

THE NEW WINERY BLENDS IN WITH TIME
AND THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE



DESCENDIENTES DE J. PALACIOS

CORULLÓN



Descendientes de J. Palacios is firmly committed to this territory and the new winery is proof of it. The building lives in harmony with its natural surroundings, in a place of profound meaning: the Corullón summit, where the lines dividing cultivated slopes and open fields are blurred. The special nature of this place coexists with the region's winemaking tradition highlighting the beauty of the landscape and transforming architecture into a tool to watch over the wines throughout their life. I would like this dual effect

to be the hallmark of my work as an architect. On the technical side, Álvaro and Ricardo had two requirements: gravity rules had to be followed as much as possible in the wine production process and their wines had to rest some 20 meters (60 ft) underground. These two conditions had to be taken into account in the layout of the winery, hence the fragmentation and concatenation of volumes which are linked by a network of courtyards and wide corridors. Wine production starts on the highest part

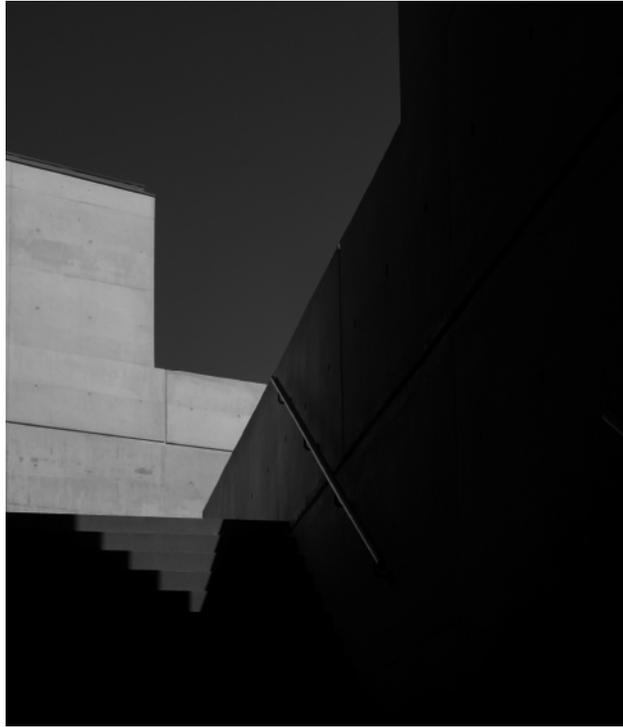
of the winery and finishes on the loading area, located on one of the courtyards. Digging slate is always laborious and figuring out how to connect the different levels was no easy task. But once these problems were tackled and solved, we realized, once again, that they always represent a worthy challenge.

Rafael Moneo







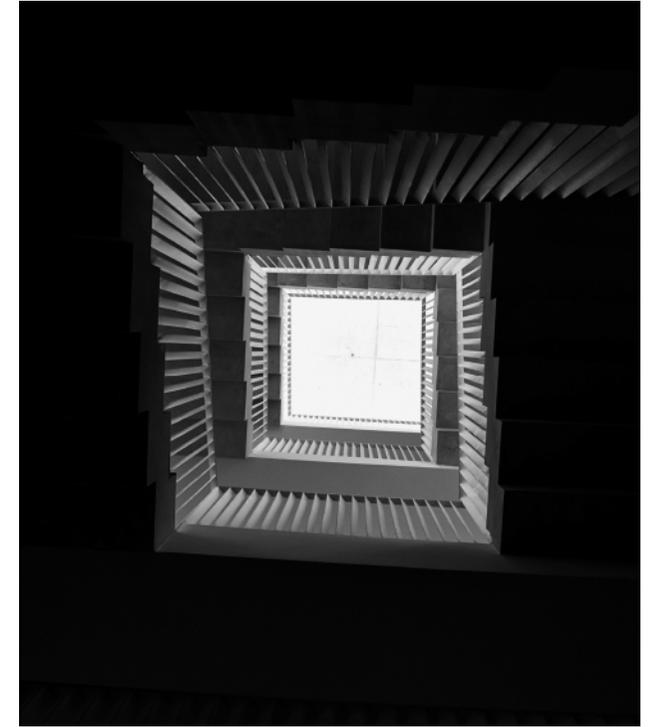


The new winery forms part of our evolution since we first arrived in Bierzo. Adjacent to the vineyard, it is a well thought-out practical building. Viticulture and winemaking tasks are carried out in ad hoc spaces giving way to a privileged aging of the wines.

Moving from a small historic bodega right in the town centre to a brand new building surrounded by our vineyards is positive in every sense. Its characteristics will help us to define with purity the essence of the wines sourced from



these privileged vines. We move from a discreet position to a much more exposed visibility. Located on Chao de Pando hill, the new winery commands views of virtually the entire valley. It has become a landmark for Bierzo wine. Architect Rafael Moneo has built a set of solemnly beautiful volumes that blend in with their surroundings and the Corullón slopes. Since the beginning, we always wanted to build the winery on this spot. It is a dream come true: aging the wines in the depths of the soil, at a



cold temperature set by nature, with the flavours of the land where our vines bury their roots. After a long-lasting love affair with the vineyards of Bierzo, we fulfill our dream and our commitment to this land.

Álvaro Palacios and Ricardo Pérez Palacios









Bodega Descendientes de J. Palacios
DO Bierzo

Location: *Corullón, El Bierzo*

Altitude: *726 m (2,381 ft)*

Dimensions: *105 m (344ft) long,
29 m (95ft) wide, 13.5 metres (44ft)
maximum visible height*

Total built-up area: *7.200 m² (77,500ft²)*

Underground surface: *4.500 m² (48,437ft²)*

Exterior materials: *exposed concrete,
chestnut wood, zinc, aluminium and glass*

Project: *2013-2014*

Execution period: *May 2015 - February 2017*

Architecture: *Rafael Moneo Studio
in partnership with Valerio Canals and
Clara Moneo*

Photography : *Manel Esclusa*