



### Rioja Oriental: 10 producers to watch

#### JAVIER ARIZCUREN

The natural successor to Alvaro Palacios, Arizcuren is an articulate and gifted winemaker who has made it his life's work to reverse the recent trend of grubbing up all of the old mountain Garnacha in favour of more fertile plots nearer to the Ebro. So far he has, somewhat against the commercial odds, succeeded magnificently.



Javier Arizcuren

### Rioja Oriental: Field's mixen dozen

#### Arizcuren, Solo Mazuelo 2015

£34 Sommelier's Choice UK

Organic. A rare gem, this Mazuelo (France's Carignan) has been cultivated at 500m in the hills above the village of Quel and aged for four months in 500-litre French and American vats. Intense and smoky, the wine is supercharged without being over-extracted, meaty without being vulgar, refreshing without being dissolute.

Drink 2020-2030 Alc 13.5%

93

#### ② Arizcuren, Solo Garnacha 2015

£34 Sommelier's Choice UK

Javier Arizcuren's homage to Garnacha has a purity born of old-vine fruit sourced high on the northern slopes of Monte Yera. The acidity of the resulting wine laces a magnificent structure with notes of griotte and briary fruit, for a dignified yet beautifully complex mid-palate.

Organic. Drink 2020-2028 Alc 13%

94