

González Byass

Desde 1835

Familia de Vino

# 2017 HARVEST REPORT FROM GONZÁLEZ BYASS FAMILY OF WINE

As one of Spain's most renowned, quality wine producers González Byass is in a privileged position to report on the country's major wine regions. With properties in the D.O.'s of Jerez, Rioja, Cava, Somontano, Castilla-La Mancha, Rueda and Rías Baixas, few major winemaking families can give such an extensive overview of the harvest this year. In addition the company has recently bought the top, Chilean winery Bodegas Veramonte, and its sister brands and estates, Ritual, Primus and Neyen, into the fold and so we are happy to give a round-up of the harvest from there earlier this year.

Overall Spain has had a hot and very dry vintage in 2017. Grape quality and concentration is up but as a result the volumes are down, as in the rest of Europe's major wine producing countries.

With the exception of Jerez, where volumes were up by 20% in 2017, the dry, hot weather conditions and lack of rain in most regions means that producers are potentially facing the inevitability of increased prices for grapes. The severe Spring frosts in Rioja and Somontano are particularly exacerbating this situation.

That being said quality is up across the board this vintage, few regions have experienced disease or fungal problems due to the dry conditions and consequently the grapes are in optimal health and full of concentration, indicating that 2017 will be a great vintage in Spain.



Notes from  
**Master Blender,  
Antonio Flores,**

**IWC Fortified Winemaker of the Year 2016**

## D.O. JEREZ: González Byass

Quantities are 20% up at González Byass Jerez on last year's harvest in 2017. This has been instigated in part by the 600 litres extra of rain over the year and a cool July, which has enabled the grapes to ripen well. This, together with the lack of disease or infestations in the vineyard, means that the quality of the vintage is very good. On average more than 12° Baume has been achieved, indicating good grape ripeness.

Sustainability is a core priority for the winery and the viticultural team have been working very hard on the quality of soils using organic materials to ensure "zero residues" and combat fungal disease. In addition, the teams have been applying sexual confusion techniques with use of pheromones to fight against moths, which is a frequent pest in the region.

For more information follow us on [@tiopepewine](#) and winemaker Antonio Flores on [@hacedordevinos](#)



## Notes from winemaker Matías Calleja

## D.O.Ca. RIOJA: Bodegas Beronia

The Rioja vintage was 15 days earlier than expected in comparison with previous years due to high temperatures in the region at the start of the Spring cycle. The region was hit by a heavy frost on the morning of the 28th April which affected development of the fruit over around 22.000 Has of vineyard across the region.

Having said that the vintage looks like it is going to be excellent in terms of quality: harvest has already begun in the most eastern part of the Rioja Alta with the first varieties to be harvested being: Tempranillo, Garnacha, Graciano and Mazuelo. In addition the

collection of the grapes in our organic vineyards has almost finished.

The vineyards closer to the winery in Ollauri are now being harvested along with the Viura and the remaining Tempranillo. If we don't have any adverse weather or rain we are set to have a perfect season for grape picking although quantities will be down. Initial predictions are that this will be an excellent harvest for Rioja, if short on volume.

For more information follow us on [@beronia](#) and [www.beronia.com](http://www.beronia.com)



## Notes from winemaker Marian Santamaría

## D.O. RUEDA: Bodegas Beronia Rueda

The 2017 harvest has been defined by the winter drought and a sharp Spring frost which reduced the yield by 20%, compared with 2016. Early bud break and developed maturation lead to the earliest harvest on record at the beginning of August, starting two weeks earlier than average.

As a result some of the initial fermentations are showing less expression, and for most, the pH levels have been a challenge. At Beronia however, our unique double harvesting technique has helped to rectify this issue. Our first triage through the vineyard providing the freshness and acidity normally expected from Verdejo, the second giving weight and aromatics to produce some delicious wines.

