



from the
land
to the
heart



EL CAVA

REGULATORY BOARD

This is a body dependent upon the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs. It comprises: winegrowers, producers and representatives of the Autonomous Communities of the "Cava Region" and the Ministry.



It dates back to the year 1959 when the Trade Regulations of Sparkling and Fizzy Wines were established, in which the term Cava appears for the first time. A subsequent Order of the Ministry of Agriculture dated 23 April 1969 sets out the regulations for sparkling and fizzy wines, and Cava was acknowledged as the term for sparkling wines produced using the "classic system of fermentation in the bottle and ageing in the "cava", and could therefore "designate its products as Cava". This definition was the basis for designating the product with this name.

With CAVA now classified as a quality wine (v.e.c.p.r.d.), the Regulations on Cava and its Regulatory Board were enacted by the Order dated 14 November 1991.

It was in 1972 when the Ministerial Order dated 27 July was enacted and the Regulatory Board of Sparkling Wines was set up, operating in a manner similar to the Designations of Origin. This provision made Cava subject to its own regulations as regards making, production and marketing.

Spain's membership of the EU placed DO wines on the same level as quality wines (v.c.p.r.d.). Prior to the Membership Treaty, Cava was the only specific Spanish designation with its own structure, identical to the Designations of Origin; the difference lay in the delimitation of the area, and it was for this reason that the "Cava Region" was established at the beginning of 1986, delimiting its production area. Cava was therefore protected under the EU and acknowledged as a quality sparkling wine produced in a given region (v.e.c.p.r.d.).



The chief faculties of the Regulatory Board are:

- Guide, supervise and monitor the production, making and quality of these wines.
- Ensure the prestige of the designation "Cava" and prosecute any improper use of the name.
- Promote "Cava" to expand and enhance its markets.
- Defend the designation from a juridical-institutional viewpoint

Composition of the Regulatory Board:

Chairman

Deputy Chairman

Six Members representing the production sector

Six Members representing the wine-making sector

Representative appointed by each of the Autonomous Communities of the Cava Region

One representative appointed by the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs

Secretary General

Legislation

REGULATIONS: ORDER 14.11.91 BOE N° 278 (20.11.91) (PDF)
(including modifications)

Modified by:

ORDER 09.01.92 BOE N°24 (16.01.92)

ORDER 08.07.92 BOE N°174 (1.07.02)

ORDER 06.05.93 BOE N°119 (19.05.93)

ORDER 15.09.95 BOE N°228 (23.09.95)

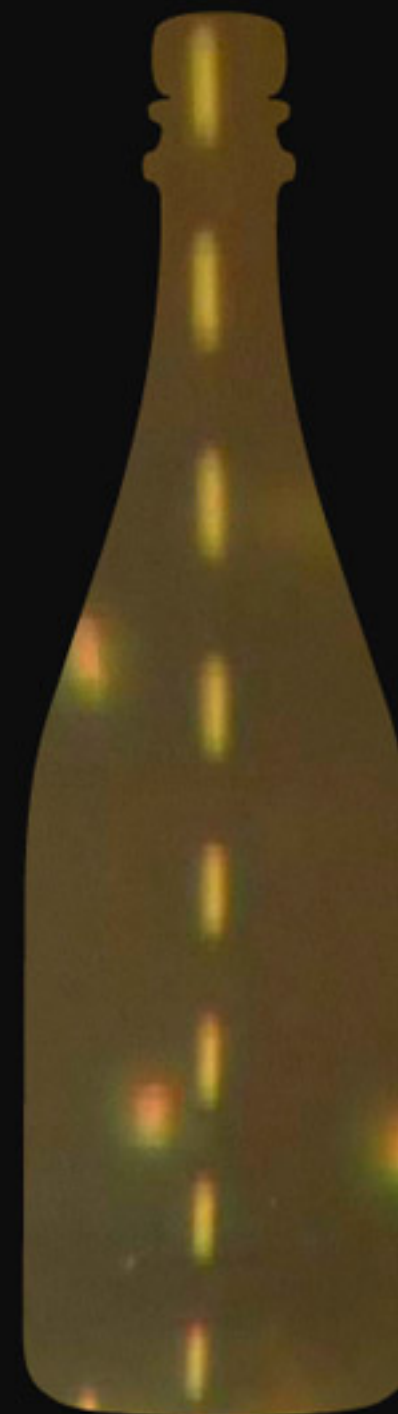
ORDER 06.02.98 BOE N°43 (19.02.98)

