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1 **Determination of hydroxytyrosol produced by winemaking yeasts**  
2 **during alcoholic fermentation using a validated UHPLC-HRMS**  
3 **method**

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22 **Abstract**

23 Hydroxytyrosol (HT) is a phenolic compound of recognized bioactivity that has been described  
24 in wines but little is known about its origin. This work demonstrates that yeast involved in wine  
25 making, i.e. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains and the non-*Saccharomyces Torulaspora*  
26 *delbruekii*, can synthesise HT, as this compound was identified in the intracellular media of  
27 three strains by means of a developed and validated UHPLC-HRMS method with LOQ and  
28 LOD of 0.108 and 0.035 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> respectively. Controlled fermentations were performed with  
29 different varieties of grapes (*Corredera*, *Moscatel*, *Chardonnay*, *Palomino fino*, *Sauvignon*  
30 *Blanc*, *Vijiriega*, and *Tempranillo*) and synthetic must. The *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain  
31 QA23 was the most efficient producer of HT from tested yeasts. On the other hand, the grape  
32 variety influences HT wine concentrations. Furthermore, the maximum concentration of HT is  
33 reached between the fourth and sixth day of fermentation. This work reveals that yeasts have a  
34 great potential for the production of HT.

35 **Keywords:** *Saccharomyces*, phenolic compound, intracellular, winemaking, Q-exactive,  
36 biomass.

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## 46 **1. Introduction**

47 Hydroxytyrosol (HT) 2-(3, 4-dihydroxy-phenyl) ethanol (3, 4-DHPEA), is a higher alcohol  
48 (phenyl ethyl alcohol), found in extra-virgin olive (Fernández-Mar, Mateos, García-Parrilla,  
49 Puertas, & Cantos-Villar, 2012) as well as in in fermented beverages such as wine (Bordiga et  
50 al., 2016). The most common synthesis pathway includes the hydroxylation of its immediate  
51 precursor, tyrosol, in the Ehrlich pathway (Figure 1). This is in turn produced from tyrosine by  
52 yeasts during alcoholic fermentation (AF), as follows: (1) transamination of tyrosine; (2)  
53 decarboxylation of *p*-hydroxyphenylpyruvate by pyruvate decarboxylase; (3) reduction of *p*-  
54 hydroxyphenylaldehyde by alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) (Pineiro, Daran, van Maris, Pronk, &  
55 Dickinson, 2008; Pineiro, Cantos-Villar, Palma, & Puertas, 2011; Satoh, Tajima, Munekata,  
56 Keasling, & Lee, 2012). Consequently, Tyrosol and HT could be considered secondary  
57 metabolites produced from tyrosine by some yeast strains by means of a transformation of  
58 amino acids (Garrido & Borges, 2013) during alcoholic fermentation (Zhu et al., 2011). On the  
59 one hand, the content of HT appears to be related mainly to the nitrogen content in musts during  
60 alcoholic fermentation while on the other, it is well known that *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* can  
61 use tyrosine and tryptophan as a source of cellular nitrogen. Fusel alcohol such as tyrosol, HT  
62 and tryptophol respectively are the main products of its catabolism (Bordiga et al., 2016). This  
63 suggests that the final contents of HT and tyrosol in wine could be influenced by microbial  
64 activity during alcoholic fermentation (Romboli, Mangani, Buscioni, Granchi, & Vincenzini,  
65 2015).

66 As a bioactive compound, HT has been object of study in many research reports. Some studies  
67 have demonstrated that HT is a potent stimulator of mitochondrial biogenesis in retinal  
68 epithelial cells that contribute to eye health (Zhu et al., 2010) as well as having anticarcinogenic  
69 (Roleira et al., 2015), cardioprotective (Mnafgui et al., 2015), antidiabetic, and neuroprotective  
70 qualities (Fernández-Mar, Mateos, García-Parrilla, Puertas, & Cantos-Villar, 2012; Marhuenda  
71 et al., 2016; Rigacci & Stefani, 2016). Furthermore, the EFSA (European Food Safety  
72 Authority), has admitted a claim on these healthy effects based on the protection of LDL

73 particles from oxidative damage and maintenance of normal blood HDL-cholesterol  
74 concentrations, as these effects were demonstrated after the consumption of extra-virgin olive  
75 oil due to its high content in HT (European Food Safety Authority [EFSA] Panel on Dietetic  
76 Products Nutrition and Allergies [NDA], 2011).

77 To identify, quantify, and elucidate the occurrence of HT, different analytical methods have  
78 been used in various food matrices. Thus HT has been analysed by: gas and liquid  
79 chromatography; capillary electrophoresis in wines (Piñeiro, Cantos-Villar, Palma, & Puertas,  
80 2011); nuclear magnetic resonance in herbal medicine products (Lemonakis, Gikas, Halabalaki,  
81 & Skaltsounis, 2013). Associated techniques have also been used, such as: HPLC with GC in  
82 olive mill wastewaters (Allouche, Damak, Ellouz, & Sayadi, 2004); HPLC with fluorescence in  
83 grape leaves (Vrhovsek et al., 2012); HPLC with DAD and with MS in wines (Boselli, Minardi,  
84 Giomo, & Frega, 2006). The use of HRMS associated with UHPLC has been used before in  
85 herbal medicinal products in the determination of HT (Lemonakis, Skaltsounis, Tsbopoulos,  
86 & Gikas, 2016). This latter technique is a powerful tool to unequivocally identify and quantify  
87 compounds in different matrices, and therefore it may be useful in trying to elucidate the origin  
88 and evolution of HT in wines.

89 The aim of the present work is to develop and validate an UHPLC-HRMS method to assess HT  
90 and to investigate the origin of its occurrence in wines. For this purpose, the role of different  
91 strains of winemaking yeasts on the occurrence of HT in wines is studied during alcoholic  
92 fermentation (AF). Finally, the main objective is to examine the production of HT by yeasts  
93 through the evidence that the determination of this compound in the intracellular compartment  
94 provides when using a validated HRMS method coupled with UHPLC.

