

THE OTHER TALENTS OF THE ULMA GROUP

Employees and partners of the Group make their professional career compatible with very demanding hobbies in which they demonstrate that all obstacles can be overcome with talent and hard work.

Through the grapevine...

Jon Urzelai, ULMA Piping

Jon Urzelai "Belas", Area Manager at ULMA Piping for 2 years, combines his work life with the life of the village and, above all, the txakoli.

Work, tenacity, culture, roots, nature, are just some of the ideas that come to mind when we talk about the life of a country house. A life marked by effort and work as a family.

This is the life of ULMA Piping's Jon Urzelai - to the farmhouse and back again. Always with a smile, happy and excited in equal measure. This is his life, a life full of nature and, for 11 years, surrounded by vineyards.

"Those of us who live in a country house love our house and life in the country. Some would run away. I, on the other hand, go to the vineyard. It helps me unwind", he tells us.

It was in 2007 when the txakoli began to make a noise among people and critics. This was when Jon, with the support of his family, decided to plant a vineyard of 300 plants next to his farmhouse. A year later, taking advantage of the fact that the "Txakoli de Getaria" denomination of origin was extended to all of Guipúzcoa, he extended the plantation to a full hectare. Later, in 2010, a further expansion; this time to one and a quarter hectares.

Today Jon has a total of 2.2 hectares of vineyards surrounding his farmhouse, which, at 3,472 plants per hectare, means a total of 7,638 plants. Hardly anything. And between the house and the vineyard, a generous garden with examples of Japanese maple, magnolias,

oaks, beeches, camellias, birches, etc. The green of summer gives way to a riot of colour in autumn.

"I have always liked plants, both fruit and ornamental. The world of wine also attracted me, so, I decided to get involved. In retrospect, the truth is that it was a crazy decision, but I'm happy", he states.

"It's a huge investment and, also, in the first four years you do not get anything back. Leaving ULMA and starting the tractor takes just ten minutes. I'm fortunate to work so close to home", says Jon.

AND NOW, TXAKOLI HAS ITS OWN TRADEMARK

Since last year, Jon has been using part of his harvest for his Txakoli brand called BELASKUA. A txakoli that has a very good opinion among the critics. However, as Urzelai tells us, "The vineyard and the txakoli is a hobby and that is what it will remain. Sitting at the entrance of the farmhouse with family and friends and savouring your own txakoli is a unique sensation."

As for the future, Jon has just launched his project on the web with a website at www.belaskua.com which, in addition to publicizing his txakoli, tells us the history of his farmhouse for about 500 years.

Long live the txakoli and life in the farmhouse!

Eskumako aldean, Jon bere traktorearen ondoan Belaskua txakolin botilarekin; lerro hauen >> azpian, baserriaren eta mahastien bista panoramikoa.



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