

GONZALEZ BYASS

Family of Wine

2018

Harvest in Spain

a snapshot

González Byass

Desde 1835

Familia de Vino

The 2018 harvest in Spain has been defined by changeable weather. Following the last two years of drought and high temperatures, the wet spring brought welcome hydration back to the vineyards but the inevitable negative consequences of fungal diseases, particularly mildew, have presented their challenges in many wine producing regions across the Iberian Peninsula.

The upside of increased rainfall means that quantities will be up this year, after some scarce crops in 2016 and 2017. Careful control of the vineyards and monitoring of disease have been the watchwords this year and those winemakers and viticulturists with a hands-on approach in the field will be the victors in 2018 when it comes to quality.

The final official declarations on this vintage are yet to be published in many regions, however overall it is anticipated that the vintage will be classified as good, and in some cases very good. Especially in the drier more southerly regions where the hot temperatures in late July and August enabled the clusters to recover from elevated moisture levels in spring.

At González Byass our viti- and vini-cultural teams have had to be on their toes this year, having become accustomed to heat and early harvests, 2018 kept them guessing. Our ability as a team to adapt quickly to the changeable conditions, prolong the processes in the vineyard and, most importantly, be patient, has been the key to a successful harvest.

We are committed to the environment where we produce our wines across Spain and Chile, as a result, we have tried our best to listen to Mother Nature and acclimatise our work in the vineyard to her rhythms. Consequently, despite the issues that 2018 has presented, we believe we have some fabulous young wines in the tanks waiting to be aged or bottled. This year will prove to be a very good vintage for the González Byass Family of Wineries.





Bodegas González Byass: D.O. Jerez – Xérès - Sherry

In 2018 the total rainfall was down in comparison to last year and our usual average: 574 l/m² this year, compared to 615 l/m² in 2017 (-7%) and 629 l/m² our historical average (-9%).

That being said rainfall during this campaign has been good, the shortfall from last year presaged a poor year agriculturally speaking in the area however exceptional amounts of rain concentrated in the months of March and April have led to a very good year in the end.

Temperatures were high during winter and spring/early summer was marked by the fresh westerly winds. The absence of the Levante wind meant that temperatures were well below the usual maximum temperatures we are used to. August was hot at the beginning of the month, thanks to a drying

easterly wind. These conditions led to a delay in the harvest, which began about 20 days late, at the end of August, compared to the usual timing of harvest in mid-August. As a result harvest began on 27th August and finished on the 11th September.

The fruit quality was very good and the average yields exceptional (+12,000 kg/ha). In short, a very good campaign both in terms of quantity and quality.



Beronia: D.O. Ca. Rioja

The climate this year has been marked by a very wet and cold winter with several bouts of snow, more snow than what we have come to expect in recent years. A humid and cold spring with abundant rainfall, almost double the norm, led to late bud-break across our vineyards.

Rapid development in the formation of clusters and good flowering, and fruit set, with a high fertility rate coincided with some sunny days and warmer temperatures in spring. However there were a lot of showers which increased the incidence of mildew and powdery mildew.

The intense rains continued well into the summer which delayed the vegetative cycle. Added to this we suffered from one significant hail storm in Rioja Alavesa, affecting about 250 hectares of vineyard between the villages of Leza to Elciego.

During August the climate was stable with sunny, hot days. This helped the maturation of the grapes and health of the vineyard. In September, we had no rains but it was somewhat cooler than usual, meaning that the ripening process was balanced

but slow. Consequently we were unable to recuperate any of the days lost at the beginning of the vintage and as a result the start of harvest was about fifteen days late.

The harvest developed in an orderly and staggered manner in the different subzones of the region. The harvest began on 21st September with Tempranillo and Garnacha, the Graciano and Mazuelo were left on the vine for picking later. The white varieties were next to be harvested.

The most advanced vineyards, in Rioja Alta, were all harvested on and around the 8th October through to the 27th when temperatures suddenly dropped and we had rain and snow in the higher areas.

It is still too early to confirm the overall quality of this vintage but our initial impressions are very positive and we anticipate that the volume will be around 480 MM Kg. This is good news as it will help to readjust the imbalance of stocks in the region due to volume shortfalls in recent years.



Beronia: D.O. Rueda

The 2018 vintage has been defined by the cold, dry winter and a rainy spring which was cool from the start, stretching into the first months of summer.

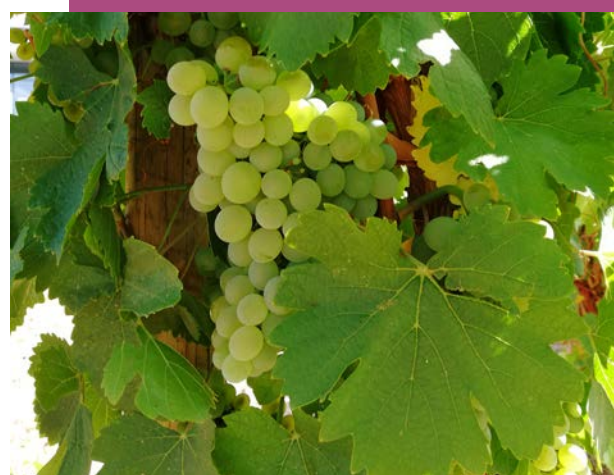
Abundant rainfall during the vegetative cycle was concentrated in the last months of spring and the start of summer, when we also had some hail storms. This, together with the low temperatures at the start of spring, led to a delay in bud break at the end of April/early May, making it almost a month later than in 2017 but within our average expectations.

