



CELLER PARDAS BLAU CRU (MALVASÍA DE SITGES)



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| VINTAGE | 2021 |
| COUNTRY | Spain |
| REGION | Cataluña |
| APPELLATION | Penedes |
| WINE TYPE | White Wine |
| VARIETIES | 100% Malvasía de Sitges |
| ORGANIC | Certified Organic, Biodynamic |
| VINEYARD | “Les Planes” and “Sant Quinti” plots, aging around 20-28 years. |
| SOIL | Rich Alluvial Soils |
| VITICULTURE | Malvasia de Sitges is decently challenging to grow as it is prone to illness and very dependent on the vintage conditions. The heat in 2021 made yields very small which will be a trend that will most likely continue. Grapes are dry farmed and soils are not plowed or fertilized. |
| VINIFICATION | Destemmed and fermented with indigenous yeasts in stainless steel. |
| AGING | Rested on the lees and stirred every 15 days for nine months. |
| PRODUCTION | 7,533 bottles produced |
| ABV% | 13% |



Celler Pardas started when two growers from Penedès, Ramon Parera, and Jordi Arnan, acquired an old estate called Can Comas in Alt Penedès, close to Sant Sadurni d’Anoia. The property surrounds an old medieval farm and spans 30 hectares of forest and other crops (mainly cereal) as well as the local grape varieties—Sumoll and Xarel-lo—that Ramon and Jordi planted for their wines. The other source of fruit for the wines comes from two ancient plots further north, where they own old vines of Sumoll, Xarel-lo, and Malvasia de Sitges; Ramon calls this fascinating local strain of Malvasia, an incredibly acidic grape notoriously difficult to vinify, the “Riesling of the Mediterranean”.

From the start the work on the land focused on a holistic approach; they manage the forest surrounding the vineyards as well as the land bordering them to create a whole agrarian ecosystem and live on the property. Many biodynamic principles are followed: the vines are dry-farmed, and the clay-limestone-rich soils are not plowed to avoid erosion and foster the micro-biology of the place. They regularly use ground vegetation, and no synthetic products or pesticides are utilized. Their work is certified organic.

Ramon and Jordi are in the forefront of the varietal revolution happening in Penedès. The story of native grapes in the region is not unlike many others in different areas: the local varieties, deemed hard to work and less valuable than international ones, were slowly substituted by high-yielding types. Many of the new generations of growers in the area, however, decided to replant and work with the original grapes. Pardas’ plantings all come from cuttings of old vines found in the region.

The work in the cellar is as respectful to the wines as their work on the vineyards is to the land. Fermentations are spontaneous, the wines are never clarified nor corrected, and they use a mix of steel, concrete, and oak for winemaking and *élevage*. The resulting wines are expressive and very direct. Sumoll is not an easy grape to master—“the most masochistic grape there is”, says Jordi—but as the Sus Scrofa shows, Parera and Arnan have conquered its rusticity and are making a delicate, fresh, and immediate wine. The same goes for their Xarel-lo and Malvasia, which are floral and aromatic and yet retain great salinity and minerality, no doubt owing to the chalky and rocky nature of their vineyards.