## 95 **2. Materials and methods**

### 96 **2.1. Reagents and materials**

97 HT standard (98%) was purchased from Chengdu Biopurify Phytochemicals Ltd. (Wenjiang  
98 Zone, Chengdu, Sichuan, China), HPLC-grade methanol was acquired from Merck (Darmstadt,  
99 Germany) and HPLC-grade formic acid from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain).

## 100 **2.2. Yeast strains**

101 The experiments on white musts were performed with the commercial wine yeast strain Enartis  
102 Ferm Aroma White (Enartis). In the fermentation of *Tempranillo* must and synthetic must, three  
103 different commercial strains: were used *S. cerevisiae* Lalvin YSEO QA23® (Lallemand), *S.*  
104 *cerevisiae* Red Fruit RF® (Enartis) and *T. delbrueckii* TD291 Biodiva™ (Lallemand).

## 105 **2.3. Samples**

### 106 **2.3.1. Grapevine**

107 Vines were grown in a typical soil-type (*albariza*) with a plant density of 3600 vines/ha. The  
108 grapes used in the fermentations belonged to an experimental cultivar located in the Rancho de  
109 la Merced (IFAPA, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain), and were from seven varieties as follows:  
110 *Corredera*, *Moscatel*, *Chardonnay*, *Palomino fino*, *Sauvignon Blanc*, *Vijiriega*, and  
111 *Tempranillo*.

112 The degree of ripeness was followed weekly during the maturation process (data not shown).  
113 Grapes were harvested at their stage of optimum maturity in August 2015.

### 114 **2.3.2. Alcoholic fermentation procedure**

#### 115 **2.3.2.1. Musts of white grapes**

116 Grapes were harvested at optimum ripening conditions. Subsequently, they were destemmed,  
117 crushed, and pressed. Then pectolitic enzymes (2.5 mL hL<sup>-1</sup>, Enartis ZYM, Italy) and SO<sub>2</sub>  
118 (Sulfosol, Sepsa-Enartis) were added into the must. After 24 h at 4 °C, the must was dejuiced  
119 and placed in a 100-L steel vessel. Alcoholic fermentation (AF) was carried out and monitored  
120 in vessels by yeasting (Aroma White, Italy) at 18 °C. AF was considered completed when the  
121 concentration of residual sugars was lower than 3 g L<sup>-1</sup>.

### 122 **2.3.2.1. Musts of *Tempranillo* grapes**

123 *Tempranillo* grapes at optimum ripeness were harvested manually in 18 kg plastic boxes; they  
124 were in good sanitary conditions and were transported to the experimental winery. Musts were  
125 produced using a pneumatic press with pectolitic enzymes (3 mL hL<sup>-1</sup>, Enartis ZYM, Italy) and  
126 40 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) (Sepsa- Enartis) were added. Musts were placed in 15  
127 stainless steel vats of 10-L capacity.

128 Five different methods of inoculation were used: (1) CTQA, with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*  
129 QA23 yeast strain; (2) CTRF, with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* RF yeast strain; (3) SIQA23,  
130 sequential inoculation first with commercial non-*Saccharomyces* strain *Torulaspora delbrueckii*  
131 TD291 and later when the density had decreased by 15 points just after the start of the AF with  
132 *S. cerevisiae* QA23; (4) SIRF, sequential inoculation first with commercial non-*Saccharomyces*  
133 strain *Torulaspora delbrueckii* TD291 and when density had decreased by 15 points just after  
134 the start of the AF with *S. cerevisiae* RF; and (5) SP, spontaneous fermentation without any  
135 inoculation using commercial yeasts.

### 136 **2.3.3 Intracellular samples**

137 Six alcoholic fermentations were performed in synthetic must with a sugar content of 100 g L<sup>-1</sup>  
138 fructose and 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> glucose and amino acids (purity ≥ 99 %) (Riou, Nicaud, Barre, &  
139 Gaillardin, 1997) with three strains of yeast (QA23, RED FRUIT and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*).  
140 The must was sterilized with bottle-top vacuum filters (Nalgene PES membrane). Each  
141 Erlenmeyer flask with 750 mL of SM was inoculated with 10<sup>6</sup> cell mL<sup>-1</sup> and capped with taps  
142 equipped with a capillary to release carbon dioxide. The fermentation was monitored by  
143 weighing the flasks daily before and after sampling.

### 144 **2.3. Sampling**

145 Samples were taken every day from inoculation until the end of AF. Samples were collected and  
146 stored at -80 °C until the analysis. The end of AF for each grape variety was different and,  
147 consequently, each fermentation lasted a different number of days. The end of AF was reached

148 when the sugars were almost all consumed (lower 3 g L<sup>-1</sup>). Table 1 shows the time of the  
149 fermentation process and the concentrations of sugars at the end of alcoholic fermentation in  
150 white grapes (Table 1A). Table 1B shows the time of fermentation and the concentration of  
151 sugars (approximately 10.9 °Be) at the end of fermentation of the 5 fermentation methods for  
152 *Tempranillo* grapes.

### 153 **2.3.1. Intracellular metabolite extraction**

154 Samples of the intracellular compartment were collected at the second day of fermentation in a  
155 volume corresponding to 10<sup>9</sup> cells mL<sup>-1</sup>. Immediately, they were subjected to a cold glycerol-  
156 saline quenching (Villas-Bôas & Bruheim, 2007), were stored at -80 °C until the extraction  
157 process was conducted. The intracellular extraction was performed following the method  
158 reported by Smart et al. with minor modifications (Smart, Aggio, Van Houtte, & Villas-Bôas,  
159 2010). To the cell pellets, 2.5 mL of cold methanol-water solution (50% [v/v], -30 °C) were  
160 added, mixed for 1 min and then frozen at -80 °C. The samples were subjected to two cycles of  
161 freeze-thaw (thaw in an ice bath for 4 min; then were frozen at -80 °C for 30 min). After the last  
162 cycle, they were subjected to sonication for 1 min in an ice bath using an ultrasonic liquid  
163 processor (Sonicator Sonoplus HD 2070, Bandelin electronic GmbH & Co. KG, Berlin,  
164 Germany). Afterwards, the samples were centrifuged at 36086 g for 20 min at -20 °C using a  
165 refrigerated centrifuge (Sorvall LYNK 6000, ThermoFisher scientific, Waltham, MA USA).  
166 Another 2.5 mL of cold methanol-water was added to the pellet and then centrifuged; the  
167 supernatants were collected, pooled, and stored at -80 °C until analysed.

