegas Tobia Daimon Blanco Fermentado en Barrica

Smelling the 2012 Daimon Blanco Fermentado en Barrica before looking at its technical data was a big surprise. It smells almost tropical, fresh, clean, with notes of pineapple, lychee, gooseberry, ripe melon and papaya, and the wood is nowhere to be found (which is not a bad thing). Of course, this is one of the first whites I encountered with the new permitted white varieties, which explains why it was completely different from all others. This is a blend of 30% Viura, 30% Sauvignon Blanc, 25% Malvasia and 15% Tempranillo Blanco. The palate is equally fresh and fruity, and should be a crowd-pleaser, but it doesn't really feel like Rioja at all. Drink 2014-2015.

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