

# Advanced systems for the enhancement of the environmental performance of WINeries in Cyprus (WINEC)



## Deliverable 1

### Review of the wine industry in Cyprus and in Europe



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## Summary

The present study deals with the investigation of the wine industry in Europe and especially in Cyprus. In specific wine production and consumption, the exports and imports of wine and the percentage Europe possesses in the world wine production are examined. Moreover, the first six wine producing European countries (Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Portugal and Greece) are analytically described in terms of their grape varieties, wine produced and area of vineyards. Information about the geographical distribution of wineries, the wine producing methods used all over Europe as well as figures on the grapes and wine production is provided. With regard to the wine industry in Cyprus, the wine producing regions of the Republic, the main wine producers as well as the indigenous and imported grape varieties are determined. Finally through this study the red, white, rose and sparkling wine production methodologies are extensively reviewed.

In terms of wine industry in Europe, it can be said that France and Italy are the largest wine producer countries in the world, while Europe dominates in the global wine production possessing the 69%. Spain which is the third largest wine producer country in the world, has over than 1.17 million hectares planted, making it the most widely planted wine producing nation. The sixth largest wine producer European country is Greece, while Cyprus is the fourteenth.

Cyprus viti-viniculture is characterised by small vineyards and highly self-owner growers. The first varieties cultivated in Cyprus were the “local mavro” and “xynisteri”, but nowadays there are plenty of wine-making varieties cultivated on the island (indigenous and imported). Cypriot grape production in 2008 was considerably reduced (by 27.8%) as compared to the year 2007. The extended drought, as well as the high temperatures during the last years constitute the most important reasons for this reduction. Moreover, the Cypriot wine exports in 2008 have decreased by 33%, having a continuing decline trend over the last two decades, while the exports of Commandaria remained stable while exports of Zivania recorded an increase (~15.4%).

The key difference between white and red winemaking is that red wine is made by the fermentation of the juice, skins and seeds together and then wine pressing, while white grapes are either pressed or crushed and destemmed and the juice runs off into fermentation tanks, or they may be macerated with the skins for up to 2 days and then pressed for fermentation. Finally, sparkling wine comes in all wine types – white, red, rosé, dry, sweet, light, rich – however it is the production process that creates these bubbles that differentiate sparkling wine from the other types of table wine, and these could be CO<sub>2</sub> injection, Charmat method, traditional method and transfer method.

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