### 168 **2.4. Sample clean up**

169 Samples were cleaned up as previously reported by Rodriguez-Naranjo et al. (Rodriguez-  
170 Naranjo, Gil-Izquierdo, Troncoso, Cantos, & Garcia-Parrilla, 2011) with the following  
171 modifications: C18 SPE cartridges (Variant, Agilent) were conditioned with 2 mL of methanol  
172 and 2 mL of milliQ water. An aliquot of 500 µL of sample was loaded followed by a washing  
173 step with 2 mL of a 10% v/v methanol solution. The analytes were eluted with 1 mL of



174 methanol; afterwards solvents were evaporated until dryness at 34°C, 2000 rpm during 6 h with  
175 a vacuum concentrator (HyperVAC-LITE, GYOZEN, Korea). Then samples were reconstituted  
176 with 167 µL of methanol/water 10% v/v and stored at -20 °C until analysis.

### 177 **2.3. UHPLC/HRMS parameters**

178 The analysis was carried out in a UHPLC Dionex Ultimate 3000 system (Thermo Fisher  
179 Scientific (Bremen, Germany) all devices were controlled by Chromeleon Xpress Software. The  
180 column used was a ZORBAX RRHDSB-C18 (2.1×100 mm, 1.8-µm particle size) with a guard  
181 column (2.1×5 mm, 1.8-µm particle size). Column and guard column were purchased from  
182 Agilent Technologies (Waldbronn, Germany). The separation was performed using column  
183 temperature of 40 °C, a flow of 0.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, and injection volume of 5 µL. The  
184 chromatographic conditions consisted of two phases (A) aqueous formic solution 0.1%, and (B)  
185 solution 0.1% of formic acid in methanol and the gradient was programmed as follows: 95% A,  
186 5% B (0 – 1 min); 0% A, 100% B (1 – 8.5 min); 95% A, 5% B (8.6 – 10 min).

187 A target MS<sup>2</sup> in negative mode with a heated ionization source HESI was selected using the  
188 transition 153 →123 HCD 100.00 in order to both identify and quantify. The main HRMS  
189 parameters were heater and capillarity temperature (400 –275 °C respectively), spray voltage 3.0  
190 KV; flow rates of sheath gas and auxiliary gas (65, 25 arbitrary units, respectively). Other  
191 parameters of HRMS methods were normalized collision energy (NCE) 40; S-lens RF 50% and  
192 mass resolving power (RP) 70,000 FWHM.

### 193 **2.4. Statistical Analysis**

194 Statistical analyses were performed by means of Statistica software (StatSoft, 2014). One-way  
195 analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's HSD (honest significant difference) test were  
196 assessed to test significant differences at p < 0.05. Additionally, principal component analysis  
197 (PCA) was used for data analysis

## 198 **3. Results and discussion**

### 199 3.1. Method validation

200 The validation procedure was carried out following different international guides (AOAC, 1998;  
201 FDA, 2012) to establish parameters, such as: detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) limits,  
202 precision, linearity, recovery, matrix effects, and effects of solid-phase extraction. As a blank, a  
203 fermentation sample was used after cleaned using SPE, because it bears a greater similarity to  
204 the matrix than to the must without fermentation.

205 The linearity, LOD, and LOQ were experimentally determined by the injection of 11 solutions  
206 in the fermentation medium cleaned using SPE, as explained in Section 2.4, because it  
207 reproduces matrix characteristics better than does the solvent (methanol/water 10% v/v).  
208 Calibration standards of HT were prepared for each analytical batch and three replicates were  
209 determined at 11 concentrations (1000, 500, 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25, 3.12, 1.56, 0.78, and 0.39  
210 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>) with 4 degrees of linearity. The detection limits were calculated based on the standard  
211 deviation of the response ( $\sigma$ ) and the slope (Ich, 2005). Calibrations curves with their slope ( $S$ ),  
212 intercept and correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) were calculated by plotting the peak area vs. the  
213 concentration of the standards using Statistica software version 12 (StatSoft, 2014).

$$214 \text{ LOD} = 3.3 \sigma S^{-1} \text{ LOQ} = 10 \sigma S^{-1}$$

215 The results indicated linearity by a curve with  $r^2 = 0.9995$  with LOD 0.035 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> and LOQ  
216 0.108 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>. These results improved the limits reached before by Bordiga et al. in wines using  
217 HPLC-PDA-MS/MS (LOD 4 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> – LOQ 11 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>) (Bordiga et al., 2016) probably  
218 because they determined several compounds simultaneously and our method focused on HT.

219 The intermediate precision was calculated measuring standard deviation (RSD) in a set of two  
220 concentrations (0.1 - 1 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>) for 5 days with 5 replicates per concentration. Repeatability  
221 was assessed during a working session with 5 replicates per concentration. The data for  
222 intermediate precision and repeatability are shown in Table 2.

223

224 The matrix effect was tested in a clean-up matrix by spiking with standard solution in 10  
225 concentrations: 0.079, 0.158, 0.316, 0.632; 1.264, 5.056, 20.224, 80.896, 404.48, and 1011 ng  
226 mL<sup>-1</sup>. The slopes resulting from the spiked matrix and calibration solutions (methanol 10% v/v)  
227 in the linear range were used to evaluate the matrix effect. The relation between the slopes was  
228 defined as (slope in solvent/slope in the spiked matrix)\*100 and expressed as %ME (Trufelli,  
229 Palma, Famiglini, & Cappiello, 2011). The resulting value was 1.05%, which is considered an  
230 irrelevant value, as the calibration curves in the solvent and matrix spiked are very similar.  
231 Figure 1 of supplementary material shows the results.

