

SPANISH WINE TERMS

Tinto – “Red Wine”

Blanco – “White Wine”

Rosado – “Rose Wine”

Joven – “Young Wine”

This term indicates that the wine has not been aged for a significant period prior to release.

Roble – “Oak”

Some regions allow this term to appear on the label to indicate the wine has been aged in oak for a period of time, but not long enough to be labeled a “Crianza”.

Crianza

This classification applies to red wines aged for a minimum of 24 months prior to release, 6 of which must spent in oak barrels with a capacity of 330 liters maximum; and to white and rosé wines aged for at least 18 months. Some regions require longer periods of oak aging than the 6 month minimum. In Rioja, for example, a red wine must spend at least one year in oak to qualify for Crianza classification.

Reserva

This classification applies to red wines aged for a minimum of 36 months prior to release, at least 12 of which must be in oak; and to white and rosé wines aged for a minimum 18 months, at least 6 of which must be in oak.

Gran Reserva

This distinction is given to red wines aged for a minimum of 60 months, at least 18 of which must be in oak; and to white and rosé wines aged for 48 months, at least 6 of which must be in oak. Gran Reservas are usually only produced in exceptional vintages.

VT – Country Wines (*Vinos de la Tierra*)

Vino de la Tierra is "country wine" (like the French *Vin de Pays*) produced from one of 28 designated geographical areas that over the years have shown their own character, and aspire to full DO status in the future.

DO – Denomination of Origin Wines (*Vinos de Denominación de Origen*)

Wines bearing the DO distinction are produced in a demarcated production area and made according to parameters governing quality and type. Each DO is regulated by a Governing Body (*Consejo Regulador*) that is responsible for enforcing specific production laws. In order for wines to be given Denomination of Origin status, the production area is required to have been recognized for five years as a region producing quality wines with a geographical indication.

DOCa - Qualified Denomination of Origin Wines (*Vinos de Denominación de Origen Calificada*)

This category is reserved for wine that has achieved high levels of quality over a long period of time. The first designated wine to enter this class was Rioja, in April 1991. To achieve DOCa status, the region must have held DO status for at least the previous 10 years, and all products must come to market bottled in wineries located in the region where they are produced a follow a suitable quality control system imposed by their monitoring and regulating body.