

FLOWERING

2023 Report

Our vines are growing vigorously, adapting themselves to climatic conditions, which have been very positive. We couldn't be happier! Since Quinta dos Vales also means elegance and grace, all the vineyards must be carefully cleaned, leaving no weeds in the under-vine rows. This will reduce competition for water and nutrients while giving the vineyards an aesthetic pleasantness. Our Graces will appreciate it!

Flowering begins when the grapevines bloom, which determines both the size of the crop and the size of the berries. The flower clusters will emit a lovely scent that covers Quinta dos Vales in a sweet aroma. Whereas for the eyes it is a barely perceptible process.



Everything inside the plant is moving, and so are all the birds and animals at our Quinta. Events also start to take place and the first happy couples that chose this beautiful landscape to get married are finally cheering for a happy and long life together. And so is our winemaking team. The flowers are turning into small berries that are starting to accumulate sugars and aromas.



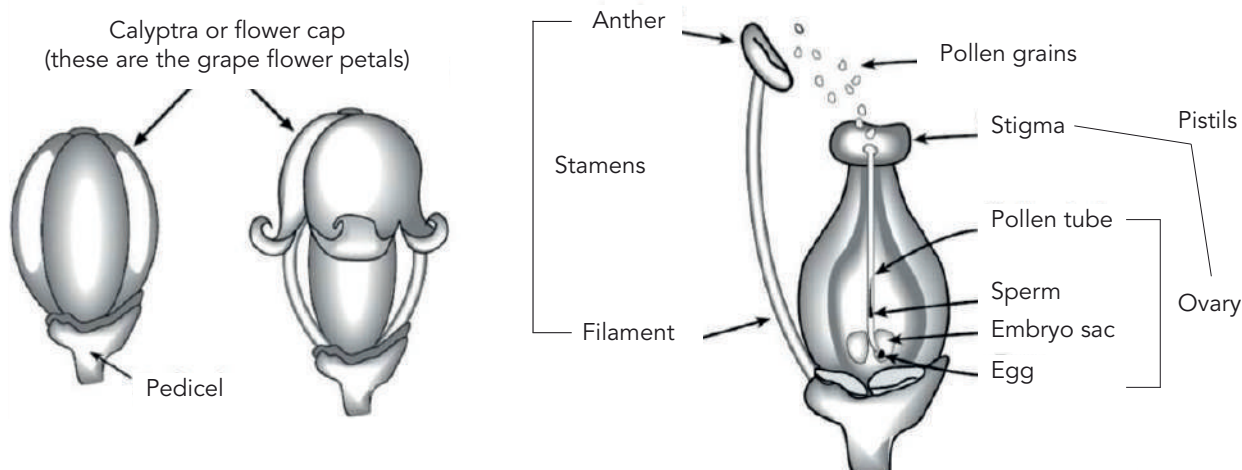
Pollination and Reproduction

Nature does not allow standstills, the driving force behind survival is the need for constant development. The changes seen in the vines during bud break and flowering are tremendous. During this time, the new shoots have grown and developed panicles on which the flowers sit.

During flowering, the plant uncovers the flowers from its protective cap or calyptra. These flowers, which are the reproductive structures of the plant, are typically small and inconspicuous and are always located opposite to the lower leaves of the main shoots.

All the varieties we grow at Quinta dos Vales are hermaphroditic, i.e., they may fertilize themselves. A hermaphroditic plant has both male and female reproductive organs. In grapevines, this means that the flowers have both stamens and pistils. Inside the flowers, the plant produces reproductive organs called stamens – the male organ consisting of filament and anther – and pistils – the female organ, consisting of stigma and ovary.

Berry Growth and Development



The stamens release pollen, which is needed for fertilization. Pollination occurs when the male pollen sticks to the moist female ovary. The successful union is termed fertilization, and the subsequent growth of berries is called the fruit set.

During this period, our winemakers are permanently on standby, and even quite nervous as either wet or cold weather and especially strong winds can hinder the fertilization process. Any damages now would be irreparable for the year – a situation which we have been able to avoid and so far, we predict a healthy and solid production for 2023. About 10-14 days after full bloom, the fruit set was established and the pollinated flowers began to form small green berries that will grow into individual grapes and thereafter into perfect clusters.

The transition from Flowering to Veraison

The berries are still very hard and unattractive, but this will change soon with the coming of Veraison.

Veraison is a term used in viticulture to describe the stage in the grape's development when the berries start to ripen and change colour. This typically occurs in the early Summer, when the grapes have reached their full size and have started to soften.

During Veraison, the grapes will start to change colour from green to yellow or red, depending on the grape variety. They will also start to develop their characteristic flavours and aromas. This is an important time for winemakers, as it marks the end of vegetative growth and the start of an intense development within the grape itself.

Judging by this year's flowering dates and the weather forecast for the next weeks, we hope to see the start of Veraison by end of June/beginning of July.