2017 has seen the inauguration of the new winery in Rueda and the first vintage being made at our own property. The winery has been constructed to high sustainability standards to maximise all of the sustainable farming techniques in the vineyard. The winery is equipped with all the latest equipment so that we can lower emissions, for example, due to the design of the winery we are able to capture and re-use rainwater and our biomass boiler helps to reduce our impact on the environment.

For more information follow us on [@beronia](#) and [www.beronia.com](http://www.beronia.com)



## Notes from winemaker Damià Deàs

## D.O. CAVA: Vilarnau

Low rainfall and high temperatures in June, July and August has meant 10% less volume in this year's harvest than average, especially for Macabeo and Xarel.lo. Given that the 2016 vintage was already 20% lower than average we will have a considerable shortfall in quantity in 2017.

Owing to the high temperatures the grapes were in excellent health, especially in our organic vineyards but as a result the alcohol levels are quite high. The harvest started 15 days earlier than last year, on the 7th August in our "Vilarnau d'Espells" vineyard, with the Chardonnay and the Pinot Noir, on the 10th August we started with the Macabeo, followed by the Xarel.lo on the 31st.

The Garnacha and Subirat Parent (Malvasía) harvest began on the 31st and we have just finished collecting the Parellada. We anticipate finishing with the Parelladas in the Penedès Superior (+700 m above sea level) which will give the great acidity necessary for our aged cavas.

100% of the Vilarnau owned vineyards are now organic and the grapes from our contracted growers are now 80% organic and this is the first year that we have made a 100% organic Garnacha, which we can't wait to release.

For more information  
follow us on  
[@cavesvilarnau](#) and  
[www.vilarnau.es](http://www.vilarnau.es)



## Notes from winemaker José Ferrer

## D.O. SOMONTANO: Viñas del Vero

At Viñas del Vero a 12% reduction in the volume of harvest compared to 2016 is predicted in 2017. This is due to a severe frost on the morning of the 30th April and the summer drought. These conditions, plus a long, hot summer meant that Viñas del Vero broke all records with harvest starting earlier than ever on the 16th August. We think that it will all be over by the 27th September.

Harvesting of the white varieties began the week of the 11th September and the red varieties started to be harvested on the 18th September.

Despite the hot summer, with nearly no rainfall, Spring and Winter were very rainy. These conditions have had an impact on the traditional, native varieties. The health of the

grapes is exceptional and the quality is outstanding as we have suffered from no disease throughout the growing cycle.

The consequent reduction of fruit on the vines, due to the drought has led to great concentration in the musts which are rich and full of flavour and promise.

This year we have seen a number of new developments in the vineyard in the winery including; a change in harvesting logistics, moving night harvesting through to dawn to maximise the cooler temperatures. Work starts at 1am through to 8am to protect the grapes as much as possible, this also counters changing climatic conditions and saves on energy.



Also in the vineyard we have increased the number of hectares of vineyard where we use biological tools to control *Lobesia Botrana*, which means that we are using less and less pesticides and becoming more and more sustainable.

In the winery we have employed a new system that moves the cap of the must, using the carbon dioxide created during fermentation, which in turn avoids the use of pumping over and mechanical push down.

For more information follow us on [@FinaConstancia](#) and [www.fincaconstancia.es](http://www.fincaconstancia.es)



## VdT CASTILLA: Finca Constancia

High temperatures from February onwards, coupled with the low rainfall, have resulted in a high quality, early vintage at Finca Constancia. There has been a slight increase in production of 3% compared with 2016.

2017 coincided with the Perseid Meteor shower which made for a magical night, perfectly suited to the philosophy behind this wine.

The days immediately prior to the harvest were very hot with very little diurnal variation which meant that harvest started on the 31st July with Moscatel, quickly followed by the Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Verdejo. We have now collected all of the the Syrah and Petit Verdot are showing excellent quality and maturity, so will be harvested soon.

This year has seen the inauguration of a research and development winery at Finca Constancia, designed to vinify the grapes from our experimental vineyard separately, in order to improve our work in the single parcels that make up the estate and progress with our work on aromatic profiling.

