Marqués de Riscal Vineyard
in Elciego, Spain
The little town of Elciego is situated in the heart of the wine-growing district of Rioja Alavesa, about 150 km south of Bilbao, the capital of the Basque region. In autumn 2006, the venerable Marqués de Riscal bodega opened a new luxury hotel here which has become a source of much interest and brought visitors flocking to the town.

Designed by Frank O. Gehry, the main building with its walls of pale sandstone seems embedded in an organic sculpture that resembles a mass of outsized flowing ribbons. At the side, the building is raised on stone pillars to form a covered entrance way. The sculptural curves and folds create a spectacular roof landscape, covering part of this complex comprising fourteen luxury suites, a
wine bar, two restaurants, conference rooms, a lounge and a roof-top library. From the latter are panoramic views over the village and the surrounding vineyards. Inside, on three floors, the dominant materials are maple wood, leather and marble. A deconstructivist covered walkway links the main building to an adjacent wing, which is of a more simple design from the outside. Accommodated here are a further 29 luxury hotel rooms and a top-class spa area.

The expressive, organic shapes of the multiply curved roof landscape are in fact achieved in metal. They symbolise the various parts of the bottle that are removed before serving the wine. Golden titanium sheet represents the fine cage of wire that encases the Marqués de Riscal Rioja wines, rosé-coloured sheet stands for the wine itself, and the silver sheet, of stainless steel, for the foil covering over the cork.
In total 1,750 square metres of austenitic stainless steel (grade: EN 1.4401) were used in this intricate sculpture. Where it acts as a roof covering, a slightly reflective 2B mill finish was chosen, for the façade cladding a 2D finish was used, polished to a high-gloss finish in the upper areas. Separator strips between the galvanized steel support frame and the stainless steel and titanium sheets, and polyamide casing around the stainless steel rivets provide long-term protection against bi-metallic corrosion for this spectacular roof.

**Hotel guests can enjoy extensive views of the vineyards and surrounding countryside from the roof terrace.**