



Amazing Spanish whites in a red country

It is worth taking a look at the astonishing range of white wines covering the whole country, from north to south, east to west.

BY DIEGO BONNEL



NOW THE SPANISH WHITE WINE OFFERING IS HUGE, VARIED AND ATTRACTIVE

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In a country where red wine is king and the Tempranillo grape is the most well-known and respected variety, it was not uncommon to hear people comment that “the best white wine is a red one.” However, things have greatly changed in the last twenty years or so. Now the white wine offering is huge, varied and attractive. You can find whites of all styles, from the Mediterranean (like the excellent Milmanda of Torres), to the maritime (just taste the bewitching San Amaro and you will know why Rias Baixas is one of the most suitable areas in Spain for the production of white wines), not to mention the unique old whites of Viura and Malvasía from Viña Tondonia, or the very special Airén from La Mancha, made without any sulfites.

With or without oak, every single profile can be found. Try the fresh, crisp and citrusy Txomin Etxaniz from the Basque country in northern Spain, as an appetizer or with a simple, white, grilled fish; if you prefer something more powerful, you might turn to the round, delicately oaky, mouth filling and lingering Louro do Bolo made from the recently rediscovered Godello grape or to the vibrant Verdejo grape from Belondrade y Lurtón, featuring a good balance between oak and fruit. Both are the perfect companions for white meat with a creamy sauce, or a vol-au-vent with a béchamel and mushroom filling.

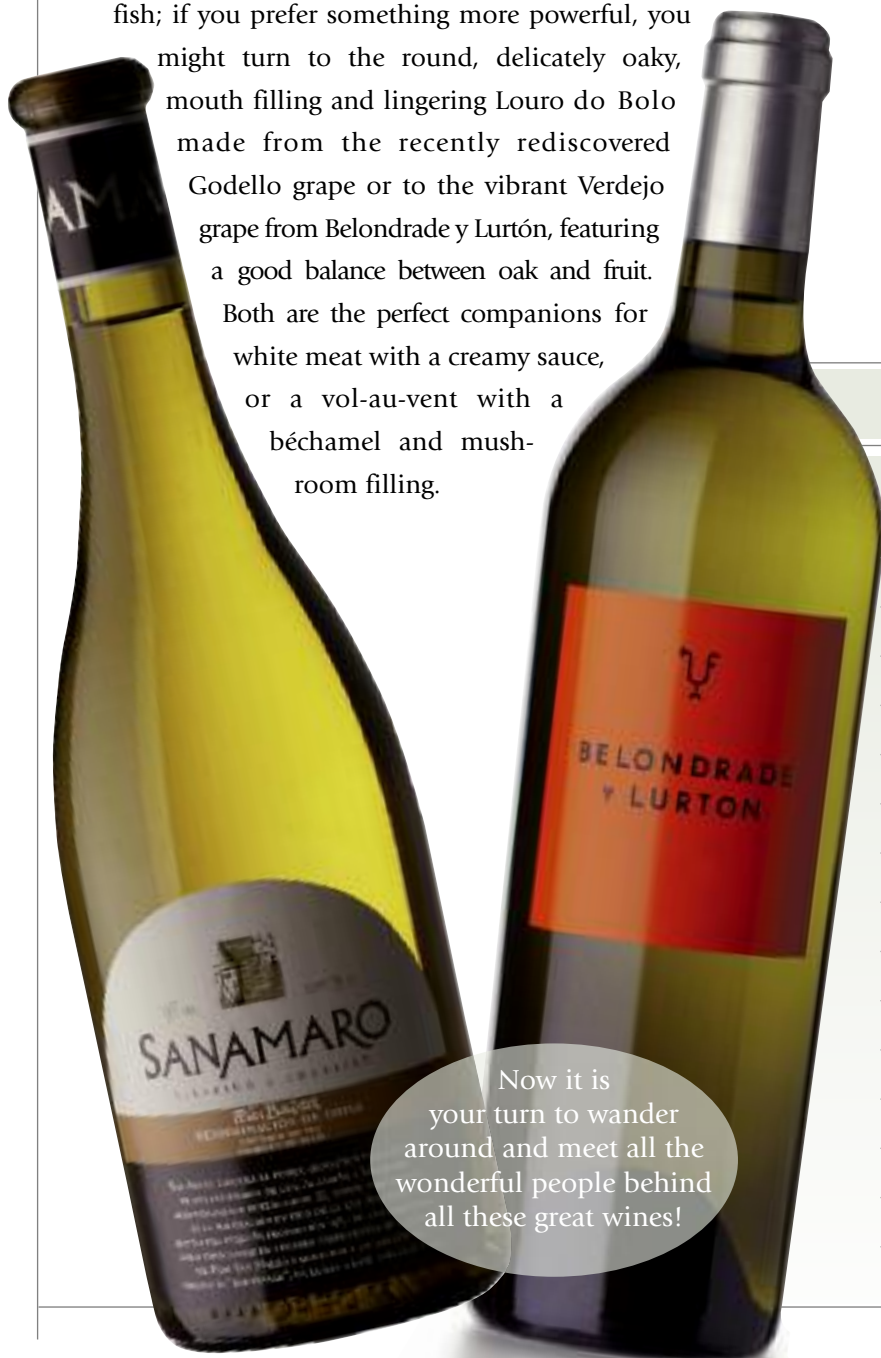


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PREFER SOMETHING MORE POWERFUL?
TRY THE ROUND, MOUTH-FILLING
LOURO DO BOLO

OUR PICKS

WINE	APPELLATION	SCORES
San Amaro 2010	Rias Baixas	96/100
Louro do Bolo 2010	Valdeorras	95/100
Clos Nelin 2007	Priorat DOC	95/100
Belondrade y Lurtón 2010	Rueda	94/100
De Saa 2007	Rias Baixas	94/100
Txomin Etxaniz 2010	Txakoli de Getaria	93/100
As Sortes 2009	Valdeorras	93/100
Equipo Navazos Nieeport 2010	Table wine	92/100
Las Amedias 2010	Rueda	92/100
Albillo de Bernabeleva 2007	Vinos de Madrid	92/100
Mengoba 2008	Bierzo	92/100
El Patio Airén 2009	Mancha	91/100
Milmanda 2009 Torres	Conca de Barberá	90/100
Viña Tondonia Gran Reserva 1991	Rioja DOC	90/100
Quinta Apolonia 2009	Rueda	90/100