

# Rioja Alavesa

Nothing like an evening enjoying a glass of good red wine in one hand, while you pet your dog with the other. The Rioja Alavesa, region or “square” separated from the rest of Alava by the Mountain Ranges of Cantabria and Toloño, and from La Rioja by the River Ebro, this unique experience awaits you.

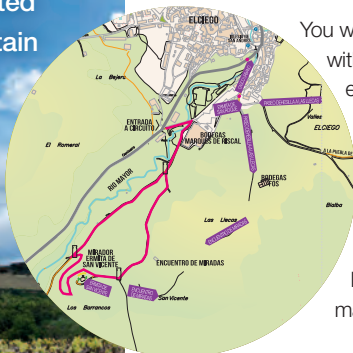
## Stroll among vineyards in Elciego


On your visit to La Rioja Alavesa, a stroll around some of their vineyards is a must in order to understand the whole process to make this millennial drink. Feel the earth it comes from before trying a glass. We recommend this easy walk around Elciego.


Depending on the time of the year you will find a different landscape: brown tones in winter and spring, intense greens in summer and spectacular red tones in autumn.


You will find dirt paths that are connected with wooden walkways to make it easier, enjoying the landscape and the company.

Obligatory stops: **Viewing bay of the Hermitage of St Vicente and the viewing bay of St Roque.** On the way you will also find a **botanical garden** dedicated to the **Mediterranean** plant life, named after historic apothecary and mayor in the 18th century, **Xavier Arizaga.**



 **Estimated time: 45 minutes**, stopping to take photos, enjoy the countryside and the peace and quiet (2.5 km). Save a little more time if you want to visit the viewing bay “Hermitage of San Roque”.

 **Perfect plan for:** a relaxed walk to work up an appetite before an aperitif, wine included, in the town of Elciego: clink your glass to your well-behaved pooch!

 **Be attentive that your “best friend” does not eat any grapes, as these are highly toxic for many dogs.**

# Discovering the towns of La Rioja Alavesa

When you visit the towns, you will better understand the long winemaking tradition in the area. Its mediaeval quarters and walls will transport you to another era.

Sitting in one of the street cafes, leisurely drinking a glass of wine with your dog is one of the pleasures awaiting you in the towns of La Rioja Alavesa.

**Laguardia** - Capital of this “square”, also known as the “capital of wine”. Enjoy the mediaeval layout of the narrow streets in the old quarter, the entrance gateways to the town and the remains of the walls. It is also worth visiting the Neolithic or Bronze Age ruins nearby, the oldest agricultural communities discovered in the Basque Country.

**Labastida** - after a walk around the Old Quarter and going up to the Hermitage of El Santo Cristo, don't miss out on touring the Machimbrado, where stones have been worked into the shape of figures and symbols.

**Labraza** - walled town of mediaeval origin situated 677 metres above sea level, this is the smallest fortified town in the Basque Country, and obtained the World Walled Town of the year Award in 2008.

**Samaniego** - small town of just over 300 inhabitants, situated at the foot of the Cantabrian Mountains. A must is a stroll around the old quarter, to admire its fortress church and the beauty of the stately houses.

**Lapuebla de Labarca** - in the old part, you will discover a good concentration of Renaissance-style houses with perfectly-preserved coats of arms on their façades.





## Laguardia Lagoon Complex Green Route

This route allows you to visit this Protected Biotype made up of 4 wetlands. The first, Prao de la Paul, is a basin, and the other 3, Carralagroño, Musco and Carravalseca, are natural seasonal lagoons.

These wetlands house an important biodiversity, especially migratory birds, that use the lakes as a resting spot.

**Doggy-advice:** *The route passes far enough from the lagoons in order not to disturb the birds, but always keep your dog under control because you will most likely hear cawing and singing. A long leash will give your dog sufficient freedom and will help you to keep him/her well under control. Remember that birdwatchers from all over the world come here to observe the birds in their calm natural environment.*

## Stone winepresses of Labastida

A wine press is a structure on a bank of sandstone where the grape has been transformed into must by stepping and/or pressing.

The presses were frequently in places exposed to plunder and fires, since they were unbreakable, fireproof structures that could not be robbed. They were used between the 12th and 15th centuries in walled areas.

The town of **Labastida** preserves **12** such stone presses dedicated to pressing the grape. You can visit them in their natural environment.

This way, you can discover one of the most ancient ways of making wine, all while enjoying a walk around Labastida.

*More information and a map of stone wine presses at [www.alavaturismo.eus](http://www.alavaturismo.eus)*



**Estimated time: 2.5 hours** (10km circular route)



**Perfect plan for:** discovering that la Rioja Alavesa is much more than wine in the company of your dog.



**There are no water stops, so carry sufficient water to keep you and your dog well-hydrated.**



# Rioja Alavesa: Practical information



## **Acomodation**

### **LAGUARDIA**

- Sercotel Villa De Laguardia**  
+34 945 600 560

## **Things to do**

### **LABASTIDA**

- Cazaventuras**  
+34 676 925 746  
*A la carte tourism and outdoor leisure activities with your dog.*

### **LAGUARDIA**

- Javier San Pedro Ortega Wineries**  
+34 636 082 927  
*Wine bar*

### **LAPUEBLA DE LABARCA**

- Lapuebla Kayaks**  
+34 646 588 525  
*Rides on the River Ebro by kayak or Paddle Surf with your dog.*

### **LEZA**

- Lozano Wineries**  
+34 945 605 197  
*The winery provides vineyard experiences, has a shop, restaurant and wine bar with terrace where clients are welcome. For legal reasons, they cannot access the handling and barrel area.*

### **MOREDA DE ÁLAVA**

- Enoaventura**  
+34 636 379 877  
*Strolls around vineyards, picnic and wine-tasting with dogs.*