

Minimum labelling requirements for wines protected by the *Denominación de Origen Calificada RIOJA* pursuant to its Designation Specifications

This document contains the minimum requirements laid down by the DOCa Rioja Control Board for labelling wines certified by this designation, in accordance with article 17.h) 4 of 2 May 2015 on Designations of origin and Protected Geographical Indications of supra-regional territorial scope, without prejudice to community or national mandatory labelling provisions.

I. Compulsory particulars

The following have to appear in the same visual field and be no more than 11 cm wide.

Category

Bottler details

Registered mark

Rated volume

Perforated stamp

Representation rules

Category

Inclusion of the word '*RIOJA*' and, below, '*Denominación de Origen Calificada*'.

The name of the Designation (*RIOJA*) must be prominently displayed.

The characters of the word '*RIOJA*' cannot exceed 1 cm in height, nor more than half of the total width of the label. The characters should be clear, legible, indelible and not have excessively thick strokes. These characters cannot be less than 0.3 cm high when the packaging carries a single label.

In cases where the packaging carries two labels or two different visual fields, these characters cannot be represented in a size smaller than 0.3 cm. on the label or in a visual field other than the one that carries all the mandatory information.

Packaging units with a capacity of 18.7 cl are exempted from compliance with the minimum size indicated above. In packaging units exceeding 18.7 cl. and under than 75 cl, the word '*RIOJA*' cannot appear with a height under 0.2 cm.

Bottler details

Registered wineries may use their registered trade names to replace or in addition to their name or corporate name, provided notification and proof of ownership have been duly submitted to the Control Board together with a statement assuming liability regarding the use of such names in wines protected by the Designation of Origin.

For third partly bottlings (for... by...) consisting of the provision of bottling services for registered wineries lacking the appropriate machinery, the name or corporate name of the winery commissioning the bottling must be included. The indication of the name or corporate name of the bottler may be replaced with a registered trade name, provided all requirements set out in the preceding paragraph for the trade name are met, or with its bottler number.

For third partly bottlings (for... by...) consisting of the provision of bottling services for non-registered operators, the name or corporate name of the party commissioning the bottling must be included. The indication of the name or corporate name of the bottler

may be replaced with a registered trade name, provided all requirements set out in the first paragraph for the trade name are met, or with its bottler number.

In third party bottlings (for ... by) carried out for operators not registered must be included the name or business name of who orders the bottling and the indication of the name or business name of the person who has made the bottling by a commercial name that has the registered winery as their property, provided that the requirements indicated in the first paragraph, can not be replaced by their packer registration number of wine.

Registered mark

Inclusion of a registered mark

The brand name will stand out with respect to the term 'RIOJA' on the label by having a larger size and thickness.

To comply with the obligation to notify the Control Board about the labels used to market wines protected by the DOCa Rioja, it will suffice to submit, together with the artwork, a photocopy of the trademark or trade name registration application submitted to the Industrial Property Registry.

In the case of a potential conflict of interest between registered wineries due to a coincidence of the trademark or trade name to appear on the label, the affected wineries will be notified of the fact.

In the case of simultaneous use of brands that are used in wines protected by the *Denominación de Origen Calificada Rioja* and other wines or drinks derived from wine, the design proposal will be submitted to the General Directorate of Food Industry of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment for the purpose of checking whether the designation and presentation of the wines clearly and easily allows one to identify the origin and characteristics of the different products so that they do not induce to error or confusion in the consumer.

To be able to indicate on the labelling any expression registered as a trademark or requested to register as a trademark that includes any of the mentions authorized, the wine must exhaust the requirements for the use of the mention concerned. Also, if that previous expression was combined with another brand or marks on the labelling, all signs of shape must be represented harmonized so that one does not stand out above the rest.

Mentions can not be used, even if they are registered, if they induce clear confusion to the consumer about the characteristics of the wine they identify.

Rated volume

The one-litre range is not allowed for Rioja wine.

Perforated stamp

The Control Board stamp must be included prominently.



**Representation
rules**

At least in one element of the labelling will be grouped in the same visual field all the mandatory mentions, including the wine trademark, the name of the Denomination and the traditional term that accompanies it, just under.

On the front label or visual field that identifies the consumer as front, must at least include the trademark of the wine, the name of the Denomination and the traditional term that accompanies it, just below.

