WINNER. ARCHITECTURE

Bodega Mont-Ras

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Building a winery and winemaking are experiences that are inextricably linked to the land. Wine is aroma, colour, flavour, body and the essence of the grape. Creating this heady mix of sensations and perceptions should take place in a setting that is truly worthy of this transformation process.

In this sense, the project is based on four key aspects:

1. - The winery building plan addresses the wine production requirements and also the need to order the connection with the existing *masía* country house. Winemaking takes place in four units separated by intermediate spaces that house the facilities. Starting from the right-hand side, the first unit is used to store vineyard machinery and equipment, as well as housing the laboratories, bottling plant and cold store, whilst the second contains the must maceration vats. The third unit is used for the long-term storage of the barrels and resting bottles. The fourth and final unit houses the tasting area and is also where the bottles ready for uncorking are kept. A tunnel-shaped entrance leading from the upper section of the *masía* country house to the tasting unit structures the owners' access route. Entry to the other 3 units is directly from the vineyards.

2. - The moisture in the earth aids conservation. The winery was embedded in the land to maintain the ideal temperature and define the *masía* country house platform. The earth is malleable and allows space to be created around it.

3. - Depth of space aids sound absorption and generates a sense of void and shade. The light is an organising element for the space, shifting from light to dark and back again.

4. - The construction concept is based on the technique of spatial organisation and the optimisation of effort. The building is essentially a buried platform. The garden roof offloads the weight of the earth thanks to a series of concrete vaults meticulously calculated to form a section of hyperbolic arches. The platform performs a dual function of collecting and retaining water which is then sent to a tank for its later reuse. The perimeter walls that retain the earth boast an optimum geometry capable of withstanding the compressive strength of the earth. Vaults made with vertically-laid fired clay tiles allow the overhead light to enter.

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