



Sogrape leads the way in the response to Climate Change

Climate Change has never been this centre stage before. It represents one of the most serious challenges for societies today, and it may have a great impact in the vitiviniculture sector. Well aware of this, Sogrape has been investing, for over 10 years, in Research and Development projects that may enable the company to anticipate and prevent major consequences to its activity, and to integrate adaptive measures to the new global context. The strategy of the largest Portuguese producer is based in sustainable practices and in assuming a stance aligned with the risks and threats presented by climate.



Press Release, March 2019 – To overcome the already existing challenges imposed to the vitiviniculture sector by climate changes, Sogrape's strategy has been to learn in order to anticipate. The unpredictability of the Seasons of the year – with Winters too warm and Summers too rainy – has made it clear that it is inevitable for the sector to adapt itself to this new reality or, otherwise, perish. Sogrape has been developing efforts in this area for the past 20 years, having made a more significant investment in the past decade.

With a strong global awareness, Sogrape is leading the way in this area and has long implemented policies for sustainable practices across the entire Value Chain, from the vineyard and the winery to the consumer, in a cycle improving the company's resilience and protecting its activity, as well as the value of its wines when they reach the consumer. This set of initiatives, detailed in the [company's sustainability report](#), includes **actions to mitigate the impact of its activity on the Planet** – e.g. recycling almost the totality of the residues produced (above 99 %), collecting and using rain water for industrial use, installing photovoltaic stations, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the weight of the bottles and increasing energy efficiency across its facilities – but also to **adapt to the consequences of Climate Change** through various investments aiming to improve the resilience of the production systems (such as the conservation of the diversity of the grapevine's genetic resources, or the improvement in water usage for vitiviniculture and industrial processes).

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According to António Graça, Head of R&D at Sogrape, *"our responsibility as a major player within the vitiviniculture sector also includes a strong investment in monitoring the and vitiviniculture processes, by developing and testing new sensors and control systems. This work is carried out through collaborations with institutions and companies, both Portuguese and international, such as the i-GRAPE, PORVID or MED-GOLD projects, which will provide valuable knowledge for the entire sector,"* rounded up the manager.

Having already identified, in 2014, Climate Changes as one of the five main strategic threats to the company's business, Sogrape maintains a serious, yet positive, stance of alert, while positioning itself as a proactive leader in a global movement facing the challenges of the future, supported by research and development.