

Dan Dunn's "The Imbiber"

Many people drink ... few do it professionally!

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Wine Reviews Yooze Can Use...

Miguel Merino Unnum 2002

What about it: During my recent trip to Spain's Rioja region, the wines from this small producer in Rioja Alta just knocked me out... quite literally on one occasion!

The grape: 100% tempranillo

What it tastes like: Lots going on here, from toffee to bing cherry to mint. I once watched some video footage of Jessica Biel playing beach volleyball. During a close-up you could see these delicious/delightful little beads of sweat on her brow. This wine's flavor is akin to what I imagine those little beads of goddess sweat might taste like... and yes, I know that sounds creepy, but I really do adore me some J-Biel.

What to serve it with: A restraining order, perhaps.

Song pairing: "She's a Lady" by Tom Jones

The price: That's the tricky part... tough wine to find in the U.S., but if you can find it, probably goes for around \$35.

Imbiber rating: 90 ([click here for wine ratings guide](#))



Bodegas Luis Cañas Reserva de la Familia 2001

The blend: 85% tempranillo, 15% cabernet

What about it: Luis Cañas is situated in Villabuena in the heart of Rioja Alavesa. The

region is known for having chalky soil on the surface with granite further below, as well as for having a higher than average altitude. The wine spent 12 months in new French oak barrels followed by another 12 in American oak. It went into the bottle in December of 2004.

What it tastes like: This wine is jamming... er, jammy... er jamming AND jammy! It's not real big and bold, which ain't a bad thing. Big is Napa's thing, not Spain's. Nothing wrong with a little subtlety when it comes to vino, especially during the holidays when the food is so heavy and plentiful. Oh, and I almost forgot the mint... there's a hint o'mint that is quite delicious.

What to serve it with: White beans and pork stew.

Song pairing: "Santa Claus is Back in Town" by Elvis Presley because both Santa Claus and Elvis rock hard, like this wine

The price: \$30 ([click here for wine ratings guide](#))

Imbiber rating: 91

Reviewed by Dan Dunn

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