



B O D E G A S F O N T A N A

PROYECTO  
TERROIR



## **BODEGAS FONTANA UNDERTAKES A "TERROIR PROJECT" ON ITS MONTE CARBONERO ESTATE**

- It is the first time that a project of this kind has been undertaken in Castilla la Mancha.
- Over a period of 18 months, a group of experts carried out an extensive analysis of the Monte Carbonero estate in order to determine a range of factors, including the quality of the harvest, the typicity of the wines produced and the existence of previous vines.

The international "Terroir Project" is devoted to aiding winegrowers and winemakers in the process of creating wines that reflect the place in which they were grown; their physical *terroir*.

It is the first time in Castilla la Mancha that a bodega has undertaken the momentous task of zoning; splitting the vineyard into "*micro terroirs*." In addition, it is the first project of its kind in the area to be undertaken by a private winery. Similar studies have previously been carried out in the regions of Ribera del Duero and Rioja, but these were financed with public funds and by groups of producers, and no one particular estate was evaluated. Thanks to extensive studies of the local land and conditions, it will be possible to determine which zones of the estate are most favourable for specific types of grape, therefore achieving improvements in the end products. In adopting this diagnostic approach to winemaking, Bodegas Fontana joins prestigious bodegas such as Concha y Toro and Montes in Chile, and Chateau Vosne Romanée in France, who also take part in the Terroir Project.

During these studies, a number of excavations were carried out on each of the cultivated plots. These reached a depth of 2 metres, allowing an analysis of the soil potential and of current and future root development. In carrying out these studies, specific characteristics of the wines can be determined. On this estate for example, certain deep-reaching roots give an indication of the mineral content of the wine, whilst other more superficial roots will point to the fruit aromas of the wine. In the same way, the levels and types of clay will reveal information regarding the body and structure of the wine.

According to Ana Cantarero, the Director of the bodega, the principal object of this project is "...to discover the authentic typicity of our wines and to be able to trace them back to a specific *terroir* Monte Carbonero." In addition, Ana Cantarero reaffirmed that "...the zoning of the estate into *micro terroirs* will allow improvements in planning - in terms of the management of the vineyard itself and of the harvesting - in accordance with our production objectives and always respecting our *terroir*."

According to Rodrigo Espinosa, the winemaker at Bodegas Fontana, "This investigative project will allow us to establish a new concept at Bodegas Fontana with regards to the style of our wines, creating unique and distinct products, in particular our top shelf wines such as Quercus and Dueto. It



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is important to stress that work carried out on this scale within each individual plot of vineyard, is pioneering in Spain.”

### **The Terroir Project**

This project was born as a result of methodology developed in the French investigation centre of INAPG (National Agronomic Institute of Paris) through the development of three separate doctoral theses, which provided a continual characterization of the *terroirs* of Champagne (1995), the Rhône valley (2001) and the High Valley of Maipo (2004).

The methodology covers three significant phases, the first being the determination of the viticultural capacity of the soil of Monte Carbonero. In order to achieve this, the team dedicated to this particular project, first created a database of information gathered by high-resolution satellites. This was then validated at ground level with the results of studies from a number of 2-metre deep troughs in the soil. The physical and chemical properties of the soil were determined and a radicular profile of the vineyard was carried out with particular reference to the characteristics of the wine produced.

A second phase was concerned with the vigour and suitability of the vineyard for certain varieties and with viticultural conditions such as management, age, irrigation etc. It is fundamental to be able to relate this variable with the viticultural capacity and type of soil established during the first phase. This second stage was achieved by studying satellite images of the vineyard during the ripening stage of the grapes. This information was backed up on the ground with data relating to the amount of pruning that took place and was linked to the soil types through the use of SIG. (Geographical Information System.)

The third and final phase was concerned with determining and validating the *micro terroir* units, assigning to each a suitable type of grape in terms of typicity and identity, and associating this with the type of wine produced. The objectives of Bodegas Fontana were always taken into consideration during this planning process. To do this, sugar, pH, acidity and polyphenol levels were measured. Vinification by sector was also carried out in the winery in 5,000 and 10,000 litre tanks. A further description of the typicity of each *micro terroir* was carried out through a sensory analysis.

### **International Consultancy**

Bodegas Fontana is honoured to collaborate on this project with Pedro Parra, an expert in viticultural *terroirs*. He holds a doctorate in the subject from the prestigious Study Centre of Grignon (Paris) and trained at the INRA and National Agronomic Institute of Paris (INAPG).

Parra has worked on similar projects in the Burgundy area and in addition to his collaboration with Bodegas Fontana, is also a consultant to the multinational Chilean bodega of Concha y Toro and to the Vice-Count Liger Belair, owner of the Chateau de Vosne Romanee and the famous wine La Romanee in Burgundy. He works alongside Aurelio Montes, considered to be the top producer of first-class wines in Chile.

Bodegas Fontana is a family business dedicated to the production of high quality wines, situated in the province of Cuenca. Since its origins in 1997, it has been known for its innovation and investigation in both the fields of oenology and viticulture.

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