232 Recovery was calculated from the spiked matrix at five different concentrations ranging from  
233 1.2 to 1011.2 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>. The results were from 116 – 58% within the recommended values (40-  
234 120%) for concentrations ranging from 1 to 1000 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> (Gustavo González & Ángeles  
235 Herrador, 2007). Figure 2 of supplementary material shows the results.

236 SPE was used as a cleaning technique because it allowed the removal of different components  
237 that could be interfering with mass analysis. A solid-phase extraction (SPE) approach has been  
238 tested in order to avoid overestimation and sub-estimation of the quantity. Three different  
239 solutions were prepared with a concentration LOQ, LOQ + 50% and 3LOQ in methanol /water  
240 10% v/v, which were analysed after the SPE clean-up procedure (Gasperotti, Masuero, Guella,  
241 Mattivi, & Vrhovsek, 2014). The results showed an extraction efficacy of 96.7%, 86.3%, and  
242 143.2%, respectively. On the other hand, to evaluate the amount of analyte that is dragged in the  
243 washing step, the solutions were analysed and the HT contents were under LOQ limits,  
244 indicating the clean-up procedure was efficient.

### 245 **3.2. Intracellular HT**

246 Hydroxytyrosol is a phenolic compound that could be formed from a degradation or  
247 transformation from other polyphenolic structures present in wines (i.e. anthocyanins, (Motilva  
248 et al., 2016). Likewise it is formed from oleuropein degradation in olive oil (Charoenprasert &  
249 Mitchell, 2012). Nonetheless, different synthesis of HT has been proposed. For instance, the

250 metabolism in humans involves a pathway starting from dopamine, which is transformed by the  
251 monoaminoxidase to give 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetaldehyde that can be reduced by the  
252 aldehyde reductase to HT (Pérez-Mañá et al., 2015). Additionally, the Ehrlich pathway shown  
253 in Figure 1 relates the amino acid metabolism with HT synthesis. However, up to now, no direct  
254 evidence of this synthesis by yeast could be determined. To demonstrate that it is a metabolite  
255 formed by yeast, we analysed the intracellular media of the yeast, as this could unequivocally  
256 demonstrate its origin apart from others that might happen. Figure 2 shows three mass  
257 chromatograms of the biomass of the strains QA, RF and *T. delbruekii* taken at day 2 of the  
258 alcoholic fermentations of synthetic must; each of these strains were analysed in duplicate. A  
259 total of six samples were analysed and HT quantified as follows:  $8.6 \pm 2.7$  ng mL<sup>-1</sup> in the  
260 intracellular media of QA at day 2 of fermentation;  $106.2 \pm 35.1$  ng mL<sup>-1</sup> in the intracellular  
261 media of RF at day 2; and  $16.1 \pm 2.3$  ng mL<sup>-1</sup> in the intracellular media of *T. delbruekii* at day 2  
262 of fermentation. These results demonstrate the production of HT by the strains studied,  
263 conferring yeast with a high potential as a producer of this bioactive compound.

### 264 **3.3. Fermentations in *Tempranillo* must**

265 Three fermentations with different inoculation processes were performed with the *Tempranillo*  
266 variety. As shown in Figure 3A, the production of HT was influenced by the yeast strain  
267 involved in the fermentation process. The higher concentrations of HT were observed at day 5  
268 in CTQA and at day 3 in CTRF, ranging between 400 and 235 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Only in  
269 the case of CTQA, was the maximum HT achieved at the moment when the reducing sugars  
270 were totally consumed. When sequential fermentation was performed, lower concentrations of  
271 HT were found, as can be seen when comparing CTQA, QA and *T delbruekii*, (41.3%; Figure  
272 3A left). Moreover, when SP and SIQA were compared, SP fermentation was found to show  
273 higher concentrations (24.3%) over the other fermentations. On the other hand, Figure 3A  
274 (right) shows RF fermentations and it can be observed that concentration values in SIRF  
275 (8.51%) were lower than in CTRF. In addition, the content of HT in SP fermentation reached

276 values 23.8% higher than the concentration in SIRF and CTRF (16.7%). Therefore, our results  
277 imply that when *T. delbruekii* was used in the fermentations, the HT was in a lower  
278 concentration. Romboli et al. made a similar observation in sequential fermentation with  
279 another non-*Saccharomyces* strain, *C. zemplinina* (Romboli et al., 2015). These researchers  
280 reported concentrations of 18.4 mg L<sup>-1</sup> for HT+ tyrosol in wines produced by *S. cerevisiae*  
281 alone, and concentrations of 5.8 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of HT+tyrosol in wines produced by sequential  
282 inoculation with *C. zemplinina* and *S. cerevisiae* Sc1.

283 Figure 3B shows the score plots of PCA analysis displaying on the right side the samples that  
284 were separated considering the methods of inoculation. The samples CTQA and CTRF  
285 presented the same location while the samples of sequential inoculation were separated from  
286 each other. Spontaneous fermentation was located on the bottom-left quadrant, possibly related  
287 to the influence of concentrations of days 7 and 8, which appear in the same place in the  
288 projection of cases due to their high concentrations of SP samples.

