

TIM ATKIN MW RIOJA 2026 SPECIAL REPORT

# Tim's 2026 Rioja Classification

## Second Growths

Abel Mendoza  
Arizcuren  
Bodega Contador  
Bodegas Amaren/  
Luis Cañas  
Bodegas Bhilar/  
Etérea Kripan  
Bodegas Mauro

Bodegas Proelio/Nivarius  
Contino  
CVNE/ Viña Real  
Finca Allende  
Gómez Cruzado  
Hermanos Hernáiz  
Ostatu  
Roda

Sierra de Toloño  
Sinodo  
Tierra/Creaciones Exeo  
Urbina  
Viñedos El Pacto/  
Pandemonium  
Vinos en Voz Baja


**Wines  
of the  
Year**

## Red

### GENÉRICO

2023 Arizcuren Finca El Foro

### VIÑEDO SINGULAR

2023 Arizcuren Barranco del Prado

*“And yet for most of the very best Riojas, the trend is away from pan-regional blends towards individual villages and sites. The following very good to outstanding producers all make at least one single vineyard or estate wine...Arizcuren”*

*“There are several top producers in Rioja who already source their grapes mostly or exclusively from one municipality, making it possible to understand the differences between them. Good example is Javier Arizcuren in Quel...”*

**2023 Arizcuren • Barranco del Prado • Tim Atkin**
**95/100**

Once picked in November, when the climate was a lot cooler than it is now, Barranco del Prado is a 130-year-old vineyard at 770 metres in Quel. Mixing Garnacha with 30% Calagraño and Tinto Velasco, this has rosemary, pine and wild thyme aromas, sinewy, earthy tannins and a vivid, racy palate of cranberry, plum and red cherry. 2028-38

**2023 Arizcuren • Finca el Foro • Tim Atkin**
**95/100**

Finca El Foro is a brilliant vineyard in Quel, planted in two stages 45 and 90 years ago. A classic Rioja Oriental field blend of Garnacha, 30% Mazuelo and 10% other red and white grapes (Garnacha Gris, Miguel de Arco and Viura), the resulting wine has aromas of lavender and steak tartare and a palate of tapenade, blackberry and clove. Packed with terroir. 2027-35

**2024 Arizcuren • Sologarnacha ánfora • Tim Atkin**
**94/100**

Ageing Garnacha in an amphora lowers its alcohol and enhances its varietal character, according to Javier Arizcuren. Combining grapes from the Arenal and El Pastor vineyards in Quel, this is floral, ethereal and enticing, with layers of wild strawberry, saffron and Turkish Delight and filigree tannins. 2027-34

**2023 Arizcuren • Sologarnacha • Tim Atkin**
**93/100**

Javier Arizcuren combines Garnacha grapes from two parcels – Arenal and Pastor – to make this characterful Rioja Oriental red. Petrichor and mountain herb aromas steer you into a palate of plum, red cherry and fennel, complemented by a spine of granular tannins and tangy acidity. 2027-32

**2024 Arizcuren • Solomazuelo • Tim Atkin**
**93/100**

Javier Arizcuren says that this Mazuelo from the El Arenal and older La Cantera parcels in Quel represents both the past and the present of the Rioja Oriental. Aged in 15% new wood then concrete tanks it's tangy, perfumed and refreshing, with damson tannins, rhubarb acidity and understated grip. 2027-32

**2024 Arizcuren • Solomazuelo Ánfora • Tim Atkin**
**93/100**

Aged in unlined amphoras in an urban winery in Logroño, this is a ferrous, earthy, characterful expression of Mazuelo from the El Arenal and La Cantera vineyards in Quel. Rhubarb, plum and orange zest flavours are complemented by fine-grained tannins and a waft of thyme and fennel. 2027-34

**2024 Arizcuren • Monte Gatún • Tim Atkin**
**91/100**

Your chance to try something that represents the new face of the Rioja Oriental, this is a serious, compact cuvée of Tempranillo, 20% Garnacha, 15% Mazuelo and 5% Graciano from a series of old-vine parcels in Quel. Aged in concrete and large foudres, it has violet and lavender aromas, flavours of black olive, damson and botanicals and a youthful, grippy finish. 2027-31