



BODEGAS
RODA

VINTAGE NOTES





Atlantic and Mediterranean vintages

“Atlantic” and “Mediterranean” vintages are the way that Bodegas Roda describes their vintages, through a lens of climate, and its effect on the wine’s profile.

Atlantic vintages will be colder (and perhaps rainier) than Mediterranean vintages, which will always be warmer, drier, and with higher temperatures throughout the growing cycle and in the days prior to harvest.

Atlantic vintages are also referred to as ancient vintages, as Rioja vintages used to be rainier and cooler; they tend to be warmer recently because of global warming.

Wines coming from Atlantic vintages are lighter and fresher (reminiscent of Burgandy), whereas wines coming from Mediterranean vintages tend to be more voluptuous and fuller-bodied (closer in style to Bordeaux)

1996

The year started with Irregular bud break. There was good rainfall (abundant but well-distributed) and temperature conditions. The vines received 537,2mm of rain during the vine-growing year.

1997

It was an irregular and Atlantic year. Summer was rainy and cold, with excessive vegetation that demanded an exhaustive selection. The vines received 574,7mm of rain during the vine-growing year. September and October respected the end of the cycle.

1998

This year was a dry and Mediterranean vintage. A very dry and warm summer caused drought problems during the growing cycle. September was rainy, but that rainfall ended before October harvest came. The rainfall along the growing cycle was 517,7mm.

1999

1999 was Atlantic—influenced, the year of the short cycle. After 36 days below 32°F in winter and 478,6mm of rain during the growing cycle, an enormous frost came on April 16th, reaching 23,9°F and devastating the region. September was rainy, but October ended the season well. All these conditions brought a very low production and high demand for the grapes.



2000

First year in the decade where the effect of the climatic change was noticed. Winter was very rainy, spring was normal, but the vineyards experienced an enormous drought during the summer. The temperatures exceeded 86°F on more than 14 days. Old vineyards with low crop load and deep root systems responded especially well to that extreme summer. The rainfall reached 462mm that year.

2001

It was one of the mythical vintages in Rioja; for some experts, considered the most complete, together with 1964. The fruit reached the perfect ripening level. We were coming from a rainy winter, and then spring was warm and dry. Some flower shatter occurred which loosened the clusters, making for great aeration. The plants had the rain they needed during the summer and fall was magnificent.

2002

An Atlantic vintage, with an atypical, diverse growing cycle; it was a complicated year. Winter was cold and dry, reaching a low of 5°F. The temperatures did not exceed 32°F during an entire week and caused a bud frost that brought about budbreak problems. The secondary buds came out later and clusters of different periods coincided in the same cycle. The consequence of this was very uneven ripening. August was rainy and so was the harvesting time. Over the growing season, the vines received 490mm of rainfall. The harvest was limited due to a shortage in budbreak.

2003

A Mediterranean vintage that started off with an incredibly rainy winter (water and snow). A soft and humid spring favored a magnificent budbreak and an extraordinary vegetative expression. Summer was historically hot, with average temperatures of 90,5°F and peaks of 104°F. These high temperatures, combined with the enormous canopies, caused a high water requirement. Old bush vines with deep root systems and moderated vegetative load could put up with that requirement. During the first 15 days of September, the rains relieved the summer drought. Harvest began with some rains but got better during its course, and finished excellent weather.



2004

This is the story of a vintage with a rough start and a happy ending. Winter was humid, and the plants had good budbreak. There were storms during the summer, though, mainly on August 2nd and 3rd, with hail that affected two of our vineyards. In the first half of September, warm temperatures coincided with stormy rains, increasing the risk of botrytis. On September 11th, the weather changed for the better. It stopped raining, winds from the north came, days were warm and nights cold, and this is the way it continued until the end of harvest. The botrytis outbreaks dried out and the harvest drastically changed becoming excellent. 497mm of rainfall over the whole cycle.

2005

After a winter free of frosts and moderate rains, spring arrived, with light rain and a good and early budbreak. The vegetation adapted to the humidity level and was moderated during the whole cycle. June came with several rain storms that benefited the vineyards. July was very dry and veraison came 10 days early. During the beginning of fall the daily temperatures softened and were fresh at night, which brought a great balance in ripening. This made up for an early veraison and harvest came with extraordinary fruits, exceptionally healthy and with a quality worthy of the mythical vintages. On October the 12th the rains arrived, and the quality of the fruits began decreasing. Fortunately though, BODEGAS RODA had almost finished harvesting. Mythical vintage, without a doubt.

