

## The Grande Dame of Rioja: 2004 Muga Prado Enea Gran Reserva

For tried-and-true Old World Rioja fans, Muga's Prado Enea is perhaps the top Gran Reserva of great Spanish Rioja. We recently secured a large allocation of the highly coveted 2004 vintage of this outstanding Spanish wine, and we are pleased to now offer it to our email subscribers at the lowest price in the country.

Often referred to as "the Bordeaux of Spain," La Rioja is the Grande Dame of Spanish wine regions. Yet these magnificent wines have more in common with grand cru Burgundy. Dating from 1932, Muga is a family-owned bodega making some of the top traditional style wines in Rioja. Like the best red Burgundies, these are Riojas with magnificent and complex aromas and long finishes. Prado Enea is the name of the winery's flagship wine. As a *gran reserva*, it is generally aged for eight years prior to release, four of them in barrel. Muga is one of the few bodegas that has its own cooperage on premise, thus ensuring they only use the finest oak barrels.

While the theme of modernist versus traditionalist has been playing out for some time in winemaking circles in Rioja, one need only whiff the Prado Enea's perfume to know the heights that can be reached by the best of the traditional wines. Using only their best vineyard holdings, the predominantly clay and limestone soils give this wine an unparalleled minerality that stands out among its peers. It exhibits outstanding richness and is plush on the palate, with everything integrated perfectly. Flavors of dark cherry and plum, drying currants, baking spice, leather, earth and dried tobacco weave together beautifully. While drinking gorgeously right now, this is a wine that will continue to age nicely for another decade.



**2004 Muga Rioja Gran Reserva Prado Enea - email special \$49.95** (regularly \$54.99; list \$60)

94 points Jay Miller (*Wine Advocate*): "The 2004 Prado Enea Gran Reserva is not quite as dense as the 2005 but is more expressive on the nose and rounder on the palate. It is a complete effort that should prove to be one of the best Prado Eneas Muga has produced. (Jun 2010)"

Cheers,

**Woodland Hills Wine Co.**

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