#### 289 **3.4. Fermentations in must of six white varieties of grapes**

290 To study the effect of different white grapes on HT production during alcoholic fermentation,  
291 musts made from six white grape varieties were analysed after alcoholic fermentation by *S.*  
292 *cerevisiae* strain Aroma White. The grapes varieties were *Corredera*, *Moscatel*, *Chardonnay*,  
293 *Sauvignon Blanc*, *Palomino Fino* and *Vijiriega*, and the results are represented in a bar graph  
294 together with reducing sugars (Figure 4A). All varieties followed a similar trend, a progressive  
295 increase until the highest concentration was reached at the fifth day (173, 159, 167, 288, 89 and  
296 238 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) except for the variety *Chardonnay*, which presented a slight delay,  
297 and reached the highest concentration one day later (185 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>). The maximum contents of  
298 HT were determined when the value of reducing sugars ranged from 53% to 35% of the initial  
299 concentration. After this point, the concentrations decreased, falling to the previous values  
300 achieved on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> days (no significant differences  $p < 0.05$ ). In fact, all these results  
301 show that the time course of hydroxytyrosol production by the AROMA WHITE strain was

302 affected by the grape-must composition and, consequently, by the duration of the fermentation.  
303 These results agree well with those reported before by Romboli et al. (2015), who correlated  
304 high amounts of HT with the slowness in the fermentation process. In fact, the longer the  
305 fermentation lasted, the higher the HT concentration, as with the fermentations of *Sauvignon*  
306 *Blanc*.

307 Figure 4B plots the PCA analysis, representing on the left the days of the fermentation process.  
308 The data are grouped into four clusters, two smaller for the first two days (day 1 and 2) and other  
309 of last days (12, 13, 14, and 15), located on the right side of the plot. The biggest cluster is in  
310 the middle of the plot, corresponding to the interval from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> days and day 3. On  
311 the left, the cluster corresponds to the interval from days 4 to 7, which are those with the highest  
312 concentrations. Figure 4B displays the projection of the varieties of grapes treated as variables  
313 (Figure 4B right). However, the Chardonnay variety is located at the bottom of the projection,  
314 probably being influenced by the location of the intermediate cluster (3, 8, 9, 10, and 11) days in  
315 which the HT content remained practically unchanged (159 to 134 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>). Although further  
316 studies are required to understand how the chemical composition of the must influences the HT  
317 concentration as well as the role that this compound exerts on the yeast, it is clear from our  
318 results that the strains studied synthesise HT and therefore this compound is found in wines.

#### 319 **4. Conclusions**

320 As we know, this is the first study available in which HT has been identified and quantified in  
321 an intracellular compartment of *Saccharomyces* (QA23, RF) and Non-*Saccharomyces*  
322 (*Torulasporea delbruekii*). This could be accomplished thanks to a validated HRMS method  
323 developed specifically to diminish LOD and LOQ.

324 Furthermore, we ascertained that the strain is a crucial factor that influences the production of  
325 HT in wines. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (QA23) was a more efficient producer of HT than RF in  
326 grape musts. Sequential fermentations involving the non-*Saccharomyces* yeast, *T. delbruekii*,  
327 adversely affect the content of HT.

328 Additionally, the composition of grape must affect the HT concentration. *Sauvignon Blanc* and  
329 *Vijiriega* were grape varieties from which AROMA WHITE produced higher concentrations at  
330 5<sup>th</sup> day of alcoholic fermentation. In summary, HT was a bioactive compound produced by yeast  
331 strain that can be modulated both by the involved strain and by the composition of the must.

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Table 1A. Sampling and mean of reducing sugars content at the end of fermentation in different variety of grapes

Grape variety	<i>Palomino fino</i>	<i>Vijiriega</i>	<i>Corredera</i>	<i>Moscatel</i>	<i>Sauvignon Blanc</i>	<i>Chardonay</i>
Days of fermentation	7	10	11	11	13	15
Reducing Sugars (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	2.00	1.30	2.33	1.47	1.55	1.95

Table 1B. Sampling days and mean of the content of reducing sugars at the end of fermentation in different inoculations ways.

Fermentation	<i>CTQA23</i>	<i>CTRF</i>	<i>ISQA23</i>	<i>ISRF</i>	<i>Spontaneous</i>
Days of fermentation	13	13	14	15	13
Reducing Sugars (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.64	1.02	0.56	0.84	1.2

Table 2A. Parameters of calibration curves. LDR (linear dynamic range), LOD (limit of detection), LOQ (limit of quantitate).

	LDR	LOD	LOQ	Curve		
				(slope)	(offset)	$R^2$
Matrix-spiked calibration	0.079-1011.00	0.03	0.01	950135	-5070483	0.9991
Solvent calibration (methanol 10%)	0.079-1011.00	0.03	0.08	72224	-355656	0.9991

Table 2B. Accuracy and repetitivity.

	Intra-day (%RSD)	Inter-day (%RSD)	Accuracy (%RE)
Low concentration	1.6	0.5	-1
High concentration	1.4	0.5	-1