ORDER 30.06.05 BOE N°166 (13.07.05)

ORDER 23.02.07 BOE N° 50 (27.02.07)

Legal background:

- Order 02.07.59 (BOE 04.08.59). Trade Regulations on Sparkling and Fizzy Wines.
- Order 12.01.66 (BOE 18.01.66). Regulations on Sparkling and Fizzy Wines.
- Order 23.04.69 (BOE 01.05.69). Regulations on Sparkling and Fizzy Wines.
- Order 04.02.70 (BOE 10.02.70). Modifies Order 23.04.69.
- Order 07.04.70 (BOE 14.04.70). Modifies Orders 23.04.69 and 04.02.70.
- Order 27.07.72 (BOE 08.08.72). Regulations on Sparkling and Fizzy Wines and creation of the Regulatory Board of Sparkling Wines.
- Resolution 11.07.73 (BOE 18.09.73). Conditions of the passing corks and liquor.
- Resolution 11.07.73 (BOE 19.09.73). Resolution on Cava transfer method.
- Order 19.05.75 (BOE 27.05.75). Order regarding the conditions required of sparkling wine producing companies.
- Order 27.02.86 (BOE 28.02.86). Order under which the "Cava Region" is created
- Correction of errors in Order 28.02.86 (BOE 04.03.86).
- Order 19.01.87 (BOE 27.01.87). Extension of the timeframe for using the designation Cava by companies outside the Cava Region.
- Order 13.11.87 (BOE 25.11.87). Modifies Order 27.07.72
- Order 13.07.88 (BOE 15.07.87). Modifies Order 27.07.72
- Order 03.07.89 (BOE 16.08.89). Aforementioned High Court sentence against Order 27.02.86.



Quality Control

Cava is subjected to quality checks carried out by the technical services of the Regulatory Board.

These controls start in the vineyards, using the registers of plots entitled to produce grapes for Cava making, control of volumes produced, monitoring of the quality and final destination of the grapes.

Registered producers must comply with the specific technical conditions to obtain the right to produce both the cuvée and the Cava. The tipping stoppers for Cava must be marked with the month and year of the operation so as to guarantee the minimum ageing periods required by the Regulations.

Quality, analytical and organoleptic controls are conducted so as to evaluate the cuvées, a process during which regular inspections, stock statements and verification of movements are made.

The labels for any type of Cava must first be authorised by the Board and meet the requisites under current law.

The entire, complex control system includes the quality check of the finished product, authorising the use of the name "Cava" and also the terms "Reserva" and "Gran Reserva", issuing the numbered control marks (disc or band) with the three terms above which all bottles destined for consumption must bear, as seals which guarantee the quality and origin of the Cava.

the only sparkling wine which can bear this distinction



Control Marks

Cava minimum ageing, 9 months



Cava Reserva minimum ageing, 15 months



Cava Gran Reserva minimum ageing, 30 months



The characteristics of cavas will depend on the differing variety combinations, years and also the different ageing periods.

To qualify as a Gran Reserva, cavas are subjected to special quality controls including, organoleptic and analytical examinations.

The indication "Gran Reserva" may only be used for "Brut Nature", "Extra Brut" and "Brut", which are aged for thirty months or more in the same cellars. The label must necessarily show the indication "Gran Reserva" and the year of the harvest. In this respect, Cava is the only sparkling wine which can bear this distinction.

