

# ALTOZANO

## VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA

### *History*

On 26th May 1999 the courts of Castilla-La Mancha approved the 'Indicación Geográfica Vinos de la Tierra de Castilla' (Geographic Indication of the wines of Castilla). The Law was established with the purpose of improving the grape growing and wine production sector in Castilla-La Mancha. The aim of this initiative is the identification of high quality wines that meet the demand of a market other than the market of denominations of origin. The Law under which this indication was created permits its use for all the wines that have been made entirely of grapes grown within the territory of the region. The idea to set this indication in motion caused much surprise in the agricultural world and broke established moulds. For the first time, Castilla-La Mancha has taken the initiative in the revolution that the wine world is experiencing in Spain, creating a regional wine, a product that can compete on equal terms in the international markets, since the possibilities of adjusting to consumer taste are huge.

### *Production Area*

Located in the heart of the Iberian peninsula, halfway between Madrid and Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha is made up of the provinces of Albacete, Ciudad Real, Cuenca, Guadalajara and Toledo. Due to a combination of intrinsic and natural characteristics, an appropriate terrain and beneficial climate, it is the ideal area for growing grapes and consequently the production of some spectacular wines with distinctive qualities.

The vineyards of Castilla-La Mancha are set out on a large plain with loose and healthy soil, clearly suitable for vines. With limestone-clay composition, its lithological characteristics vary depending on the zone, a factor that favours its own diversity and that of the agricultural produce.

Its climate is suitable for obtaining wines of high quality; a Mediterranean climate with continental degradation, marked seasons and considerable contrasts in temperature (daily and seasonal), which is a very favourable factor in the production of aromas.



*González Byass*

## *Viticulture*

The Vino de la Tierra classification includes the following grape varieties: reds – Bobal, Cabernet Sauvignon, Garnacha red, Merlot, Monastrell, Petit Verdot, Syrah, Tempranillo and Cencibel, in addition to supplementary varieties such as Coloraillo, Frasco, Garnacha tintorera, Moraiva agria, Moraiva dulce or crujidera, Negral or Tinto Basto and Tinto Velasco. Whites – Airén, Albillo, Chardonnay, Macabeo or Viura, Malvar, Sauvignon Blanc and the supplementary Merseguera or Meseguera, Moscatel de grano menudo, Pardillo or Marisancho, Pedro Ximénez and Torrontés.

The Vinos de la Tierra are wines that are not found within the exclusive Designations of Origin, but which nevertheless do not lack reliable quality. Apart from the fact that many may aspire to obtain this distinction, the majority come from a great vinicultural tradition. For the consumer this provides an excellent way to enjoy good wines at an accessible price and, also to be informed of details which regulations prohibit the more modest table wines from offering, these being the geographical area of origin, the grape varieties used and the years of production (harvest or vintage).



*González Byass*