

GRUPO

La Rioja Alta, S.A.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

2024/2025



WE HAVE BEEN WINEMAKERS FOR MORE
THAN 130 YEARS, AND OUR FUTURE STILL
RELIES ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE.”

Guillermo de Aranzabal

Chairman of Group La Rioja Alta, S.A. - 5th Generation.





OUR COMMITMENTS

In our winery, nature is essential. We renew our commitment to respecting and protecting it every day. Environmental protection is a key strategy for our company, reflected in many of our measures and decisions. This is even more important for us since we produce all the grapes we use in all our wineries.



VEGETAL GROUND COVER

On 30% of our vineyards, we are capable of fixing up to 6.5 metric tons of CO₂ per hectare (2900 Tn/ac), per year, protecting the soil from erosion caused by rainfall.



WEATHER STATIONS

Linked to digital platforms that model the cycle of the most frequent fungal diseases in vineyards, these stations help us decide whether and when to deploy plant protection treatments.



BIOTECHNOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES

For pest control we have opted for natural and ecological methods such as mating disruption, lures, release of pest predator insects, etc.



'ALLIED MICROFAUNA' SHELTERS

Throughout our 900 hectares we have built shelters for beneficial insects and arachnids, a highly selective, eco-friendly plant protection alternative.



LIGHTWEIGHT MACHINERY

We till our vineyards using lightweight machinery, thereby reducing tractor fuel consumption and soil compression. In the new project "Artisanal Vineyards" we go even further: some of those vineyards are so old that they have to be taken care of by hand, without any machinery. Currently, we own over 80 hectares of these 'artisanal vineyards', with the goal of reaching 100 ha by 2025.



LOCAL GRAPE VARIETIES

Exclusive work with grapes native to the Spanish wine regions where we work (Rioja, Rias Baixas and Ribera del Duero).



ORGANIC VITICULTURE

6 ha (15 ac) in Tudelilla (Rioja Oriental) and 19 ha (47 ac) in Aster (Ribera del Duero) 100% worked under organic viticulture.



HIGH ALTITUDE

To mitigate the evident impact of climate change, we are planting the new vineyards and buying old ones at much higher altitudes (800 meters-2,600 feet) than conventional Rioja vineyards (450 meters-1,500 feet), with the hope of producing wines with less alcohol and more acidity.



PLAGUE CONTROL

Meticulous equipment cleaning when moving from vineyard to vineyard, reducing cross contamination.

WILDLIFE ENCOURAGEMENT

Our vineyards are home to horses and cows living in semi-freedom, which provide natural fertilizer and pest control.



BAT COLONIES

We take advantage of bat colonies surrounding the vineyards, serving us as natural plague control.



INTEGRATED PRODUCTION

100% of our vineyards are cultivated under the “integrated production” standard, focused on sustainability and environmentally friendly practices



WINERIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION CERTIFIED

Torre de Oña has been the first winery in our Group to get the 'Sustainable Wineries for Climate Protection Certification'. The others will follow soon.



ARTISANAL VINEYARDS

The “Artisanal Vineyards” is our strategic project initiated in 2021, focusing on recovering old vineyards, some centuries-old, with an average age of over 55 years. These bush-vine vineyards are located in very small plots (0.3 ha on average), at high altitude, usually field blends yielding less than 3,000 kg/ha.



VINEYARD GUARDS RESTORING

We have been conducting a restoring and maintenance project of the vineyard guards that we enjoy on our vineyards as a tribute and respect of the cultural wealth that these humble shelters deserves. They are the custodians of the vineyard.



LIGHTER BOTTLES

In 2024 we endorsed the manifesto 'A Toast to a Sustainable Tomorrow - Crafting a Blueprint for a Greener, Eco-Friendly Wine Culture'. Together with Decanter, Antinori and other industry peers, we committed to defend sustainable principles across our businesses.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Today, we have photovoltaic and solar thermal panels in all our wineries, and significant investments in eolic energy.

WATER REUSE

Reuse of treated winery water for garden irrigation.



LED TECHNOLOGY

Replacement of traditional lighting with modern LED technology.



MORE EFFICIENT HEAT PUMPS

Exclusive work with high efficiency heat pumps, both for cooling and heating.

SUSTAINABLE OAK

The oak imported from the USA to make all our barrels comes from controlled forests.



ENTHALPIC PROBES

Installation of enthalpic probes for climate control and air renewal in the barrel aging cellars of La Rioja Alta, S.A.



EFFICIENT REFRIGERATION

Replacement of conventional cooling equipment with two-way cooling and heating equipment for a total energy recovery.



BIOMASS ENERGY

In 2014, Torre de Oña became the first winery in the DOCa Rioja to use biomass as energy fuel.



AIR CONDITIONING

Installation of high efficiency air conditioning in barrel aging rooms at Torre de Oña, replacing fan coils and sprayers.

CORKS & PACKAGING WITH FSC CERTIFICATION

Exclusive use of corks and packaging made from sustainably managed and FSC-certified materials. La Rioja Alta, S.A. was the first Spanish winery using corks made by Amorim from responsibly managed cork oak forests.

CAPSULE RECYCLING

In alliance with capsules producer Rivercap, we recycle 100% of the tin capsules consumed in our wine-bars and private dining rooms since 2022.



VIÑA ARDANZA SOLIDARIO



Through our foundation Viña Ardanza Solidario, more than 2.000.000€ (\$2.4 MM) have been donated since 2007 to agricultural projects in third world countries.



“PROBABLY THE MOST AMBITIOUS AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM IN THE GLOBAL WINE INDUSTRY.”

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