

## MASTINES DE LOS BALANCINES

The Spanish Mastiff has accompanied the transhumant herdsmen in Spain for more than 4000 years. Its special characteristics made it an ideal dog to protect livestock from attack by predators, as it is the only breed able to successfully face the wolf and the bear. Transhumance takes place throughout the peninsula, taking the flocks from north to south and from south to north depending on the date of the year, always looking for benign temperatures and abundant pastures.

When in 2005 we came to Los Balancines, we found that the quality Mastiffs had disappeared almost entirely from the environment, being replaced by much smaller dogs, which resembled the old mastiffs but did not retain their natural intimidating bearing, so important to dissuade predators from attacking. At the same time, we found out that the Extremadura shepherds complained of attacks of mongoose, foxes, wild dogs and in the north of the region they began to talk about the wolves again. Our deep-rooted connection with the natural environment and the desire to participate in a useful project for the inhabitants of the area, decided 12 years ago, to reintroduce the authentic Spanish Mastiffs in the region. We began to develop a work of selection of dogs that continued working with shepherds in all Spain, we moved to see them in action, we learned all the details of their breeding and handling, and we began to breed with carefully selected dogs. Throughout the years, we have managed to stabilize a solid, healthy breeding line, with a natural character aimed at the protection of people and livestock. We have recovered the breed to introduce it to work with regional herds and today we can say that many of the dogs that we have raised already work with sheep, goats, horses, cows and people in harmony. The herds with good Mastines do not suffer attacks and that avoids the indiscriminate hunting of wolves and other predators, helping to have a sustainable and well-balance environment.

After more than 12 years working on the recovery of the Spanish Mastiff, the time has come to pay them the homage they deserves. For this reason, we have united our two passions Wine and Mastiffs. Our “Limited Edition Mastines Collection” is our best tribute to these animals that have walked alongside us for centuries.

