



# VEGA-SICILIA

## Vega Sicilia 2020 Pre-Release Offer

January 2020

I hope you are well and have had a great start to the New Year.

Please see below the latest offer from Vega Sicilia, arguably one of the world's most iconic wineries. Stock of the Unico & Valbuena are VERY limited and the Alion not much better.

2020 is quite the release, full of legendary vintages: 2015 Valbuena, 2010 Único... It does rather feel that the stars have aligned this year to offer a truly exceptional range of wines.

The light and brilliant touch of winemaker Gonzalo Iturriaga de Juan is increasingly evident with each annual release. Gonzalo's skill lies in the harmony and balance that he manages to bring to all the wines, drawing forth a purity of fruit alongside superbly judged oak. His exceptional ability to manage tannins is especially clear: Gonzalo's tannins sometimes feel initially firm but then have an incredible ability to melt on the tongue. He is the perfect conduit to channel the unique Vega terroir into superb, effortless wines.

Furthermore, the 2020 release heralds a step-change in the style and quality of the wines from Macán. Do not think of this duo any more in terms of Rioja; these wines now clearly reflect their lineage as the offspring of two great wine families, Vega Sicilia and Benjamin de Rothschild. Both wines have changed beyond recognition this release and, in the case of Macán, the early steps to icon status are clear for all to see. This is an exciting time in the history of these two wines; those who champion them now, at this stage on their path to greatness, are unlikely to be disappointed in the future.

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### VEGA SICILIA Unico 2010

£730 per case of 3 bottles

#### 97 points - The Wine Advocate

Drink Date: 2020 - 2040

Reviewed by: Luis Gutiérrez, Issue Date: 30th Dec 2019, Source: Issue 246 End of December 2019

"I was surprised by the aromatics of the 2010 Único, cropped from a powerful and concentrated year that delivered this blend of 94% Tinto Fino (aka Tempranillo) and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 14.5% alcohol and a highish pH of 3.87. It fermented with indigenous yeasts and matured in a combination of French and American oak barrels and 20,000-liter oak vats and aged for almost six years. It feels quite ripe and somehow old style, dominated by ripe black fruit, with a rustic and earthy touch. It has an ample palate, concentrated and powerful, with some earthy tannins. 85,185 bottles, 3,362 magnums, 228 double magnums and 36 Imperials were produced. It was bottled in June 2016."

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## VEGA SICILIA Valbuena 2015

£295 per case of 3 bottles

### 96 points - The Wine Advocate

Drink Date: 2020 - 2029

Reviewed by: Luis Gutiérrez, Issue Date: 30th Dec 2019, Source: Issue 246 End of December 2019, The Wine Advocate  
"The 2015 Valbuena, a red blend of mostly Tempranillo with some 5% Merlot, is released in the fifth year after the harvest. It's explosive and showy, with a complex nose that shows a mixture of flowers and wild herbs, balsamic touches and great nuance. This wine has gained in complexity since the 2010 vintage, where they implemented some changes that increased the expressivity and precision of this wine. The tannins are fine-grained and there is very good balance, and the warm conditions of the year have been absorbed well by the wine. Despite the natural conditions of the year, the wine follows the path of freshness of the 2010. 173,673 bottles, 5,625 magnums and some larger formats produced. It was bottled in June 2018."

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## VEGA SICILIA Valbuena 2014

£275 per case of 3 bottles

### 96 points - The Wine Advocate

Drink: 2019 - 2030

The 2014 Valbuena, mostly Tempranillo with some 5% Merlot fermented by plot, making a selection from their 210 hectares of vineyards, and then matured in a combination of barriques and larger 20,000-liter oak vats. 2014 is a spectacular vintage of Valbuena, and it reminds me of the 2010, perhaps a tad more elegant and less powerful. It's expressive and has floral notes on the nose along with wild berries, herbs and a spicy and smoky touch that's nicely integrated. It has good complexity and nuance, and the palate is medium to full-bodied and intense, with pungent flavors and great length and persistence. Truly spectacular! 184,684 bottles, 5,578 magnums and some large formats produced. It was bottled in June 2016.

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## VEGA SICILIA Alion 2016 Ribera del Duero

£310 per case of 6 bottles

### 95 points - The Wine Advocate

Drink Date: 2020 - 2028

Reviewed by: Luis Gutiérrez, Issue Date: 30th Dec 2019, Source: Issue 246 End of December 2019, The Wine Advocate  
"The highly anticipated 2016 Alión spent 12 months in oak barrels, 80% of them new and built mainly with French oak but with some 5% American oak, and some 10% of the volume matured in 15,000-liter concrete vats. It hits the scale at 15% alcohol and has moderate acidity, showing ripe black fruit and a creamy texture. 2016 has to be one of the freshest and most elegant vintages of Alión, a year with depth, freshness and terrific balance. Same as they do in Pintia, they are finding ways to lower the impact of the oak in the wine; here, they used concrete, and the wine shows more primary and floral aromas and is nicely textured and with fine tannins. 258,458 bottles, 7,017 magnums and some larger formats produced. It was bottled in June 2018."

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## VEGA SICILIA & DE ROTHSCHILD Macan 2016

£165 per case of 6 bottles

### 93+ points - The Wine Advocate

Drink Date: 2020 - 2026

Reviewed by: Luis Gutiérrez, Issue Date: 30th Dec 2019, Source: Issue 246 End of December 2019, The Wine Advocate  
"The 2016 Macán Clásico is their second wine in the Bordeaux sense. In 2016, they fermented the wine in stainless steel and reduced the number of new barrels to 50%, while 5% of the barrels were produced with American oak at the Vega Sicilia cooperage. The new winery was 100% ready and now has much better facilities. The élevage lasted 12 months, and this has contained ripeness and integrated oak. The year had freshness and balance and helped to produce lighter and more expressive wines, like this one. This has to be one of the finest vintages for this cuvée. 97,654 bottles, 1,060 magnums and some larger formats produced. It was bottled in August 2018."

As an exception, I have included here the wines from Benjamin de Rothschild and Vega Sicilia in Rioja because I tasted the whole portfolio of wines from Vega Sicilia to be released in 2020. To show them in the context of their region, I shall also include them in the Rioja article that should be published later in 2020.

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If you would like to place an order please let me know. They are also all available to order on our website.

Many thanks and Best Regards

# Neil

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### Terms and Conditions

Delivery – January 2021

Prices - include Freight, Duty, GST & Free Storage until 30th April 2021

Allocation - Offered on a first-come-first-served basis and subject to availability.

Payment - As per our normal T&Cs.