

## **Sherry, Manzanilla And Montilla: Renaissance of a Great Wine**

by Luis Gutiérrez TWA216 – 30dic2014

Equipo Navazos, created in 2005 by Jesús Barquín and Eduardo Ojeda goes from strength to strength releasing unique, small lots of old rare Sherries and their regular Fino and Manzanilla that are among the best in their class. On top of that, they have joint-ventures with producers from other regions to produce sparkling wines, table wines and even small lots of very old brandy and rum that are beyond the scope of this article but are well worth pursuing. What started as a hobby with a group of hardcore fans of traditional Andalusian wines has turned into a steady business with around 30,000 bottles of wine being released per year. I keep buying and cellaring their wines as part of the initial hard core of fans for whom the private project was created.

**2011 Equipo Navazos Colet Navazos Extra Brut**

A Xarello Dry White Sparkling wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	90	Drink: 2015 - 2018	(35)
<p>Yes, you've read it correctly. This is a sparkling wine, 2011 Colet Navazos Extra Brut, produced with Xarel-lo grapes following the traditional champenoise method by Colet from Penedès and Navazos from Jerez, as a joint-venture. It matured in bottle on its lees from March 2012 until October 2014 when it was disgorged and topped up with some bone dry Palo Cortado from Sanlúcar de Barrameda. The Sherry character is more subtle than other vintages of this wine when the dosage was more evident. While more subtle it is at the same time pure Xarel-lo (until 2009 it also had some Parellada and Macabeo) which makes the wine feel finer. I like the subtle character. It is a sparkling with Andalusian accent.</p>				

**2010 Equipo Navazos Colet Navazos Reserva**

A Chardonnay Dry White Sparkling wine from Spain, Penedès, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	92	Drink: 2015 - 2019	(45)
<p>Even better than the Colet-Navazos Extra Brut is the sharp 2010 Colet-Navazos Reserva, a very dry sparkling wine from Penedès that is a joint-venture between Colet and Equipo Navazos. Produced with Chardonnay grapes re-fermented in bottle from March 2011 (tirage) to October 2014 (disgorgement) when the bottles were topped up with Manzanilla Pasada from Jerez as liqueur d'expédition. It's really bone dry, with some reductive, gunpowder aromas and an austere palate built around freshness and minerality. It will get much better integrated one year after it's released. 2,500 bottles.</p>				

### 2012 Equipo Navazos Navazos-Niepoort

A Palomino Dry White Table wine from Spain, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	93	Drink: 2014 - 2018	(30)

As part of their agreements with other producers the 2012 Navazos-Niepoort is joint-venture between Equipo Navazos and Niepoort from Douro/Porto. This unfortified white wine was produced with Palomino grapes from the Macharnudo vineyard in Jerez from vines averaging 40 years of age planted on pure albariza chalk soils. 2012 was one of the shortest harvest ever in Jerez and also was very high quality vintage; the best since they started producing this wine. We don't get to hear about vintage much, as most of the wines there are blends. However the idea behind this wine is to transmit the chalk from the soil and a light flor character. They think this is probably the style in which the old wines from the region were produced before fortification was invented/discovered. The must ferments in used 600 liter American oak barrels that are impregnated with yeasts from the production of Fino where they wine matures for nine months with a veil of flor and the fine lees which gives the wine a light Sherry tang. The chalky component of the soils grows in bottle, particularly a great vintage like 2012 when the soil expressed itself. The palate is pure chalk, austere, vertical and mineral. There is no fruit to be found anywhere. In short, this the best Navazos-Niepoort to date. 5,000 bottles produced. This wine will not be produced in 2013.

**NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Palo Cortado Bota NO 47**

A Palomino Dry White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	99	Drink: 2014 - 2027	(110)
<p>Another wine that but for the Amontillado 49 would be a candidate for a perfect score, the NV La Bota de Palo Cortado Bota NO 47 is an extremely old Palo Cortado most probably from a good vineyard within the Pago Miraflores in Sanlúcar and made at a time when the musts were fermented in barrel. This wine is now around 80 years old, and comes from a solera that used to belong to Gaspar Florido. The 22% alcohol is the result of sheer concentration. This is one single cask, marked as NO (kept for the owners). The color is a bright mahogany, with a green border, denoting extreme age and a nose with some gunpowder, tar and mineral reduction. The palate combines the extreme intensity of the 49 and the balance and approachable character of the 51 along with piercing acidity and flavors. It is ultra-concentrated and has an incredibly long finish; a beast of a wine. You feel the sharpness of a razor going down your throat, with concentrated sea water, salty, mineral finish. This has real energy and power, only shadowed because the number 49 exists, and also a step closer to being an Amontillado. Bottled in December 2013 into 1,200 half bottles.</p>				

**NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Palo Contado Bota Punta 48**

A Palomino Dry White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	98	Drink: 2014 - 2028	(110)
<p>Another old, rare and concentrated Sherry, the NV La Bota de Palo Cortado Bota Punta 48 is a single-cask, very old (around 70 years of age) Palo Cortado originated in the vineyards of Gaspar Florido in Sanlúcar de Barrameda. It aged for a long time allowing it to gain concentration over time, most probably with a few years under flor in its youth. It's sharp and pungent, really intense in the palate. It has notes of cigar ash, hints of malted cereals, peat, and smoke, with a super-intense palate with persistent flavors and an extremely salty, really concentrated ending. Simply superb! 1,200 half bottles</p>				

### NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Manzanilla Pasada Bota Punta 50

A Palomino Dry White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	95+	Drink: 2014 - 2018	(85)
<p>All wine ending in zero have been Manzanilla Pasada, and this one is not an exception. It continues with what can be now considered a geeky tradition; the NV La Bota de Manzanilla Pasada Bota Punta 50 is sourced mainly from the Pago Miraflores and aged in 600 liter American oak barrels for 15 years, the first 10 with plenty of flor and the following five with the butts almost full and with a weak veil of yeasts, as the wine starts moving towards being Amontillado. Only one special bota made it into this bottling, one out of 15 that has very marked biological character, a Manzanilla, very old, but still Manzanilla with very little - if any - Amontillado character. The palate is sharp and full with an intensely saline character marked by notes of brine, iodine and sea breeze that end with sea water. This is a unique Manzanilla. 950 500ml. bottles were produced.</p>				

### NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Palo Cortado 51 Bota GF

A Palomino Dry White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	98	Drink: 2014 - 2030	(110)
<p>Equipo Navazos has recently released a handful of Palos Cortados because they jumped at the chance to buy some extremely old wines from Pedro Romero. This NV La Bota de Palo Cortado 51 Bota GF is a single cask that was bottled in February 2014 averaging some 75 years of age in a solera system. GF are the initials of Gaspar Florido, a grower from Sanlúcar who owned some of the best plots in the Armijo vineyard inside Pago Miraflores in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, where this wine was likely born. At that time the wines were cask fermented and could have had a few years under flor. The Palo Cortados 47, 48 and this one, and even the Amontillado 49 are somehow related and have a common origin, but this one is closer to the 48. Given that it's not easy to define these wines, other than to compare them with each other, I find this one to have more Palo Cortado character with a little more sweetness and with a hint of Oloroso. Out of these beasts, this is the most approachable and drinkable. Only 1,200 half bottles were filled with the content of one single cask.</p>				

### NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Palo Cortado Sanlúcar 52

A Palomino Dry White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	90	Drink: 2014 - 2017	(85)
<p>If there's one unusual wine in the Navazos releases, it is the NV La Bota de Palo Cortado Sanlúcar 52 which is, for a change, a VERY YOUNG Palo Cortado. The intention here is to demonstrate that Palo Cortado can be produced right from the start and there's no real black magic or fluke into its production (if you know what you're doing). The Palomino grapes come from Sanlúcar de Barrameda, mostly from the Pago Miraflores, fermented in inox and fortified from the natural 12% of alcohol to 17.5% before being transferred to 225 liter oak barrels that had contained an old Palo Cortado where it stayed for three years and was then moved to old 600 liter American oak casks which had contained a very old Amontillado. It has the sweetish nose of a Palo Cortado, here there is no concentration, there is lightness, minerality and some power, the alcohol is still there to be integrated. The wine was bottled in April 2014 and is less than ten years old. The casks were always almost full. 2,500 bottles were produced.</p>				