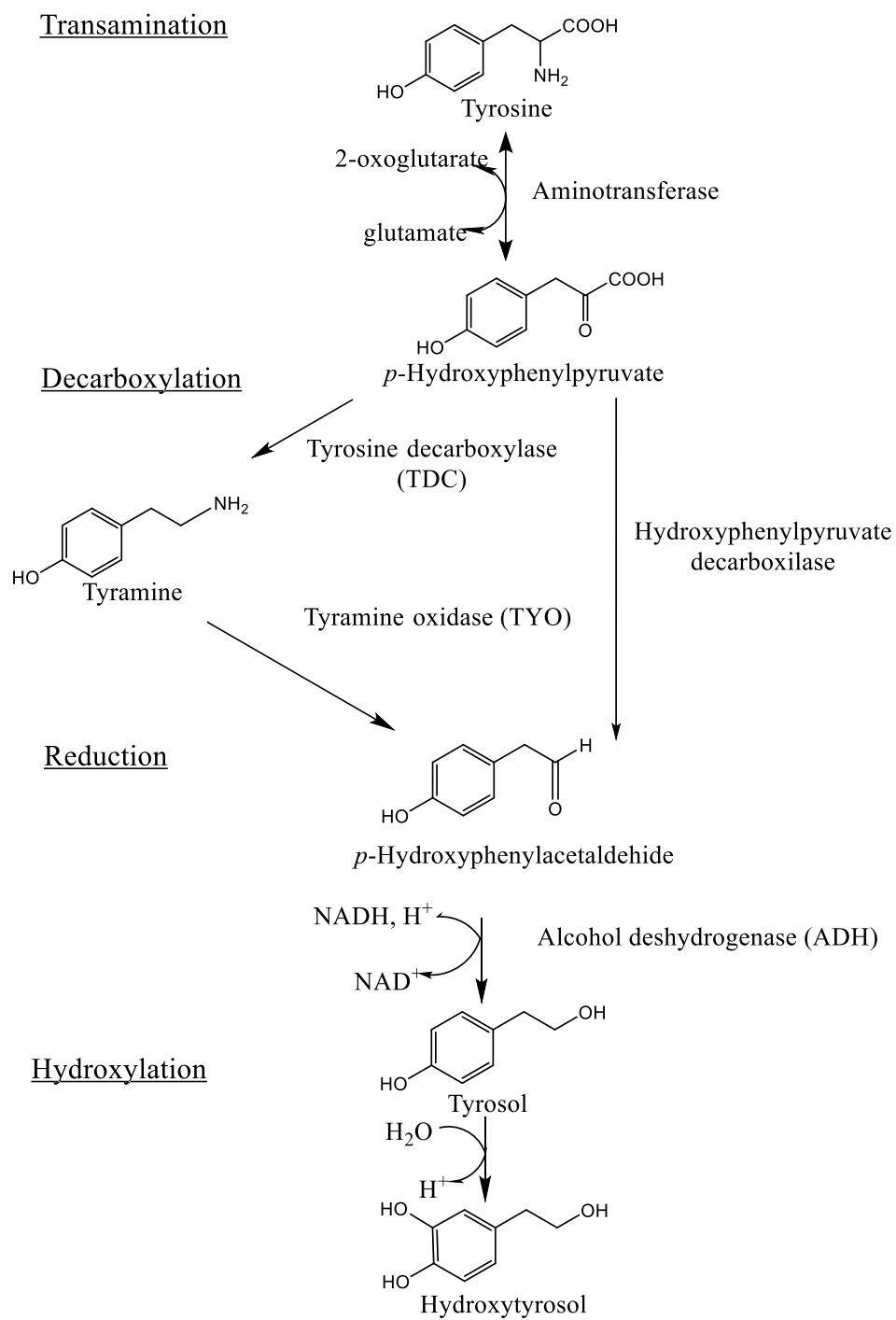
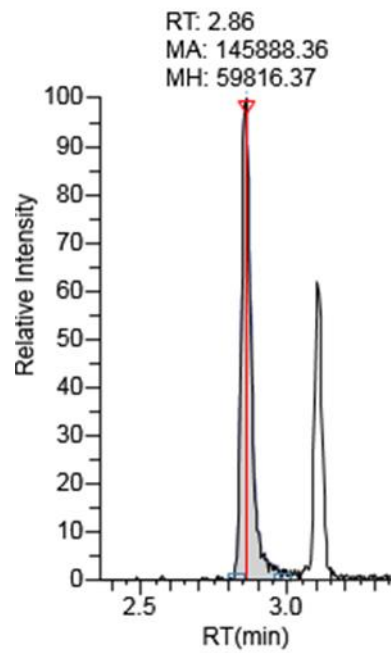
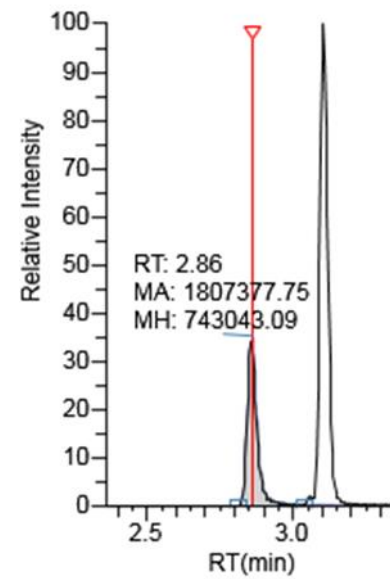


Figure 1. Ehrlich pathway for the production of hydroxytyrosol

170303\_QA1 Hydroxytyrosol m/z: ...



170303\_RF1 Hydroxytyrosol m/z: ...



170301\_T1 Hydroxytyrosol m/z: 123 ...

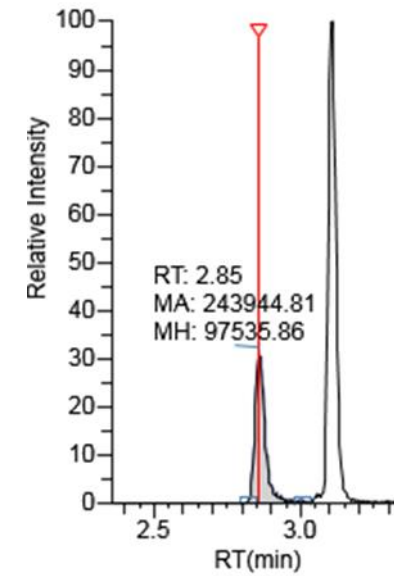


Figure 2. TIC chromatogram of HT of intracellular samples of second day of fermentation. On the left the QA sample, in the middle RF and on the right *T. delbruekii*.

