



FIRE-RES
Innovative technologies & socio-ecological-economic
solutions for fire resilient territories in Europe

CTFC



International Technical Seminar

Fire Wine – Pathways of the wine sector contributing to landscape resilience to wildfires

17th October 2023

Venue: [VINSEUM](#) (Wine Museum - sala d'actes)
Vilafranca del Penedès (Barcelona, Spain)

Wildfires are part of the Mediterranean ecosystem. Yet, decline in agriculture and forestry activities has led to an exceptional accumulation of biomass and landscape encroachment that derives in more intense and faster fires, thus more difficult to suppress and with an extraordinary impact. In addition, climate change facilitates atmospheric and vegetation conditions that can lead to **extreme wildfire events**, that exceed the suppression capacities.

To reduce the wildfire risk, the maintenance of current agricultural plots amidst forests represents a **productive firebreak**. However, the agricultural producers are decreasing in Western Europe: there is a shortage of labor and in many cases retiring farm managers are not replaced. Besides, limited accessibility to steep or isolated parcels hinders their mechanical management, and consequently the profitability of mountain agriculture. In addition, increasing pressure from wild fauna leads to (sometimes significant) losses that do not favor the maintenance either. Therefore, there is a need for innovative proposals, linking public and private interests, to regain a positive dynamic favoring the maintenance of a fire-smart, resilient landscape, mixing crops, forestry and extensive livestock farming.

Agricultural parcels amidst the forested landscape constitute a key fuel discontinuity, which is a crucial infrastructure for the fire responders to attack with security, and/or to modify the wildfire spread behavior. Maintaining those fields active constitutes a **security service** to the landscape (particularly to houses, assets, forests). In this context, wine growing parcels have been identified as key production to keep a fuel discontinuity in Mediterranean rural areas. **The wine sector offers great opportunities**, as per their linkage to the territory, their potent value chain and their potential added value.

With the aim of channeling this potential into concrete mechanisms, the European project [FIRE-RES](#) unfolds the Innovation Action **Fire Wine**. FIRE-RES– *Innovative technologies and socio-ecological-economic solutions for fire resilient territories in Europe* is an H2020 Green Deal project (2021–2025). FIRE-RES advances in knowledge and develops innovations for building capacity for the UE to avoid collapsing in case of extreme forest fires. FIRE-RES aims at developing an integrated strategy of fire risk management based on the resilience of the landscape.

The **Fire Wine Innovation Action** promotes mechanisms of synergies and transversal collaborations between the administration and private actors, across the fire management, forest and



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wine sectors. The **first objective** of this seminar **is to analyze the existing situation and to present examples** of territories that have been developing such collaborations in view of the frequency and effects of forest fires. **Secondly, it constitutes the first step of the creation of a European network** to bridge the divide between agricultural land production & wildfire risk management, to share good practices, to establish recognition mechanisms, and to support initiatives benefiting the landscape resilience. FireWine is developing a label which for the wine sector to pioneer the recognition of the ecosystem services as production externality -yet other agricultural productions are being considered. **Thirdly, the seminar permits to open a debate** that will feed in the *Fire Wine Innovation Action* and its roadmap, creating new synergies with other projects, enterprises, and administrations.



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PROGRAM

	Presentation	Speaker
09:00– 09:15	Accreditations	
09:15 – 09:20	Introduction to "Fire wine" project	<i>Soazig Darnay (CTFC)</i>
09:20– 10:05	INAUGURAL SESSION	<i>Pitu Roca (Celler de Can Roca) / Marc Castellnou (GRAF)</i>
10:05 – 10:20	OFFICIAL INAUGURATION	Catalan Agriculture Department (DACC) City of Vilafranca del P.
10:25 – 10:45	Wildfires: current situation & prospectives	<i>Marta Miralles (GRAF)</i>
10:45 – 11:05	Smoke emissions from wildfires	<i>Mar Viana (CSIC)</i>
11:05 -11:15	Nature-based solutions for wildfires: vineyards as productive firebreaks	<i>Elena Górriz (CTFC)</i>
11:15- 11:35	Catalonia: role of the wine sector in wildfire risk management	<i>Valentí Roqueta (Ass. Vitícola Catalana)</i>
11:35 - 11:45	Questions from the public	
11:45 – 12:25	COFFEE BREAK	
12:30 – 12:50	Agronomic suitability in productive firebreaks: vineyard conditions in strategic fire risk areas	<i>Armand Casado (IRTA)</i>
12:50-13:10	Mosaic Project, Extremadura: a fire smart landscape	<i>Fernando Pulido (Extremadura University)</i>
13: 30 – 13:50	FireWine approach & label: survey results and next steps within H2020 FIRE-RES project	<i>M Rovellada / E Górriz / S Darnay (CTFC)</i>
13:50 – 14:00	Questions from the public	
14:00 - 16:00	LUNCH BREAK	
16:05 – 16:25	Wildfire prevention and rural reactivation: the role of vineyard production. San Martín de Unx - Navarra.	<i>Julián Palacios (Viticultura viva), Iñigo Mendez (Fundación Emplea)</i>
16:25 – 16:55	Wildfires seen from the wine sector	<i>Jacques Rousseau, ICV</i>
16:55 – 17:15	Experience of vineyards and wildfires in DO Empordà (N Catalonia)	<i>Anna Espelt (Espelt winery)</i>
17:15- 18:00	Questions from the public and Closure	<i>E Górriz, S Darnay</i>



List of speakers

Speakers' name	Role	Entity
Ana Espelt	Wine grower and wine maker	Espelt viticultors
Soazig Darnay	Responsible IA Fire Wine, FIRE-RES	Centre de Ciència i Tecnologia Forestal de Catalunya (CTFC)
Elena Górriz	FIRE-RES coordination team, WP3 leaders Bioeconomy	Centre de Ciència i Tecnologia Forestal de Catalunya (CTFC)
Marc Rovellada	Junior Researcher	Centre de Ciència i Tecnologia Forestal de Catalunya (CTFC)
Marc Castellnou	Firefighter, dir. GRAF, FIRE-RES	Àrea del Grup d'Actuació Forestal (GRAF)
Armand Casado	Researcher, FIRE-RES	Institut de Investigació y Tecnologia Agroalimentària (IRTA)
Fernando Pulido	Senior researcher, profesor	Universidad de Extremadura
Mar Viana	Senior Researcher	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
Pitu Roca	Star Sommelier	Celler de Can Roca
Jacques Rousseau	Expert	ICV Supagro Montpellier
Valenti Roqueta	Wine grower and wine maker, president	Roqueta origins, Associació Vitícola Catalana (AVC)
Julian Palacios	Wine grower and consultant	Viticultura Viva - San Martin de Unx
Iñigo Mendez	Rural Innovation technician	San Martin de Unx / Fundación Emplea

