

The 2022 harvest at Torelló Winegrowers

Drought and night harvesting

The **2022 harvest** on our Can Martí Estate started on 4th August, 5 days earlier than usual because of the drought and the rapid maturing of the earlier varieties, and ended on the 14th of September. The litres of rain per square metre collected between the 1st of January 2022 and the start of the harvest were just 179. On the other hand, in August and the first fortnight of September we received 75 litres of rain, of which our centenary olive trees will make the most. Since the end of the spring and throughout the summer we have had 4 severe heatwaves.



In Torelló, the nearly 80 hectares of ecological vines on the Can Martí Estate are harvested, in part, when it is still night. A harvesting day starts at 04:30 in the morning and finishes at 13:00. We look for the lowest night temperatures (depending on the day, between 16°C and 19°C) to protect the health of the harvesters and avoid heatstroke. In the words of **Paco de la Rosa Torelló** 'It is important to respect their rest and improve their working conditions in a job as hard as that of the harvesters'. On the other hand, it also avoids a certain loss of aroma and colour of the grape juice due

to the high daytime temperatures of the grapes. Finally, it also supposes the saving of energy as we do not need to cool the grapes before pressing.



In 2022 we have had between 20% and 30% less production of grapes – depending on the variety – compared to the previous year due to the intense drought, but that said, the health of the grapes has been impeccable. According to J.A.Montilla, Torelló’s enologist, ‘the perfect health of the grapes, together with a balanced acidity, will let us make great quality still and sparkling wines.’



In Torelló, the harvest of the 11 grape varieties is done manually, in boxes of 25kgs, pallets of 250 kgs or small trailers of 2,500 kgs and the transport of the grapes from the vines to the presses is very fast, taking just 10 minutes. In this way, the bunches arrive whole.

Can Martí Estate, Gelida (Alt Penedès), September 2022.

Night pictures by Manu Mitru - El Periodico.