2006

Budbreak and fruit set occurred in perfect conditions. The beginning of summer was stormy, and the plants had developed abundant canopy. August was very dry and fresh, especially at night. September and October brought high temperatures and an early harvest. Time has given importance to this vintage due to the fineness of its wines, as they have developed in the bottle.

2007

An Atlantic vintage; the vines received 384mm of rain in the spring but only 5mm between July and September. Budbreak was normal and flower formation was low. That rainy spring caused the appearance of downy mildew in the whole region. Summer was fresh and dry, with low sunlight, which caused a delay in ripening relative to previous years. September was dry and had nice weather. Harvest was late and long but with extraordinary weather. In the end, the crop load in our vineyards was low and the fruit quality high. We obtained wines with big tannic load and great balance.



2008

The second Atlantic vintage in a row, reminiscent of the past, great Rioja vintages. A dry winter, with 73mm of rain from November to February. A rainy spring followed, with the vines receiving 443,5mm between March and June, and rain every day in May. During the summer, it didn't rain very much (just 44mm between July and September). The peculiarities of this summer—besides the drought—were the low temperatures and low sunlight. Fortunately, fall was spectacular, with sunny days and fresh nights. Healthy fruit with excellent acidity, good ripening but less sugar. Lighter wines than other vintages but full of life.

2009

An excellent Mediterranean vintage that started with a rainy winter and spring. The vintage begun with great water reserves. The growing cycle was advanced from the beginning, with good flowering and fruit set. Summer was very hot and dry and caused water stress in some of the vineyards. The temperatures reached 95-98,6°F; well-balanced vineyards were able to stand that lack of rain.

Some rains in the middle of September rounded the ripening and relieving the vine stress. The weather was magnificent until harvest that was slightly premature and begun on September 14th, with pristine fruit quality.

2010

One of the best vintages in the past two decades, an excellent vintage with 440 mm of rainfall during the growing season. Overall, it was a cooler vintage, which left its mark of freshness and elegance in the wines. Temperatures were well below those of 2009 and the whole cycle was slower, with a delay of about 10 days. Winter was wet; early spring was dry and there was plenty of rain during the flowering season which caused millerandage and in turn resulted in open and well-aired clusters. July and August were very dry, with virtually no rain. The vines were incredibly healthy and almost no treatments were needed. Some light rains in September and October allowed an excellent, although small harvest.

2011

Another excellent vintage, Mediterranean vintage. A warm spring with high temperatures in March and April made budbreak happen 15 days in advance. July was cool and dry. In August and September the temperatures went up again and rainfall was minimal. Harvest came between 15 and 20 days ahead of time.



2012

The main characteristic of this vintage is that it was the second consecutive year of heavy drought. Temperatures were low, so the growing cycle was delayed. Temperatures went up during the summer and the berries were able to ripe correctly, thanks to the autoregulation of the plants. Not clearly Mediterranean, nor Atlantic, but a very good year nonetheless.

2013

Winter was cold, with plentiful rainfall right before budbreak. May and June were very cold and flowering was delayed until the beginning of July. It kept raining and temperatures remained cold. Harvest happened three weeks after expected. Definitive Atlantic vintage.

2014

This vintage was an exceedingly difficult one, and not clearly Atlantic or Mediterranean. Summer was not extremely warm, but September was very hot and rainy, and mildew became a dangerous problem in the vineyards. A very precise selection was needed to get the quality needed.

2015

A good quality vintage with an important Mediterranean influence. Winter was cold and rainy, and the vines started their cycle with enough water in the soil. May was very warm and dry. Summer—especially July—was extremely hot and harvest happened early.

2016

An outstanding Mediterranean vintage, offering incredible wines. 2016 was a very dry year; rainfall was almost nonexistent during spring and summer. It finally rained a bit at the beginning of September when the temperatures increased dramatically; this water and high temperatures made for perfect ripening conditions.

2017

At the end of April, a huge frost affected all the vineyards. The cycle ended with low rainfall and high temperatures which made us have the earliest harvest in history. We began harvesting on September 4th. The vintage is neither pure Atlantic nor Mediterranean, but ripening occurred perfectly and brought very expressive wines.



2018

The second vintage in a row that fell somewhere between Atlantic and Mediterranean. The end of fall and winter were extremely dry. It began snowing and raining at the beginning of January, and the cold winter ended with high water content in the soils. Spring was also cold and it kept raining until June, which was colder than usual, too. Weather changed in the first week of July with high temperatures and hailstorms that affected our crops. The growing cycle ended with high temperatures and more storms by the end of September. It was a complicated vintage with a heavy crop load and mildew and botrytis problems.