

WINE EXPERT LYN FARMER:

My Impressions of Cariñena



The D.O.P. Cariñena region in Aragón is a land of surprises for the wine lover. Cariñena is the land of Goya (you can visit his home). Aragón is the source of more than a fourth of the world's black truffles. It's home to the treasured white pigs of Spain (the town of Teruel is universally prized as a source of jamón), and in the capital of Zaragoza, you not only have stunning architecture and art – you also have a dazzling range of tapas bars, including one with a Michelin star!

And then, there are the wines. What I admire as both a wine lover and a wine educator is the tremendous variety of wines and their accessibility. Because Cariñena is populated by small growers, many have banded together to form three very high-quality cooperatives. Each cooperative produces a range of wines, so the wine lover can visit one cooperative and experience a surprising array of styles – from easy quaffing and fruity wines to Garnacha and Cariñena of extraordinary

depth. On my first visit to Cariñena, I constantly asked myself, “why didn’t I know about this place before?” Now that I know it, I am still awed by its austere beauty, the warmth and openness of people who are passionate about their craft, and those wonderful wines.