### 2010 Equipo Navazos La Bota de Florpower MMX Más Allá 53

A Palomino Dry White Table wine from Spain, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	94	Drink: 2014	(40)
<p>I know it sounds like heresy, but this is a Palomino wine that fermented, was aged and was under 'flor' without being fortified. The 2010 La Bota de Florpower MMX Más Allá 53 is a unique wine the could be described as an unfortified, single-vintage, flor-aged white wine, from a diversity of vineyards mainly Miraflores in Sanlúcar de Barrameda, like... Manzanilla. Part of the wine was bottled as La Bota de Florpower 44 and part was kept in barriques that had contained a young Palo Cortado, mostly full, but some developed some flor for a further 10 months and went even further... 'más allá'. It has an intense amber color and a complex nose, while the palate is sharp showing no glycerin plus a touch of volatility. All in it is a little extreme, with chalky, chewy intensity and a texture reminiscent of a Champagne. This is clearly not a wine for everyone, but for the hardcore Sherry lover that wants to go one step beyond... 3,000 bottles were produced.</p>				

**NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Fino Macharnudo Alto 54**

A Palomino Dry White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	94	Drink: 2014 - 2022	(50)
<p>Superb within its class, the NV La Bota de Fino Macharnudo Alto is sourced from the Inocente solera from Valdespino, a barrel-fermented, 10 year under flor Fino from the Macharnudo Alto vineyard, one of the most famous in Jerez, bottled unfiltered from a selection of butts from the Inocente solera of Valdespino, a Fino averaging 10 years of age under flor when bottled, with a strong flor character. It has a powerful nose of esparto grass, dried herbs, iodine, brine and almonds. The palate is medium to full-bodied with great power and concentration. This can be drunk now but has everything to age in bottle. 6,000 bottles were filled in July 2014.</p>				

**NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Manzanilla 55**

A Palomino Dry White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	93+	Drink: 2014 - 2020	(40)
<p>The pungent and marine NV La Bota de Manzanilla 55 is one new bottling of a Manzanilla from seven years of aging under flor in the Barrio Bajo in Sanlúcar, from the Sánchez Ayala winery with a really pungent aroma, the character of this particular winery, really high acetaldehyde, a sub-product of the biological aging, for me a textbook, pungent Manzanilla, that won't please the drinker of light, over filtered, industrial Manzanillas. The palate is medium-bodied with very intense, sharp flavors. This is ready to be enjoyed now, but it will develop a different personality in bottle, which you might like or not. 5,000 bottles were made.</p>				

Manzanilla 55 will be available mid January

### NV Equipo Navazos La Bota de Pedro Ximénez Viejísimo 56 "Bota NO"

A Pedro Ximenez Sweet White Sherry wine from Spain, Jerez, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	95+	Drink: 2014 - 2025	(110)
<p>The Navazos guys are not that keen on ultra sweet wines, but their customers love them, and I must admit, the NV La Bota de Pedro Ximénez Viejísimo 56 "Bota NO" is truly superb. It is thought to be around 70 years old, during which time it aged and concentrated in a solera. It boasts 15% alcohol and 400 grams of sugar. It has a very Jerez profile, with aromas of toffee, chocolate, raisins, dates, and a milky hint with a dense palate, quite sweet, keeping the freshness and balance. It's fragrant and open, and develops some aromas of hazelnuts. The single cask of wine was transferred to 750 bottles in October 2014.</p>				

PX 56 will be available throughout 2015

### 2012 Equipo Navazos La Bota de Florpower 57 MMXII

A Palomino Dry White Table wine from Spain, Andalucia, Spain

Source	Reviewer	Rating	Maturity	Current (Release) Cost
eRobertParker.com #216 Dec 2014	Luis Gutierrez	92+	Drink: 2014 - 2018	(35)
<p>Another ground-breaking, almost experimental - or should I say accidental as this is how this Florpower line started - wine is the 2012 La Bota de Florpower 57 MMXII that was selected from one of the best vintages in recent history in the Sherry district. Made with Palomino grapes grown in Sanlúcar de Barrameda from the Miraflores vineyard, it is a wine aged for eight months in 15 Manzanilla butts with a strong veil of yeast, flor, and then transferred to a stainless steel vat where it continued aging under much weaker flor for 15 months until bottled in October 2014. This is basically a young, unfortified Manzanilla with a nose mixing notes of yeasts, nuts, with some reminiscences of a Champagne base wine, with the strong chalk component, hints of cider and a light to medium-bodied palate offering sweet fruit, and good freshness. This is still very young, and I might be underestimating it. 5,000 bottles.</p>				

Florpower 57 will be available throughout 2015