



## CELLER JOAN SIMÓ



### VIATGE AL PRIORAT 2014

**CELLER JOAN SIMÓ** || In the center of the small village of Porrera (population 432), the cellars of Joan Simó are located in a two hundred year old house, passed down from Gerard Batllell Simó's mother's family. Gerard farms the old vineyards from his family (Les Eres) as well as La Garranxa which he planted in 1999 and 2000 to Garnatxa, Samsó, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. This high altitude plot had been barren since the phylloxera onslaught. The death defying hike/Land Rover trip up the steep mountainous slopes of the Priorat make one realize why these ancient vineyard sites are so coveted and rare.

**PRIORAT** || Viticulture has an ancient history in the Priorat, and winemaking dates to the 12th century, when monks founded the Carthusian Monastery of Scala Dei in 1194. The prior of Scala Dei ruled as a feudal lord over seven villages in the area, which gave rise to the name Priorat. The basis for the soils (called llicorella in Catalán) are reddish and black slate with small particles of mica, which reflects the sunlight and conserves heat. Vines are forced deep into the ground in search of water and nutrients, in many cases well over 30 meters.

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**BLEND** | 60% Garnacha, 20% Cabernet, 15% Syrah & 5% Merlot

**VINEYARDS** | "Journey to Priorat" - Viatge al Priorat is from the younger vines of the estate, located along the southern slopes of the DO from Porrera to Bellmunt (located just southwest). The soils are all llicorella (black slate) soils at an altitude ranging from 400-600 meters.

**WINEMAKING** | Fermentation in tank followed by 8 months aging in third use French oak barrique.

**ALCOHOL** | 15%

**TASTING NOTES** | Viatge al Priorat is a great introduction to Priorat, or for those looking for a more youthful expression of the region (read: not-so-brooding). While the fruit is deep and dark, minerality from the slates, lively acidity and delicate tannin give the wine a taut structure and lift.