II. Optional particulars

Zones

Municipality

Viñedo Singular

Quality sparkling wine

Representation of the vintage with optional Crianza mentions

Terms regarding the method of vinification or production

“Madurado en bodega” mention

“Selección” and similar mentions

“Viñas viejas”, “viñedos viejos”, “viñedos centenarios” and “viñedo prefiloxérico” mentions

“Viñedos de altura” mention

“Viñedos propios” mention

“Cosecha” mention

“Fermentado sobre lías” and similar mentions

Other terms

Use of logos

Reference to organoleptic qualities of wine

Reference to edaphological characteristics of the vineyard

Zones

The zones are ‘RIOJA ALAVESA’, ‘RIOJA ALTA’ and ‘RIOJA ORIENTAL’.

The name of a zone can only be applied to a wine when it is made with grapes from that zone, and it is made (and aged, as the case may be) and bottled within its confines.

The label must include the name of the zone under the term ‘*Denominación de Origen Calificada*’, and the text size, thickness and colour must be at most equivalent to the name of the Designation, ‘RIOJA’. **In any case, the name of the zone cannot stand out more than the name ‘RIOJA’ on the label.**

The label is to display:

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
RIOJA ALTA

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
RIOJA ALAVESA

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
RIOJA ORIENTAL

Municipality

The name of a municipality included in the territory of the Denominación de Origen Calificada Rioja can only be applied to a wine when it is made with grapes from that municipality, and it is made (and aged, as the case may be) and bottled within its confines.

The label must include the words “**VINO DE**” followed by the name of the municipality under the term ‘*Denominación de Origen Calificada*’, and the text size, thickness and colour must be at most equivalent to the name of the Designation, ‘*RIOJA*’. In any case, the name of the municipality cannot stand out more than the name ‘*RIOJA*’ on the label.

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
VINO DE (+ NAME OF MUNICIPALITY)

If the label also includes the name of the zone (which should be expressly recognised by the Control Board), the name of the municipality has to appear underneath.

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
RIOJA (+ NAME OF ZONE)
VINO DE (+ NAME OF MUNICIPALITY)

The brands used in the labels that include the name of a municipality will be exclusive for the wine with this geographical provenance, for which the owner will submit an affidavit of liability regarding the exclusive use of the brand in the said wines. If such affidavit does not exist, **the labels used for the “vino de municipio” will be different from those used by the winery for the rest of its wines, in order to prevent consumer confusion.**

Viñedo Singular

‘*Viñedo Singular*’ is a geographical entity which is **smaller than a municipality**, located within the protected territory of the Denominación de Origen Calificada Rioja and identified by a name. It consists of a location with agrogeological and climatic characteristics that distinguish it from others in the area, from which wines with unique traits and qualities are produced.

In order for the name of the “viñedo singular” to be recognised, **it must be registered as a trademark**, at least in the Spanish Patents and Trade Marks Office, by the natural or legal persons owning the plot or those with vinification facilities registered with the Denominación de Origen Calificada Rioja who will be in charge of vinifying the grapes.

The owner of the brand must submit a declaration of commitments regarding the exclusive use of the same in wines protected by the Denominación de Origen Calificada Rioja.

Representation:

The term “**VIÑEDO SINGULAR**” will necessarily appear **on all labels** on the bottle, or in all visual fields if it is a continuous label. The term “*Viñedo Singular*” is to appear immediately below the registered brand name and the text size, thickness and colour must be at most equivalent to the name of the Designation, “*RIOJA*”.

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
TRADEMARK
(LINKED TO THE *VIÑEDO SINGULAR*)
VIÑEDO SINGULAR

Bespoke bottlings of wines from a “*viñedo singular*” are not allowed.

“Vino espumoso de calidad”

“*Vino espumoso de calidad*” is a quality sparkling wine produced with a second alcoholic fermentation in the bottle, following the traditional method, of a white or rosé wine certified for quality sparkling wine.

Bottles of quality sparkling wines will include the **term related to sugar content** (“*Brut Nature*”, less than 3 g/l without added sugar after the second fermentation; “*Extra brut*”, between 0 and 6 g/l; and “*Brut*”, less than 12 g/l), in addition to the term “**Método Tradicional**” (Traditional Method) on all labels or on all visual fields if it is a continuous label.

The term *Método Tradicional* must appear immediately below the term related to the sugar content and the text size, thickness and colour must be at most equivalent to the name of the Designation, “*RIOJA*”.

