

Wine & Spirits

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Wine & Spirits recognizes the Ferrers as **one of the great families in wine!**

wine
FAMILY
TREES

FERRER

When Pedro Ferrer Bosch met Dolores Sala Vivé, his family had been in the winemaking business for 300 years, running La Freixeneda in the Alt Penedès.



Sala Vivé's family also made and exported wine in Sant Sadurn d'Anoia, but when they met in the late 1800s, Spain's wine industry was reeling from the devastation of phylloxera. To save their family business, they shifted to sparkling wine, replanting vineyards to macabeo, xarel-lo and parellada, and digging cellars for aging. The first bottles of sparkling Freixenet—pronounced “fresh-eh-net”—hit the market in 1915.

Today, the company is the largest producer of sparkling wine in the world, producing some 200 million bottles of Cava each year, matured in caves that extend some 21 square miles underground. They also run Gloria Ferrer Winery in Sonoma, California, which Pedro's youngest son, José, founded with his wife, Gloria, in 1982, before Carneros became known for its sparkling wines. Today, the estate extends to 335 acres and also produces still versions of pinot noir and chardonnay.

Since then, the family has launched Sala Vivé winery in Querétaro, Mexico; Terra Nova in Chile; and Finca Ferrer in Mendoza's Uco Valley. They've also purchased the René Barbier brand in Spain; the Champagne house of Henri Abelé in Reims; the négociant Yvon Mau in Bordeaux; the Wingara Wine Group in Australia; and several wineries in Spain: Valdubón (Ribera de Duero), Morlanda (Priorat), Vionta (Rías Baixas) and Bodegas Santamaria López (Rioja).

Cava, however, remains the family's focus, with wines under the labels Freixenet, Segura Viudas, Castellblanch, Canals & Nubiola and Conde de Caralt. Freixenet alone pulls grapes from some 2,000 growers in the Penedès.

While they have wineries in seven countries spanning three continents, there are enough Ferrers to manage them: Pedro, now CEO, works closely with his brother, José Maria; cousins Enrique Hevia Ferrer, Eudaldo Bonet Ferrer, José Luis Bonet Ferrer and Pedro Bonet Ferrer; and the next generation—José Ferrer Miranda, Pedro Ferrer Miranda and Gloria Ferrer Miranda.

by Tara Q. Thomas