**March report for Norway**

First of all, I would like to introduce myself in a few words: I am a wine maker, born in Tomelloso, Castilla La Mancha. It is the place I love and, to me, the most exciting land to make wine in the world… it is really challenging to develop a project like Verum where we try to reborn the viticulture in the area. With wines like Ulterior where we used 100 years old amphooras and recuperating ancient grapes, we are gaining traction in the main wine writers which is a sign that we are in the good way.

 While Tomelloso is the place that I love I always dream to make wine in new world. Patagonia was the place I chose to start my adventure of doing wines around the world but this became a really special place. Alto Valle del Río Negro , in Patagonia Argentina, it is a amzing place where the combination of latitude and natural resources brings excellent conditions to cultivate delicate grapes such as Pinot Noire . Since 2016, I am working in Bodega Del Río Elorza where I am head wine maker of Verum wines.

Those are my two places, but some more projects will arrive from other countries, soon.

With this cooperation I would like to bring Norwegian wine lovers true stories about viticulture and wine making around the world.

Vendimia en la Patagonia

Since 10th of February we have been busy with the harvest in Bodega del Río Elorza winery . It was a particular year , as the weather was warmer than usually , and we need to adjust very well the picking point. Fortunate enough we have picked in a really great picking time and 2021 Pinot Noir really bright even better than a cooler year. Flowers, red berry and hearth aromas flooding the wine while a combination of delicacy and grain tannins dominated the mouth . The crop has dramaticly fall down from last year and we do have 30% less grapes due to a spring frost but it is really great grape with a lovely concentration of noble compounds to manage during the wine making process.

Winter in Spain

After we have rest from harvest we start to prepare for the next year. Pruning our Garnacha grapes is an important moment to control the yield for the next season but one of the most particular things we do at Bodegas Verum, it is to sow cover crops. In all our vines for Ulterior we use a combination of different cereals and herbs to control the vigor and brings more natural nutrients to our soils. This cover crop it would be cut and incorporate to the land around may where the vines start to need most part of the water needs .

At the same time, we are aging the wines in our unique clay Tinajas. Those are 100 years all hand made in clay with capacity of 4.500 to 15.000 litters for all ranges of Ulterior and part of the wines destinated to our special selection of Garnacha for Excellars, in Norway.

I will come up with more hot news from the winery…