On the label carrying mandatory information, the term “*Método Tradicional*” can not be smaller than 0.3 cm.

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
BRUT NATURE
MÉTODO TRADICIONAL

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
EXTRA BRUT
MÉTODO TRADICIONAL

RIOJA
Denominación de Origen Calificada
BRUT
MÉTODO TRADICIONAL

The term “**Gran Añada**” can be used when the production process is at least 36 months long. The term must be accompanied by the vintage year.

Representation of the vintage with optional Crianza methods

The vintage should be included whenever the optional mention of Crianza, Reserva or Gran Reserva appear on the label with mandatory mentions.

This requirement can be understood fulfilled if the label with the compulsory mentions shares the visual field with the seal or counter-label of the Control Board.

The vintage should be included if the optional mention is shown on the label front or visual field that identifies the consumer as front, being able also expressed in a size or graph different from the mention.

There will be no need to indicate with optional mentions if the label in the one that is represented is different from the one that the consumer identifies as the front one and does not contain all mandatory references (an informative back label, for example).

You can indicate on the labelling the number of months of aging in barrel and / or bottle, in the same visual field as the traditional mention to the reference, as long as it is proven by traceability permanence.

They can not be represented with characters larger or thicker than those of the RIOJA word.

Terms regarding the method of vinification or production

“Maceración carbónica” (carbonic maceration), applicable to wines fermented following this method.

Statement to the fact is to be submitted to the Control Board Technical Service prior to vinification. Requirement set out in the Harvest Season Standards of each vintage.

“Fermentado en barrica” (barrel-fermented), only for white and rosé wines on condition of a minimum of one month stay in the barrel, requiring prior notice to the Control Board regarding type of vinification and that wines with these characteristics not be released before 1 January of the year after the harvest of the grapes used to make them.

“Dulce” (sweet) only for white and rosé wines and requiring the type of vinification to be notified to the Control Board in advance.

“Semidulce” (medium sweet) only for white and rosé wines and requiring the type of vinification to be notified to the Control Board in advance.

“Semiseco” (medium dry) only for white and rosé wines and requiring the type of vinification to be notified to the Control Board in advance.

“Madurado en bodega” mention

This expression can not be used in combination with drawings, expressions or mentions concerning barrel, oak, wood, or any other related to process of aging the wine in oak barrels or fermentation in them or wood barrels.

For the same reason, the use of expressions as “envejecido”, “aged”, etc., regardless of the language in which they are translated, will be strictly prohibited.

There will be no mentions such as “Matured”, nor “Matured x months”. The expression will be exactly like it is mentioned in this section.

It can not be represented with characters larger or thicker than those of the RIOJA word

“Selección” and similar mentions

To use mentions matching or similar to: “Selección especial”; “Selección de la familia”; “Selección de viñedos”; “Seleccionado”; “Colección”; “Edición Limitada”; “Serie”, etc., must be communicated to the Regulatory Board about the collection, selection, edition or similar and the number of bottles that complete the lot.

The inclusion of such information in the labeling will be optional.

They can not be represented with larger or thicker characters than those of the word RIOJA.

**“Viñas viejas”,
“viñedos viejos”,
“viñedos
centenarios” and
“viñedo
prefiloréxico”
mentions**

The words "Viñas Viejas" or "Viñedos Viejos" may be used if accredited by traceability that the minimum age of the vines from which the wine comes is of 35 years. The term "Viñedos Centenarios" may be used if it is proven that the minimum age of the vines is of 100 years. The expression may also be included parallelly if "Vineyards over X years old" is mentioned.

In the case of “Viñedo prefiloréxico”, they will be those previous to the year 1,900.

These mentions can not be represented with larger or more characters thicker than those of the word RIOJA and the wine labeled with these mentions must be made with at least 90% of grapes from said vineyards.

**“Viñedos de
altura” mention**

It can be used if it is proven by traceability that the minimum altitude of the vineyard from which the wine comes is at least 550 meters above the sea level.

This mention may not be represented by larger or thicker characters than those of the word RIOJA and the wine labeled with it should be made with at least 90% of grapes from these vineyards.

**“Viñedos
propios” mention**

It can be used if it is proven by traceability that the wine comes from vineyards owned by the winery or owned by the business group that holds the ownership of the facilities where the labelling takes place. It can also be used if it is accredited by any legal title valid in law that the winery or business group that holds the ownership of the facilities where the labelling is done exclusively on the resulting production of the said vineyard for a minimum period of 10 years without interruption.

