

Saint-Emilion, 12th January 2018

AB Rocheyron, year on year, has made great leaps forward thanks to precision viticulture and sensitive bio-dynamic farming. Is it possible to imagine that 2017 will be as good as 2016, a vintage which you described as “something else” at Rocheyron?



Peter Sisseck They're actually quite different. The malos have finished now, and I'd say that at this stage 2016 has more body. However, we need to wait and see how the 2017 fills out.

AB You were very upbeat towards the end of the harvest, but when we spoke you were still waiting for the last batch of Cabernet Franc to ripen fully. Were you as satisfied with that batch as with the rest of your 2017 crop?

Peter Sisseck It was fine, but it could have done with a few more days' hang time. It works well in the blend though, so that's very satisfying.

AB Having tasted the musts of the 2017 vats, you mentioned their attractive personality with plenty of aromatics, acidity and nice balance. How would you describe the lots since the malo?

Peter Sisseck They really taste great. Surprisingly forward and with great balance.

AB Similar or different in style compared to your 2016?

Peter Sisseck Interestingly, from an analytical point of view, they are very similar. There's great freshness and very good tannins in the 2017. However, as I just mentioned, I feel that right now 2016 has more body than 2017. Hopefully, it will fill out during its ageing.

AB In Ribera del Duero, you once again decided to pick early. In retrospect was that the right decision?

Peter Sisseck Undoubtedly. It was the right decision -for us, in any case.

AB Other Ribera del Duero growers that followed your lead in picking early have since admitted that at the time they were worried about not getting optimal tannin ripeness, but now they are pleasantly surprised by the tannin quality in their 2017s...

Peter Sisseck **That's absolutely true. It's a fact. They did right to pick early.**

AB **Today, with the work you do with PSI, you have a broad knowledge of the Ribera del Duero terroir. Do you think that late picking in the appellation led to some blockbuster, over-ripe wines?**

Peter Sisseck **That was the risk. Getting wines that were out of balance and with very high pHs.**

AB **At this stage, is it possible to compare your 2017 Pingus and Flor de Pingus with another Ribera vintage? Some have mentioned 2015...**

Peter Sisseck **All I can say is that for those two wines it is an excellent vintage. At this stage, I don't think that you can make a direct comparison with another vintage.**

AB **How did things go for PSI in 2017?**

Peter Sisseck **I'm happy to say that it's definitely the best vintage we've made to date. But it was such hard work.**

AB **In what way?**

Peter Sisseck **So many small plots to bring in now from so many different villages.**

AB **How many villages in all?**

Peter Sisseck **27! I didn't even know that there were that many villages in Ribera del Duero!**

AB **Was the overall crop size affected by Ribera's spring frosts?**

Peter Sisseck **We'll be producing around 275,000 bottles of PSI, which is almost a normal volume for us.**