



BODEGAS
MONTECILLO
Rioja

EXCEPTIONAL WINES OF SPAIN SINCE 1874

MARÍA MARTÍNEZ-SIERRA
WINEMAKER

A winemaker at Bodegas Montecillo in Fuenmayor, Rioja, Spain since 1976, María Martínez-Sierra has made extraordinary contributions to the world of fine Spanish wine. With an unmatched wit and effusive intellect, Martínez remains one of very few female winemakers in Spain.

Martínez received her winemaking education in Spain as well as in Bordeaux at wineries owned by the Cordier family in the 1970s. With great determination, she has overcome the obstacles not unusual to career women in a male-oriented society of the 70s and 80s, prevailing over even her own mother's resolve against her professional pursuits. Lovingly supported by her father and her boyfriend, Pedro, now her husband of over two decades, Martínez began her successful navigation of what remains a difficult industry for females to enter. Now one of the most recognizable Spanish women in wine, her undeniable gift for winemaking as well as her indomitable spirit certainly propelled her to the top. Notes Martínez, "I'm a fighter, and I fought a lot at the beginning to gain the respect and admiration of others in this profession. Gender is not what matters."

Dedicating her work to indigenous Spanish varietals, Martínez's reward for such tenacity has been a succession of well-respected wines of world renown under the Bodegas Montecillo label. Proud to be considered a "fair player" by her competitors, Martínez was nominated by her colleagues in Rioja and received the Mercury Award in 1995 for her contribution to the international reputation of fine Rioja wines.

Today, Martínez is not only a winemaker but also a gourmand at heart, collecting wild mushrooms, and developing original recipes for family and friends. She also loves spending time with her granddaughter, writing poetry, and playing with her pets. While relaxing at home is a favored pastime, Martínez and her husband also enjoy visiting the Hawaiian islands on vacation, and try to do so often.