



GONZALEZ BYASS WINERIES: VINTAGE NEWS

from

Rioja, Penedès, Somontano, Castilla La Mancha, Cádiz and Jerez

The Gonzalez Byass group of wineries span some of Spain's top wine producing regions and as the harvest starts to come to a close its winemakers have summarised the vintage characteristics for the 2009 harvest.

The hot summer conditions meant that the harvest began early in each region, except Rioja where the harvest started slightly later than expected. The hot weather in the last two weeks of August and the first two weeks of September, initially lead to lower phenolic maturity however patience on the part of the growers and winemakers has meant that good levels of phenolic ripeness have now been achieved. Harvest is now completed in each winery except in Bodegas Beronia, in Rioja, where it is set to continue until the end of October.

The winemaking teams at each of the Gonzalez Byass wineries expect to make well balanced, high quality wines, even if the yields will be lower than anticipated. "There is no doubt that we will be producing some characterful wines in 2009," comments Javier Sanz, head winemaker, "alcohol levels will be higher than normal given the weather but with good levels of maturity and concentration achieved we anticipate that this will be a good vintage, even if the yields are less than we would usually expect."

Pedro Aibar, head winemaker at Viñas del Vero, adds, "The vintage started exceptionally early this year, August being the hottest on record in recent years. This heat and the lack of rain have meant that we have harvest very concentrated, healthy and small." He continues, "As a result yields are very low this year, not getting much above 35 Hl/Ha."

In Jerez the vintage was characterised by very good quality, high alcohol and good maturity in the grapes although González Byass expect a 20% lower yield than anticipated.

The Gonzalez Byass portfolio of wineries includes:

Gonzalez Byass, DO Jerez
Bodegas Beronia, DO Rioja
Viñas del Vero, DO Somontano
Finca Constancia, Vinos de Tierra de Castilla
Vilarnau, DO Penedès
Finca Moncloa, Vino de la Tierra de Cádiz

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