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# CITY VINEYARD

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FINE WINE • CRAFT BEER • GOURMET FOOD

## Gold Club February 2026

### **Bodegas Chavarri 2008 Izarbe Rioja Gran Reserva Lapuebla de Labarca, Spain**

**About the wine:** The Chavarri philosophy as a family and winery go hand in hand, to reflect in their wines the knowledge and passion they put into each one of them. Tradition, combined with the help of innovative technologies, allows them to create great experiences through great wines. By understanding the environment, they know exactly what the wine is asking for when they make it. Made from grapes chosen one cluster at a time from their vines at the El Fresno, vineyard in Laguardia, Rioja Alavesa, this beautiful wine was aged 2 years in oak and 3 years in the bottle before it was made available for distribution. We are so lucky that this 2008 100% Tempranillo is available to us... it's rare to find a 2008 available for a wine club at this price! This is a gloriously mature Gran Reserva! Wine Enthusiast rates this 95 points, or Superb!

**About the Region:** Rioja Alavesa, the smallest of the three Rioja sub-regions, is a premier wine-producing area in the Basque Country of northern Spain. Situated north of the Ebro River and protected by the Sierra de Cantabria, it is known for producing high-quality, structured Tempranillo-based red wines. This region has an Atlantic climate with cool, wet influences, tempered by the mountains. The region is a premier destination for wine tourism, offering visitors the chance to stay in historic, vineyard-surrounded settings. There are nearly 300 wineries in Rioja Alavesa and is characterized by historic vineyards. Tempranillo is considered the "noble grape" of the Rioja region, accounting for over 75% of all vineyard plantings. Several factors make it uniquely ideal for the production of Rioja wines, including the fact that it ripens several weeks before other local varieties, such as Garnacha. Smaller amounts of excellent white wine, with a good acid balance, are also made in Alavesa, typically from a blend of Viura and Malvasia.

**Tasting Notes:** The nose presents intense red and black fruit (candied cherry, raspberry, plum), spices (cacao), tobacco, leather, and cedar. Medium to full-bodied, with a lingering, silky, and long finish, the wine is elegant and balanced, featuring smooth, ripe tannins, with a distinct mineral and earthy quality. The experts say, "flavors of savory plums, black cherry, walnut husk, anise, and balsamic hints." One reviewer said, "Ripe, deep, good stuff!" We just think this beautifully mature Gran Reserva Rioja is a

classic, juicy Tempranillo with perfect amounts of tannins. A real beauty! We recommend decanting for a time prior to drinking.

**Food Pairing:** A 2008 Gran Reserva Rioja, known for its mature notes of dried fruit, tobacco, leather, and savory oak, pairs best with rich, roasted meats and aged cheeses. The classic pairings are roasted leg of lamb, braised shanks, or herb-crusted lamb chops. Commonly recommended are Spanish Tapas, of course, and try this one... **Chorizo al Vino:** Chorizo braised in red wine. The smoky paprika and rich pork fat stand up well to the wine's oak-influenced spice. Honestly, we'd sit on the couch and drink this while watching Landman!

**Great News for Wine Club Members! We love our members, and, going forward, we'll be having special discounted items available for Club Members only. Make sure you update your phone numbers and email addresses to get the info monthly. For February: Sutter Buttes Pasta Sauce and all wine tools will be 20% off for Wine Club Members only. In addition, going forward, our Club Members will have first shot at reserving spots for all CV events and wine tastings... now that's a great benefit!**