Having concentrated the harvest into less days, in comparison with other harvests, 70% of the deposits of red varieties have been racked and are starting malolactic fermentation, which is also beneficial to energy saving.

The harvest of the bio-dynamic Tempranillo took place on "root" days, in accordance with the biodynamic calendar. The night harvest of the wines destined for the Entre Lunas

For more information follow us on [@FinaConstancia](#) and [www.fincaconstancia.es](http://www.fincaconstancia.es)



Notes from  
**winemaker**  
**Beatriz Paniagua**

## D.O. RÍAS BAIXAS: Pazos de Lusco

The 2017 has been a healthy vintage for Albariño and in our opinion will be much better than in 2016. The warm summer led to less problems with mildew than in the last vintage.

vintage and there is good ripeness despite this being one of the earliest vintages in the region and the vine stress experienced.

As a result of the good weather conditions we predict a 20% increase in quantity compared with the previous

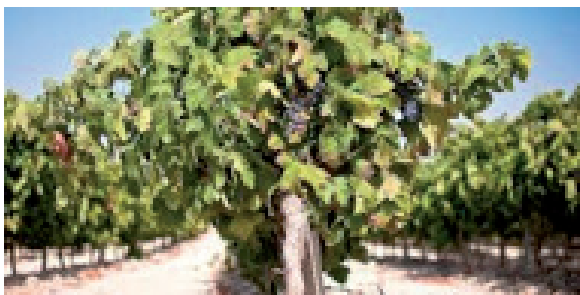
Harvest is now finished and due to the quality of the grapes Pazo de Lusco will be structured and aromatics.

Find out more at [www.lusco.es](http://www.lusco.es)



Notes from  
**Sergio Alén**





Notes from  
**winemaker**  
**José Pinedo**

## VdT CÁDIZ: **FINCA MONCLOA**

Low rainfall and high temperatures over the summer months has led to 30% less volume than in last year's harvest, as a result the grape quality is excellent for all the varieties that we grow on the estate.

The vintage started very early on the 8th August with Merlot and ended on the 23rd August with Tintilla de Rota, the native varietal to this region which we have recuperated to make our award-winning Tintilla de Rota, sweet, red wine.

All of the tanks have now been emptied following alcoholic and malolactic fermentation is underway. Unfortunately owing to the low levels of production we will have less in terms of volume but the wines are very concentrated and we anticipate great quality this year.

Find out more on  
[www.gonzalezbyass.es](http://www.gonzalezbyass.es)  
and [@fincamoncloa](https://www.instagram.com/fincamoncloa)



Notes from  
**winemaker**  
**Rodrigo Soto**

## CHILE: **VERAMONTE**

Much has already been written about the Chilean harvest but we wanted to take the opportunity to talk a little about the harvest at Veramonte.

The 2017 season had very little winter rainfall, a total of 212 mm accumulated principally throughout June and July. There were seven Spring frost events of medium intensity in early September that required frost-control water system in addition to helicopter flights.

Temperatures rose significantly near the end of spring, affecting several physiological events that would later have a substantial effect on yields. November registered record high temperatures, increasing the monthly average by two degrees. From then through April, average temperatures were the highest ever

recorded. This increased the plants' metabolism and dramatically affected the flowering and fruit-set processes.

Large-scale fires raged throughout the south central part of Chile in April catastrophically affecting the dry, coastal regions. The harvest began in mid-February, almost a month ahead of the previous year. In terms of quality, grapes were harvested with very good parameters, the sugar and acidity showing a surprising balance. This in addition to low yields resulted in remarkable aromatic intensity and flavour, producing wines with good balance and excellent concentration.

Find out more at  
[www.veramonte.cl](http://www.veramonte.cl) and  
[facebook.com/veramontewines](https://www.facebook.com/veramontewines)  
and  
[instagram.com/veramontewines](https://www.instagram.com/veramontewines)

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