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Gramona has unveiled a three-tier vineyard classification system

The family winery says the internal model will guide blending and single-vineyard bottlings by tracking soil, microclimate and farming over time

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Gramona, the family-owned winery based in Sant Sadurní d'Anoia, Spain, has introduced a new classification system for its vineyards that it says is meant to organize generations of knowledge about its land and sharpen the link between each plot and the wines made from it.

The company said in November that the new framework divides its vineyards into three categories: Classified Vineyards, Singular Vineyards and Unique Vineyards. The system is based on a study of the winery's parcels that examined soil, microclimate, plant material and the long-term effects of biodynamic farming. Gramona said the model is designed to help it decide how to assemble grapes from different plots in each vintage while preserving what it sees as the clearest expression of origin.

The project follows years of observation in the vineyard and reflects work carried out by a family that has been making wine since the mid-19th century. Gramona said it developed the system with specialists in soils, agronomy and biodynamic viticulture. According to the winery, the goal is not to create a fixed hierarchy of value among its vineyards, but to build a working tool for analysis and management that can identify the traits of each parcel and assess its winemaking potential.

Roc Gramona, the winery's technical director, winemaker and a member of the sixth generation of the family, said the system grew out of a need to make a more structured assessment of vineyards that had long been understood through practice and experience. "The need to establish this classification system arose to bring order, to be more demanding with the work we do at home, and to improve what we were already doing intuitively," he said.

Under the new model, the category of Classified Vineyards includes plots that, in Gramona's view, show a steady expression of their soil composition and structure while still reflecting the differences of each harvest. The winery said those vineyards form the base for blending, which remains central to its wines. Their role, it said, is to provide balance and complexity by bringing together different expressions of the territory.

The category of Singular Vineyards is reserved for plots where several factors come together consistently over time rather than standing out for one trait alone. Gramona said those vineyards offer a more clearly defined expression of place and produce wines with a strong and recognizable identity tied to their origin.

The top category, Unique Vineyards, is for plots that the winery believes can deliver the most precise expression of their characteristics. Gramona said grapes from those sites bring depth, complexity and aging potential. Even so, it said those parcels will be

bottled as single-vineyard wines only in years the winery considers exceptional, meaning the final use of each plot will still depend on how a given vintage develops.

That emphasis on yearly variation is central to the new system. Gramona described the model as dynamic rather than fixed, saying it is meant to evolve as the winery gathers more information and adapts to changes in growing conditions, including those linked to climate change. Roc Gramona said the classification was deliberately designed to avoid becoming rigid. “The appeal of this classification is that it is not an immobile or rigid system, unlike the great French regions such as Champagne or Burgundy,” he said. “It is a living system that will make it possible to assess the suitability of each plot for blending a specific wine in each vintage.”

The winery tied the classification to a broader farming approach it says is aimed at protecting vineyard identity. Gramona works with horses in some vineyard tasks, carries out grafting directly on the vine and uses only its own plant material, according to the company. It also said biodynamic principles are part of its long-term vineyard management and that direct observation in the field is combined with technical and scientific study.

Founded in 1881, Gramona has more than 140 years of history and is known for long-aged sparkling wines. The business is led by the fifth and sixth generations of the family and says its vineyards are farmed with 100% certified organic and biodynamic methods under Demeter standards. Gramona is also a founding member of Corpinnat, the sparkling wine association created in Catalonia.

The new classification is an internal system rather than a legal appellation ranking, but it shows how a winery with deep roots in the Penedès region is trying to formalize decisions that have often been guided by tradition and experience. By placing soil, climate, plant selection and farming methods at the center of the process, Gramona is seeking a more detailed map of how each vineyard behaves and how that behavior can shape the final wine from one harvest to the next.