This mention may not be represented by larger or thicker characters than those of the word RIOJA and the wine labeled with it should be made with at least 90% of grapes from these vineyards.

**“Cosecha”
mention**

It can be used if it is accompanied by the vintage.

This mention may not be represented by larger or thicker characters than those of the word RIOJA and the wine labeled with it should be made with at least 90% of grapes from these vineyards.

“Fermentado sobre lías” and similar mentions

The mentions “fermentado sobre lías”, “fermentado en hormigón”, “macerado en tinaja de barro” or similar ones that do not refer to barrel, oak, wood, or anyone related to the process of aging the wine in oak barrels or fermentation in the same or wooden vats, may be used if is correctly accredited by traceability that the wine has been elaborated according to the mentions.

The term "madurado" is excluded because it is regulated in another section of this document.

These mentions can not be represented with larger or more characters thicker than those of the word RIOJA.

Other terms

Once proven true, the following terms may be used regarding the place where the bottling takes place, replacing or in addition to ‘*Embotellado por*’ (bottled by) and “*Embotellado en origen*”:

“Embotellado en la propiedad”
“Embotellado en la explotación agrarian”
“Embotellado por el cosechero”
“Embotellado por el productor”
“Embotellado por la cooperative”
“Embotellado en la zona de producción”

The term “embotellado en la propiedad” can only be used when the used brand is owned by the winery or the business group that holds the ownership of the facilities where the bottling is carried out and therefore is registered in the equivalent registry of the Regulatory Board.

This mention does not may be represented with characters larger or thicker than those of the RIOJA word.

Once proven true, the following terms referring to a grape growing concern may be used:

“Cosecha propia”
“Obtenido en la explotación vitícola”
“Cosechado en la propiedad”
“Procedente de viñedos propios”

Use of logos

The logos and graphic symbols of the clients or of the winery, never may have the character of labelling or stand out with respect to the representation of the commercial brand that serves as a labelling mark.

Reference to organoleptic qualities of wine

They will not be considered as mentions and therefore will not be subject to limitations collected in this document, those terms used in the labelling that refer to the organoleptic qualities of the wine, as long as it does not generate confusion to the consumer about the elaboration, aging or origin of the vineyard.

**Reference to
edaphological
characteristics of
the vineyard**

Being accredited, reference may be made to edaphological characteristics of the vineyard in the body of a legend included in informational back labels.

III. Other provisions to be taken into account

Guarantee label or seal

Packaging must bear a guarantee label or seal issued by the DOCa Rioja Control Board.

All packaging in which the wines are expedited for drinking is to be provided with numbered guarantee seals, labels or back labels issued by the Control Board.

No back-labels or seals will be provided to registered wineries that do not prove to hold a bottler number, a registered mark and a label legalised by the Control Board.



The Control Board will issue specific **numbered** back labels and/or seals for wines from a given zone or municipality. If the two indications concur in the wine or if they concur with '*Viñedo Singular*', the seal of the smallest geographical unit is to be used.

For wines from a '*viñedo singular*', the Control Board will issue specific back labels and/or seals that include the term '**Viñedo Singular**'.

For quality sparkling wines, the Control Board will issue specific back labels and/or seals that will include the mention '**Método Tradicional**'.

Glass packaging

Glass packaging is compulsory

Protected wines can only circulate and be shipped in packaging that does not harm their quality or prestige and it must be approved by the Control Board. In general, containers must be made of glass and have the capacities authorised by the European Union with the exception of the one-litre range.

Exceptionally, other types of packaging may be authorised for special uses, it being understood that they do not prejudice the quality or prestige of the protected wines (in this case, particular formulas may be set out to meet the guarantee and control requirements of protected wines).

**Method to
measure the
relation of sizes**

To measure the relation of sizes between brands, optional breeding mentions and the word RIOJA, we will have to keep in mind the height of the lowercase letter “x” of each font family used (Annex IV of Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Regulatory Board of 25 October 2011 on the food information provided to the consumer).



IV. Updating the minimum requirements procedure

A dynamic review procedure of a biannual nature is developed from the date of entry of this document or in advance if requested for the inclusion or development of the aforementioned or other mentions by the Regulatory Board, provided they do not confuse the consumer, especially in relation to traditional mentions or those referred to the origin of the vineyard.