

PINORD

PRESS RELEASE

Balcons, + 7 and *Chateldon Reserva* by Pinord obtain excellent ratings on the list of the internacional wine critic, Robert M. Parker

The famous North American wine critic Robert M. Parker has given a rating of excellent to two red wines produced by the Pinord Wineries, in D.O. Priorat. He has awarded 91 points to the red *Balcons* wine and 90 points to the *+7* wine. These wines are elaborated exclusively from grapes cultivated on the 18 hectáreas estate Mas Blanc in Priorat property of Pinord.

In his last list, Parker also awarded 86 points to the red *Chateldon Reserva*, D.O. Penedés, elaborated with cabernet sauvignon and a small percentage of merlot. These vines belong to the Pinord wineries and are cultivated on the lands around the Hermitage of Muntanyans in Alt Penedés. The Chateldon wine is matured in oak barrels for 14 months then bottled and kept to age for a further two years.

Robert Parker, a lawyer, known as the Emperor of Wine is the most influential wine critic in the world. Since 1978 he has published a report every two months in the American magazine *The Wine Advocate* with a list of the best wines in the world. He awards between 50 and 100 points, after tasting wine in different regions. A score of between 80 and 84 points is for good wines, 85 to 90 is for very good wines, 90 to 94 are excellent wines and 95 to 100 points is for extraordinarily good wines.

The grapes for the two wines *Balcons* and *+7* are cultivated on the Mas Blanc estate where Pinord grow the foreign varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot and the traditional variety of the area, Garnacha. The vines are planted in the soil on terraces that lay on the "licorella", a slate stone very typical of the area. The vines are tended with environmentally friendly practices and only natural products are used. The use of chemical additives and insecticides is absolutely forbidden. These terraced vineyards sometimes have differences in level of more than one hundred metres and form natural amphitheatres of incredible beauty. The lay of the land means that almost all the work has to be carried out manually, which increases the cost considerably. However the quality of the grape which is obtained by this method and on this soil is compensation in itself.

BALCONS

D.O.C. Priorat

This wine is elaborated from the Garnacha, Cariñena, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grape varieties cultivated on the Pinord estate. Tests are carried out on the grapes to confirm ripeness and the grapes are then harvested manually with each variety harvested separately. Only those bunches of healthy grapes that are completely ripe are picked one by one.

The grapes are then fermented in small tanks for 21 days and cupaje is carried out. The wine is then transferred to barrels of French Oak where it remains for 14 months and goes through the corresponding decanting processes. Once the wine is bottled it continues to mature and refine.

Balcons is a wine with ample robe. Violet hues and flashes of dark red are detectable. The aroma is strong and full bodied with evidence of the time it matured in oak such as the toasted and vanilla hints. Later, pleasant ripe fruits are detected and as the wine comes into contact with the air, the spicy aromas of pepper and cloves become apparent. The mineral aromas from the slaty soil so characteristic of Priorat are also detected. It is a full-bodied and vigorous wine with mature tannins and hints of wild fruits. The aftertaste is long and lasting, a powerful wine that promises to be around for a long time.

+7

D.O.C. Priorat

This wine is elaborated with the Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah varieties from the Pinord estates. The grapes are harvested by hand after carefully confirming ripeness. Each variety is picked separately. Fermentation takes place in stainless steel tanks over a period of 18 months. After cupaje the wine goes to barrels to mature for a further 12 months after which it is bottled.

An intense dark red colour which on tasting reveals the characteristic aromas obtained from maturing in oak. These blended with other aromas yield a complex and refined result. To the palate it is full-bodied, complex, smooth and balanced. Pleasant and slightly smoky red fruits predominate in this wine. It is now perfect for drinking although it could well mature for some years more.

PINORD WINERIES is a family run enterprise situated in Vilafranca del Penedès. Pinord has a long history of wine making and bottling. The vineyards in the area cultivate different varieties such as the whites : Macabeo, Xarel-lo, Parellada, Chardonnay y Gewurstraminer, and the reds: Tempranillo, Garnacha and the reknown varieties, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Pinord have been pioneers in adapting these last two varieties to the soil of Penedès.

PINORD is one of the wineries in Penedès with the highest number of products on the market. They market 22 products ranging from young wines to grand reserves. The variety covers, moscatel, an original wine elaborated with aromatic grapes, "blanc de blancs", un rosado de tempranillo and garnacha to single grape varieties elaborated with chardonnay, tempranillo, merlot and cabernet sauvignon.

Vilafranca del Penedès, 6th. March, 2007