



# BLACK SLATE

## Conreria d'Scala Dei - Black Slate La Morera

---

It's uncontroversial to say that monks and wine go together like peas and pods, so when the Carthusians order arrived in the Priorat in the late 12th century one of the first things that they did was plant vines. Their priory, the Cartoixa d'Scala Dei, literally the steps to god, might have referred to the rugged landscape or the terraces required to farm this remote land. These priors would lend their name to this entire region, the Priorat, and were instrumental in the creation of many of the now famous villages in the DOQ – the oldest of which, Escaladei bears the original name of the medieval priory. While now in ruins, any visit to the Priorat inevitably includes a stop at the Cartoixa d'Scala Dei picturesquely situated at the foot of the Montsant.

For many years we've worked with Jordi Vidal at Conreria d'Scala Dei importing a rare and unique white Priorat from ancient vines of Garnatxa Blanca called Les Brugueres, so when Jordi mentioned he had some younger vine Garnatxa Blanca and Garnatxa Gris planted on llicorella and chalk soils in the village of La Morera we couldn't resist the opportunity to make a Black Slate Blanca from this promising material. While chalky soils are not common in the Priorat, you can find them at higher elevations in Escaladei and La Morera, which border the limestone-rich Montsant range. A short period on the skins before pressing gives La Morera a textural quality to its apricot and herbal flavors, reminiscent of the Les Brugueres in miniature, with the chalky soils providing an elegant and mineral backbone to the wine.

---

### LOCATION

Spain, Priorat

### SOIL

Schist, clay limestone

### ELEVATION

650 meters

### FARMING

Certified organic (CCPAE)

### VARIETIES

Garnatxa Blanca, Garnatxa Gris

### AGE OF VINES

10-25 years-old

### FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, 2 day  
prefermentation maceration, fermentation  
in tank

### AGING

4 months in tank on lees

### ACCOLADES

93 – 2018, *Wine Advocate*

91+ – 2016, *Wine Advocate*

91 – 2016, *Wine Advocate*

91 – 2015, *Wine Advocate*

91 – 2014, *Wine Advocate*

