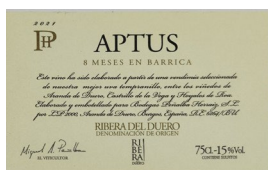


Aptus 2021 (Red Wine)



Winemaker, Miguel Ángel Peñalba Martínez, has lived in Ribera del Duero for his whole life. He studied Chemistry, wine making and business and has been managing over 250 hectares of grapes for more than 10 years. He has transitioned many of these vineyards from traditional agriculture to organic practices and continues onward to biodynamic management of these sites. He produces two wines from vineyards that he controls, incorporating biodynamic practices in all aspects of farming and harvest. All of the grapes are sourced from villages around Aranda del Duero and include historic varieties that are now exceptionally rare in the area including Albillo, Garnacha and Monastrell. Grapes are harvested into small boxes so that they arrive to the winery intact and in the best possible quality.

Appellation	Ribera del Duero D.O.
Grapes	95% Tempranillo, 5% Garnacha and Monastrell
Altitude/Soil	800 meters / sand and gravel with clay at lower elevations
Farming Methods	certified organic methods; biodynamic farming (not certified)
Harvest	hand harvested on Sept 30 and Oct 1 in relation to the lunar calendar and with respect to biodynamic "fWruit" day
Production	3-day cold maceration, fermentation with native microbes for 8 additional days with skins, malolactic conversion in barrel
Aging	Aged between 6-8 months in used, 80% French and 20% American oak barrels.
UPC/SCC/Pack Size	8437009198124 / 18437009198121 / 12

Reviews:

"In almost every vintage this would be among the first wines I'd reach for if I needed to introduce someone to how immediately delicious Tempranillo can be. Or, if they already know Tempranillo but only from Rioja, how pure and convincingly "winning" it can be from Ribera del Duero, which is (IMHO) the single best showplace for growing this variety in Spain—and therefore the world. The back label shows 15% designated alcohol, and though the wine is ripe and very soft in texture, it is invitingly soft – not "hot" soft on account of any excess of alcohol in sensory terms. It is richer in body and deeper in flavor than, say, fine Pinot Noir from Sonoma's Russian River Valley, but just as soft in texture and a far better value while being every bit as easy to pair with food. It would be too "big" for any fish except maybe grilled salmon, but would cozy right up to a simple roast chicken, and wonderful for pork or duck, and easily up to the challenge of a steak. How many \$20 wines can traverse that spectrum? Gorgeous dark cherry fruit slathers the palate with obvious deliciousness. If you see this, buy it. If you don't love it, and can pass a lie-detector test, I'll mow your lawn all summer." **92 points Wine Review Online; Michael Franz; June 26, 2026**

"This intriguing 2021 Ribera del Duero has 5% Grenache blended in. Coming from vines set on clay, sand and gravel, this is wonderfully earthy with good concentration. Dark cherry and black raspberry notes combine with rocky soils and shades of garrigue on the palate. Drink 2025-2031."

90 OwenBargreen.com; Owen Bargreen- December 4, 2025

"The 2021 Aptus Tinto from Bodegas Peñalba Herraiz is made from the same blend of ninety-five percent Tempranillo and the balance a mix of Garnacha and Albillo, with the wine again tipping the scales at fifteen percent in this vintage. It was raised in used barrels for eight to eleven months prior to bottling, with the same breakdown as the 2022 in terms of origin of the oak. The bouquet is developing very nicely and is starting to show some secondary complexity in its mix of plums, sweet dark berries, cigar wrapper, dark soil tones, coffee bean, woodsmoke and cedar. On the palate the wine is deep, nascently complex and full-bodied, with fine depth at the core, ripe tannins, fine focus and a long, poised and gently warm finish. The balance here is not quite as elegant as in the 2022 vintage, so there is just a hint of backend alcohol showing, though it is certainly quite moderate. This wine needs time in the cellar to let its tannins relax a bit more. It is a good wine, but I have a very slight preference for the 2022 version, which seems to carry its octane just a bit more seamlessly. 2034-2065."

88 points View from the Cellar; John Gilman; Issue 109, January – February 2024