As a result, the levels of humidity during the vegetative cycle, and some problems with oídium/ mildew and pests, have been quite high in 2018. We have

worked hard to ensure the highest possible grape quality at harvest time.

Ripening took place in the middle of August, a very hot month which helped the process greatly, together with the difference between diurnal temperatures in September, which meant that the vines were in perfect health.

The harvest of the Verdejo grapes started on the 11th September and we gradually collected the grapes as and when maximum ripeness had been achieved on the vines. The harvest finished on the 3rd October. This year we have beaten our record with a total harvest of 130 million kilos collected.



Pazo de Lusco: D.O. Rías Baixas

2018 will be classified as a good year in terms of quantity despite the very irregular weather conditions we have had to deal with. In Condado do Tea, where our property is found, we suffered from a lot of humidity, rain and cool temperatures at the time of bud break, which meant that the vintage timings were delayed in comparison to what we normally expect.

Later on, especially in our subzone, the changeable conditions meant that we had some incidence of mildew/oidium which affected fruit set in some of our vineyards especially in the O Rosal area but to a lesser extent in El Salnés. We anticipate therefore that the total quantities for the Rías Baixas region will be a little less than last year.

Although the official figures have yet to be released by the

Consejo Regulador, we predict that the classification for the vintage will be "good".

The majority of growers in the region were quite preoccupied at the beginning of the harvest this year, having come out of a record harvest in 2017 which started on the 22nd August, 2018 was very late as the results of last year's drought began to be felt.

Here at Pazo de Lusco we anticipated, at the beginning of the summer, that the harvest start-date would be delayed to the end of September. However the excellent weather conditions between July and September meant that we eventually began picking grapes on the 12th September. Our 2018 vintage is looking great thanks to our use of native yeast and extended fermentation times.

Viñas del Vero: D.O. Somontano

This year has been very rainy in Somontano with a rainfall of 727 mm compared to our average of 513 mm/annum – almost 40% more than we normally expect. Summer temperatures were in line with those of recent years.

Over the year temperatures were around average this year in the region with no frost damage. That being said August was above average levels and consequently 2018 can be considered a hot year.

In terms of the vegetative cycle, the timing for bud break was in line with 2017 but flowering and veraison were about 10 days late in comparison with the previous

vintage. Harvest started with Merlot on the 27th August and finished on October 24th; a gradual harvest with just four days of rain which has allowed us to bring in the grapes in an optimum state. The white grapes, in general ripened more easily than the red, however the long maturation on the vine has meant that we have been able to achieve some fabulous aromatic character and good colour.

In terms of production the total quantity collected in Somontano remains around 18.8 million kg, which is well above the previous vintage.





Vilarnau: D.O. Cava

The Vilarnau harvest started on the morning of 16th August with Chardonnay, followed swiftly by Pinot Noir. The Macabeo harvest started on the 1st September and we continued with Xarel.lo, ending the harvest on the 8th October with Parellada.

After 3 years of drought, which resulted in harvest beginning very early, we can say that this year has returned to being a "normal" year with regard to the dates throughout the cycle.

Good levels of rainfall throughout the year, especially in spring, along with a drop in temperatures towards the end of August, have helped the quality and maturation of the grape.

We did have some issues with mildew due to the humidity levels in some vineyard areas, mainly in the Macabeo and in our organic vineyards but, thanks to our experience, we were able to control and minimise the effects on grape health and quality. The very particular weather conditions lead us to believe that 2018 will be the year for Xarel.lo.

Overall the quality of the grapes is high this year, with impressive acidity and great aromatic and fruit character.



Finca Constanca: VdIT Castilla

Each vintage stands out for some special reason and this year was no exception. November 2017 put us on our toes, taking a 180 degree turn with a very sharp and sudden cold snap, which cooled the temperatures right down.

A very cold winter, followed by a cool spring led into a mild June, putting the vegetative cycle back as the lower temperatures prevailed – an atypical year, which the winemaker has defined as a “slow burner”. Ripening, as a result, has been gradual and the health of the grapes impeccable. Rainfall has been above average and a dry harvest has left us feeling very positive about the quality of 2018.

The harvest began on 17th August and ended on 19th October... 2 months and 2 days in total. This is our most important period of the year, where creativity and ingenuity are at their height. The first variety to open the doors of the winery was Muscat, its freshness the key to the success of our Fragantia wines. On 19th October the last Cabernet Sauvignon grapes put the finishing touches to intense days of dedication, hard work and attention to detail in the vineyard.

In 2018 the secret has been patience. The future is most heartening.



Finca Moncloa: VdIT Cádiz

Rainfall in 2018 was much higher in the two previous years which were severely affected by drought. We had 746 l/m² at Finca Moncloa this year, 12% higher than the average for the area. March and April accounted for almost half of the year's total rainfall (427 l/m²) which gives an idea of the distribution of rainfall throughout the year.

The harvest began on 27th August and ended on 21st September,

lasting 26 calendar days in total. The duration of the harvest was extended due to the delay in the maturation of the Tintilla de Rota and Petit Verdot varieties.

After two years of drought and high summer temperatures, the production levels have returned to their previous levels (7,500 kg/ha), as have the quality levels, which are very good.





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