

# Bodegas Darien

## *Darien Crianza*



<b>WINE:</b>	Darien Crianza
<b>TYPE:</b>	Red Wine
<b>DENOMINATION:</b>	Rioja DOC
<b>VINTAGE:</b>	2005
<b>GRAPE VARIETY:</b>	Tempranillo (81%) Mazuelo (6%) Garnacha (13%)
<b>COUNTRY:</b>	Spain

**The Winery:** Darien wines provide a seamless blend of tradition and modernity. The vineyards are located just outside of Logroño in the heart of some of the best vineyard land found in Rioja. Darien's new state-of-the-art winery is situated on a terrace overlooking the Ebro River, the vineyards are composed of clay and sandy soils. Darien owns a substantial amount of vineyard land, both at the site outside Logroño and at their estate Las Rades. The control that this affords vineyard manager Juan Luis Gonzalez and winemaker Tomás Iturriaga is evident in the wines. Stylistically, the wines reflect a modern approach while maintaining their traditional roots. Production is small and quality oriented.

**Vinification:** The different grape varieties which make up this wine were fermented separately and the coupage of the wine took place before transfer to barrels. In the vinification process, first the grapes were destemmed and then fermented for six days, at a maximum temperature of 28°C. The maceration process was extended for 15 days and after running off, malolactic fermentation began. The wine was aged for twelve months in French and American oak casks. To safeguard the rich aromatic complexity of the wine, it has been allowed to stabilize naturally.

**Press:** Wine & Spirits (2004 Vintage) **89 Points**, “**Best Buys of the Year (Rioja)**”: Fragrant with cherry and classic Rioja scents of piquillo peppers, this is light and delicious. Substantial, chocolate-ripe tannins back up the clean fruit. A simple, luscious red for lamb chops. 12/08.

**Decanter** (2004 vintage) ★★★★★ (4 stars), “**Highly Recommended**”. 7/08

**Decanter**, (2004 vintage) **2008 World Wine Awards, Bronze**: Fruity, cherry and floral notes. Elegant and classic. 10/08.

**Wine Enthusiast** (2004 Vintage) **86 Points**. 7/08.

**Tasting Notes:** Perfect for everyday drinking, this well-made light-bodied red features straightforward aromas of plum and black cherry, with hints of vanilla. Nicely balanced acidity and a dry, crisp finish make this the perfect pairing for seasoned meats and poultry. Also great with grilled fish, Serrano ham and manchego cheese.

