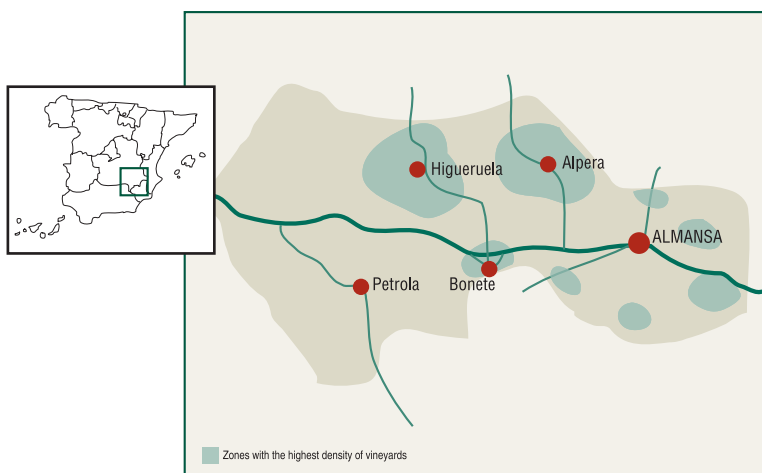


DO ALMANSA



NEWS. Two years ago the grape variety known as *Garnacha Tintorera* seemed to provide the light at the end of the tunnel for this transitional piece of land between La Mancha and the east coast of Spain. In the meantime, local varieties haven given way to *Tempranillo*, *Garnacha* and the foreign –French– ones. The new producers have joined forces with the old fellow growers in an open search for the most suitable grapes for the singular climate of the area, half way between continental and Mediterranean. Of the 12 wines tasted there were only three of the 2007 vintage, but we do not know whether this was due to a hailstorm that affected the area or to the ageing requirements of the solid fruit common in that part of Spain. The new star of Almansa is the Adara brand label, of the Jorge Ordóñez's group, particularly their unusual and splendid garnacha tintorera.

Hectares of Vineyard	No. of Viticulturists	No. of Bodegas	2007 Harvest	2007 Production	Marketing
7,600	750	13	Very good	19,000,000 litres	22,7% Spain 77,3% foreing

LOCATION. In the eastern region of the province of Albacete. It covers the municipal areas of Almansa, Alpera, Bonete, Corral Rubio, Higuera, Hoya Gonzalo, Pétrola and the municipal district of El Villar de Chinchilla.

CLIMATE. Of a continental type, somewhat less extreme than the climate of La Mancha, although the summers are very hot, with temperatures which easily reach 40 °C. Rainfall, on the other hand, is scant, an average of about 350 mm a year. The majority of the vineyards are situated on the plains, although there are a few situated on the slopes.

SOIL. The soil is limy, poor in organic matter and with some clayey areas. The vineyards are situated at an altitude of about 700 m.

GRAPE VARIETIES:

White: *Airén*, *Verdejo* and *Sauvignon Blanc*.

Red: *Garnacha Tintorera* (most popular), *Cencibel* (Tempranillo), *Monastrell* (second most popular), *Syrah*.

CONSEJO REGULADOR.

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WINES:

Whites	These are produced mainly from the <i>Airén</i> variety. They are pale yellow, light, fruity and pleasant, in line with the wines from La Mancha.
Rosés	These are pink or salmon pink; fresh and fruity with an honest nose and are usually full-bodied and easy drinking.
Reds	The <i>Garnacha Tintorera</i> has over the past few years recovered the prominence of the DO, producing strong, fruity, fresh and meaty wines, especially since it is now bottled more selectively instead of being sold in bulk. Up to then, the most characteristic reds were the young wines of <i>Cencibel</i> , with an intense cherry colour and a fruity character. All of them stand out for a certain acidity on the palate due to the altitude of the vineyards..

2007 VINTAGE RATING: VERY GOOD