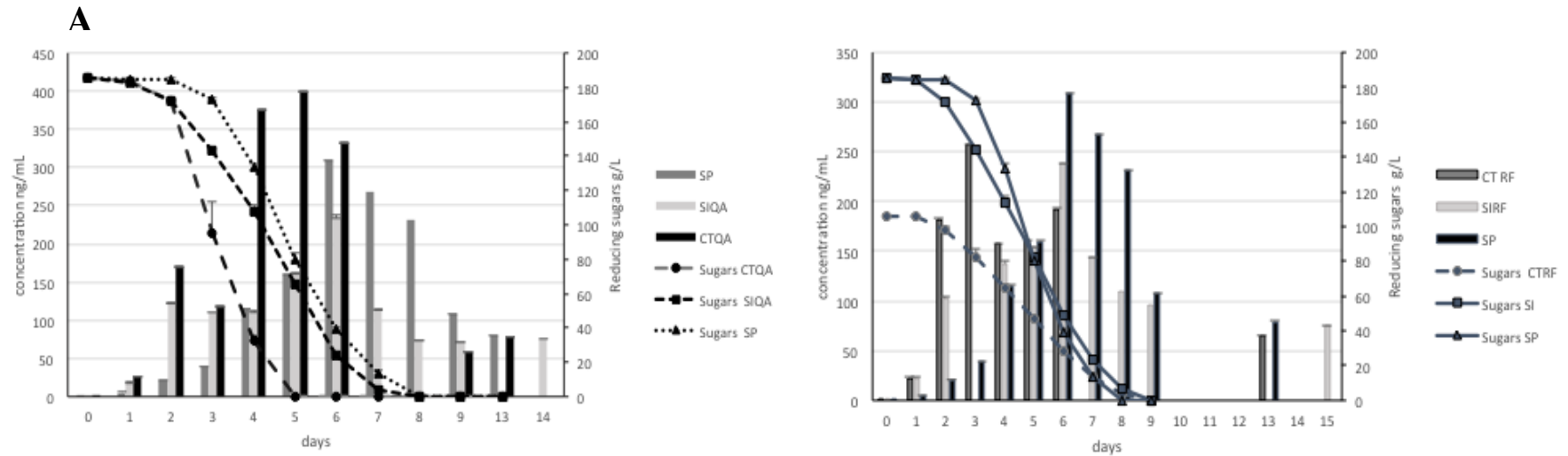


Figure 3A. Effects of two yeast strains (QA23 on the left and RF on the right) on the production of hydroxytyrosol, and time course reducing sugar in the fermentation of natural must of Tempranillo grapes. Different forms of inoculation were used: SI (sequential inoculation), SP (spontaneous fermentation), CTQA (control fermentation with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* QA23); CTRF (control fermentation with RED FRUIT).

**B**

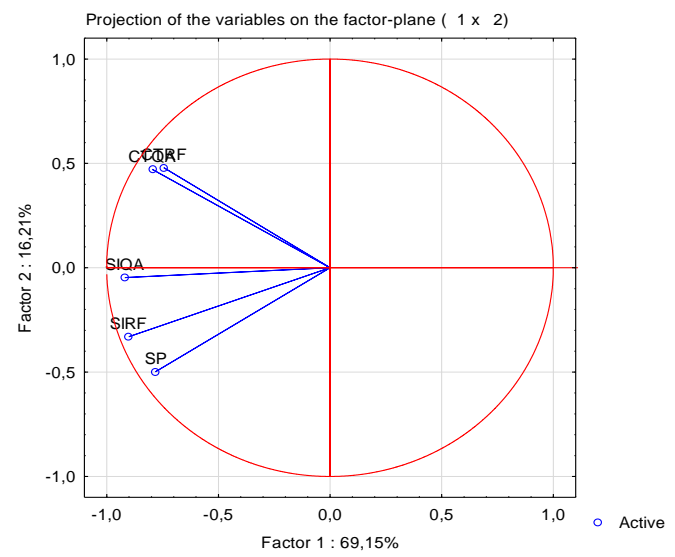
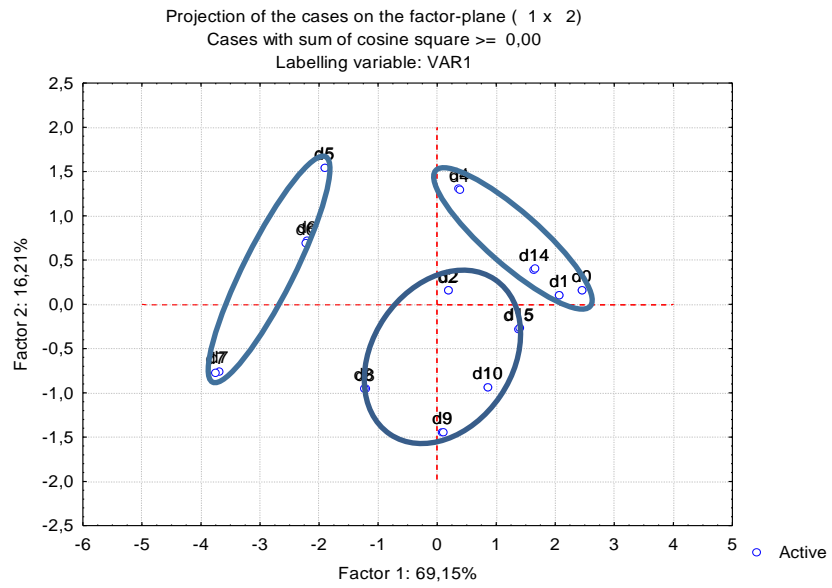


Figure 3B. Score plot of PCA analysis, on the left side, considering days of fermentation and on the right side considering different methods of inoculation



