

Tritium Winery - La Rioja

RICH DARK MATTER



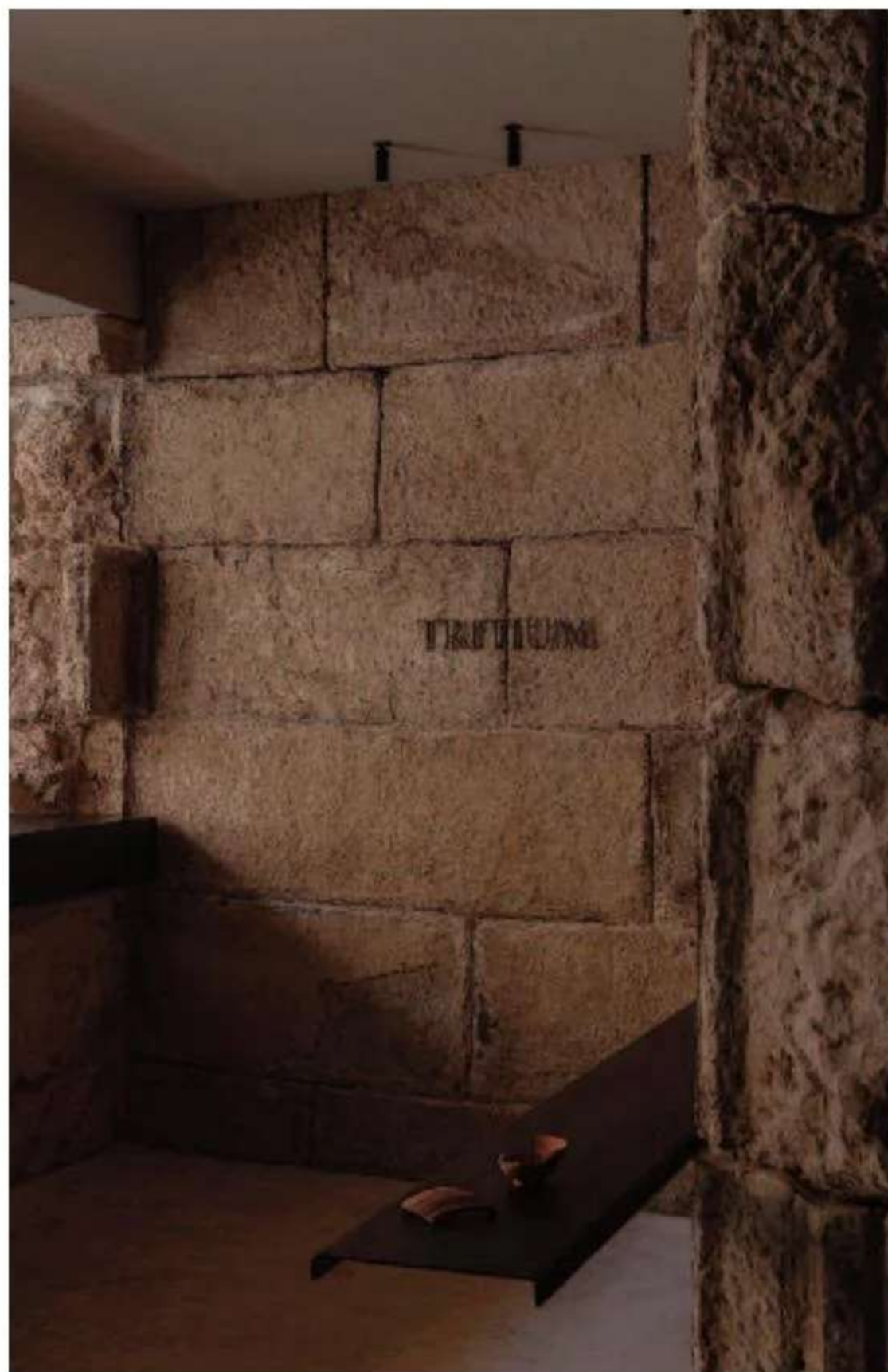
The design of the Tritium Winery in La Rioja, Spain, much like its wines, tells a story of striking contrasts—where the old meets the new, complexity balances simplicity, and light plays against shadow. Situated in the town of Cenicero, the project masterfully unites the restoration of a historic building with the addition of a contemporary structure, its façade of charred wood evoking the form of a wine barrel. Designed by Francesc Rifé Studio from Barcelona, the new construction was conceived to complement rather than overshadow the original 15th-century edifice.

A central element of the renovation was the revival of an underground cellar, accompanied by the creation of a reception area and a versatile space that seamlessly adapts as a dining hall, tasting room, or venue for training events.

The new architectural volume introduces a rich, dark material palette—stained oak wood, black steel, and burnt pine—which not only accentuates the historic ashlar stonework but also ensures durability while contributing to optimal wine preservation.

The underground cellar, extending 36 meters in length and descending 7 meters in depth, has been reimagined with smoked grey glass doors

**These pages: like its wines,
the design of the Tritium
Winery in La Rioja, Spain,
reads like a story of
contrasts: old and new,
complex and simple, light
and dark. Located in the
town of Cenicero, the
project combines the
renovation of a pre-existing
building with a new
structure whose façade,
made of charred wood,
evokes the shape of a
barrel. It was a creation by
Francesc Rifé Studio.
Photos: Javier Márquez**







and a refined metal framework. This carefully orchestrated interplay of materials and light reveals its spaces in a gradual, theatrical sequence, unveiling the barrel storage, tasting area, and an archival repository of historical vintages.

Beyond enhancing the aesthetic dialogue between past and present, the architectural intervention has rationalized the spatial layout, fostering a more fluid and efficient circulation. The reception area and entrance to the new cellar lead into a transitional zone that connects to the production and logistics room, where visitors can observe the steel, concrete, and ceramic grape-pressing tanks through a glass and lattice partition.

The corridor opens into a dramatic double-height space, providing access to the old cellar and framed by a sculptural staircase ascending to the first floor.

The wooden-clad railing seamlessly transforms into a tasting bar, beyond which lie an office, kitchen, restrooms, and the multipurpose hall.

Returning to the ground floor, the journey concludes at what was once the main entrance, now reimagined as a sales and exit point, marking the perfect synthesis of heritage and innovation.



These pages: the new construction sought to complement the original building which dates back to the 15th century. The designers recovered of an underground cellar and constructed the addition of a reception and multi-purpose room that works well as a dining room, tasting room or to host training events.

Next pages: new architecture rationalized the space, creating a more efficient circulation. The entire dark narrative unfolds in stained oak wood, black steel, and burnt pine.



