FEATURED WINES

2010 Bodegas y Vinedos Ilurce
Rioja, Spain 'Rio Madre'

For more than 70 years, the Ilurce estate has been making fine Spanish wines.

It's a family operation, and the family's winemaking tradition dates back to 1940 when Amador Escudero Perez bought a winery in Alfaro that remains in operation to this day — now owned and managed by his grandchildren.

"The doors of our winery are open to anyone who wants to feel the wine," a family spokesperson says. But if you can't make it to Spain's Rioja region anytime soon, this bottling of Graciano — dubbed "Rio Madre" — is the next-best thing. Graciano often is included in fine Rioja blends that also embody Carignan and Tempranillo. But it also makes a wonderful varietal wine.

Its vines typically produce very low yields, which means the grapes are extremely concentrated — and that translates to assertive aromas and flavors in the finished wines. This may be the first Graciano you've ever tasted, but we bet it won't be your last.

TASTING NOTES

Grape Composition:
100% Graciano

Aging Vessels:
Assorted Oak Barrels

Grape Source:
Rioja Growing
Region of Spain

When to Drink:
Now Through 2014

Aromas and Flavors:
Cranberry, Red Berries,
Leather and White Pepper

Our Tasting Panel Score:
90 Points

This expressive Spanish wine offers notes of cranberry, red berries, leather and white pepper.

FOOD PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: a pepper steak, or Tex-Mex fare.

WINE RE-ORDER #: 21989

SKU 18516