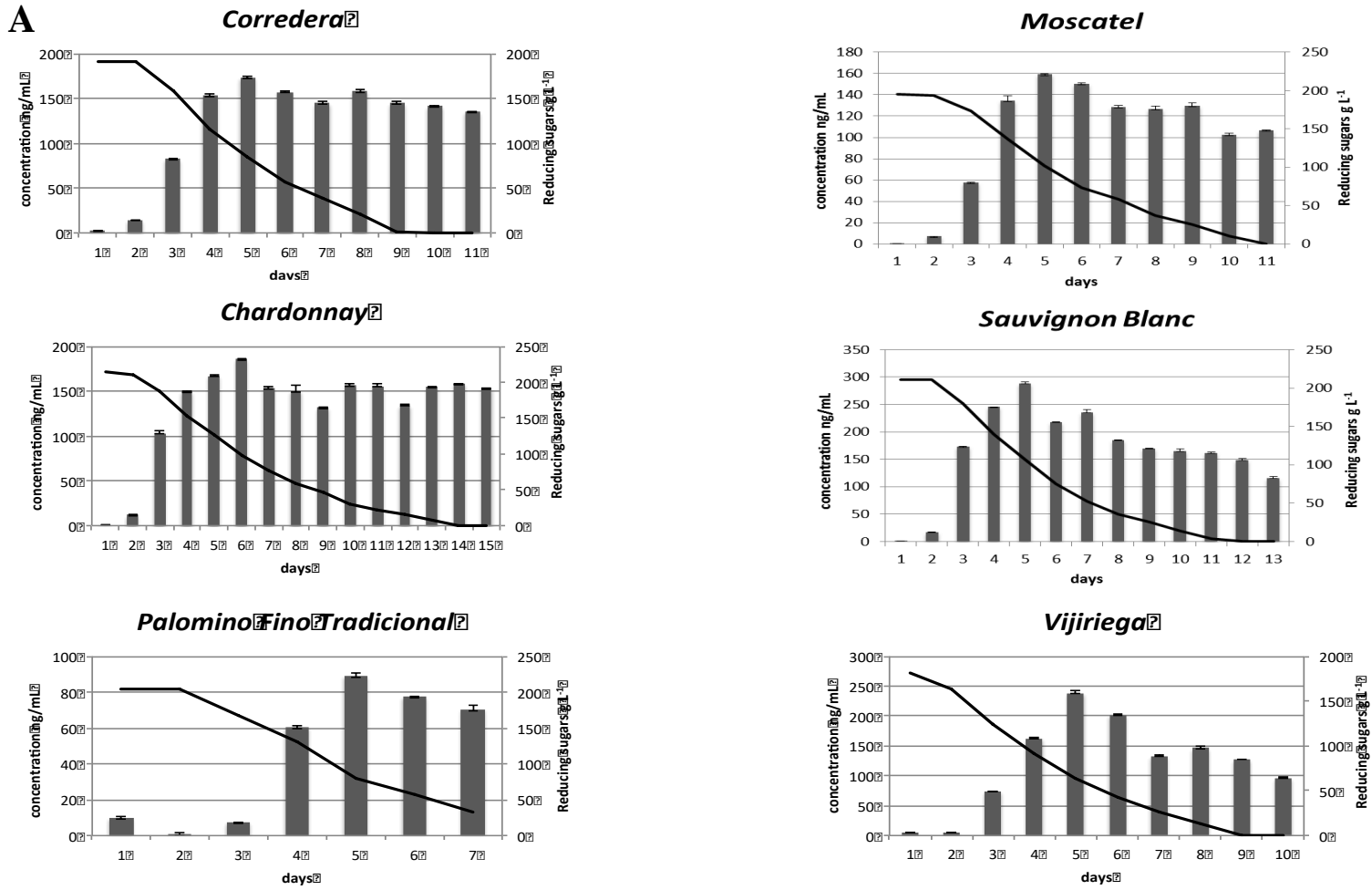


Figure 4A. Time course of HT and consumption of reducing sugars in alcoholic fermentation in natural must of six different grape varieties.

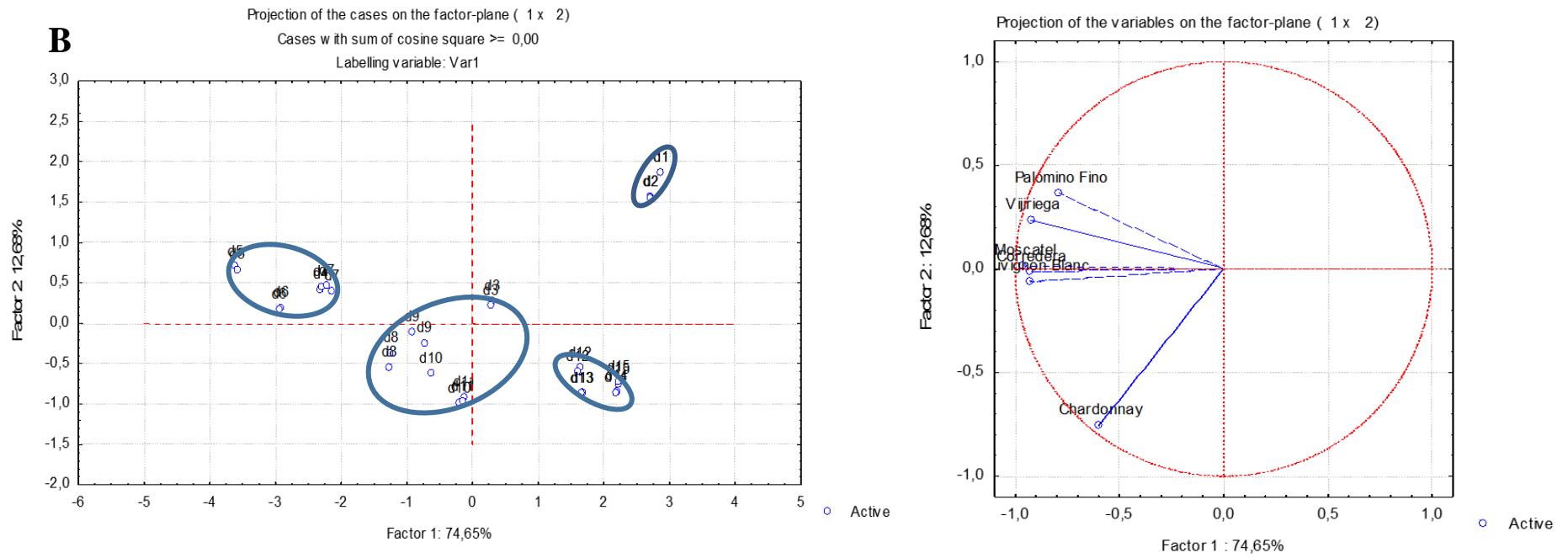


Figure 4B. Score plot of PCA analysis, on the left side considering days of fermentation and on the right considering the varieties of grapes using in the elaboration of musts.