

**Functional homogeneous zones (fHZs) in viticultural zoning procedure: an Italian case study on Aglianico vine.**

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## Abstract

This paper aims to test a new physically oriented approach to viticulture zoning at farm scale, strongly rooted in hydrogeology and aiming to achieve a better use of environmental features with respect to plant requirements and wine production. The physics of our approach is defined by the use of soil-plant-atmosphere simulation models, applying physically-based equations to describe the soil hydrological processes and solve soil-plant water status.

This study (ZOVisA project) was conducted on a farm devoted to high quality wines production (Aglianico DOC), located in South Italy (Campania region, Mirabella Eclano-AV). The soil spatial distribution was obtained after standard soil survey informed by geophysical survey. Two Homogeneous Zones (HZs) were identified; in each one a physically based model was applied to solve the soil water balance and estimate the soil functional behaviour (crop water stress index, CWSI) defining the functional Homogeneous Zones (fHZs). For the second process, experimental plots were established and monitored for investigating soil-plant water status, crop development (biometric and physiological parameters) and daily climate variables (temperature, solar radiation, rainfall, wind).

The effects of crop water status on crop response over must and wine quality were then evaluated in the fHZs. This was performed by comparing crop water stress with (i) crop physiological measurement (leaf gas exchange, chlorophyll-a fluorescence, leaf water potential, chlorophyll content, LAI measurement), (ii) grape bunches measurements (berry weight, sugar content, titratable acidity, etc.) and (iii) wine quality (aromatic response). This experiment proved the usefulness of the physical based approach, also in the case of mapping viticulture microzoning.

**Key Words :** *Terroir, SWAP model, LWP*

## 101 1 Introduction

102 Concepts such as terroir and viticulture zoning are becoming increasingly more important for planning and managing  
103 vineyards aiming at high quality wine (Gladstones and Smart, 1997; Carey, 2001; Vaudour, 2003). Basically their practical  
104 implementation (Deloire et al., 2005; Fregoni, 1988) aims to classify the landscape (mainly climate and soil), studying its  
105 interaction with vineyard and wine quality. Mapping of terroir and viticulture zoning have been developed at all scales,  
106 especially since the 1990s following the widespread use of geomatics (Girard and Girard, 2003).

107 The methodology (even if not unique) indeed gave many positive results, but also showed some important limitations  
108 mainly related to its strongly empirical base. In other words the terroir is a sort of “black box” in which the quantitative  
109 linkage between climate–soil–plant and wine is empirically or statistically described (e.g. Brousset et al. 2010) and not  
110 analyzed in its mechanics (Bonfante et al. 2011).

111 Recently some changes have been made and the spatial analysis of terroirs has improved, incorporating some key  
112 features known to strongly affect wine quality. Among them are solar radiation and bioclimatic indexes (Failla et al.,  
113 2004; Vaudour, 2001) and also morphometric data and multitemporal remotely sensed images (Vaudour et al. 2010).

114 Moreover, Bonfante et al. (2011) demonstrated that terroir analysis – applied at a district scale (mesoscale sensu  
115 Vaudour & Shaw 2005) - can become more profitable by combining high quality GIS (as bioclimatic indexes) with water  
116 balance simulation modelling for addressing the key and very complex issue of soil-plant water stress. This is very  
117 important because even if it is well known that water stress strongly affects grape quality, its spatial description can be  
118 a very difficult issue.

119 Despite this result, it is still very questionable whether a similar approach can be usefully applied at a more local – less  
120 aggregated - spatial scale where ecophysiological functioning and land management play a key role. Moreover, this  
121 detailed scale is very useful because it makes it possible to evaluate the functional relationships between viticulture  
122 zones, *plant-soil water stress*, vineyard status and grape wine quality.

123 To address this issue here we refer to “micro-zoning” in coherence with the term “micro-scale” used by Vaudour & Shaw  
124 (2005) for terroir zoning.

125 In this perspective, the aim of this paper is to prove that physically based approaches can be usefully employed also at  
126 very detailed scales such as for viticulture microzoning, in order to effectively separate different viticulture zones  
127 (Functional Homogeneous Zones, fHZ) on the basis of their potential functionality (e.g. potential water stress) and by  
128 doing so better orient viticulture management.

129 This was done on an experimental site (2.3ha over a homogeneous hilly slope) characterized by large soil variation under  
130 the very same climatic conditions.

## 131 2 Materials and methods

### 132 2.1 Study Area

133 The study area is located in a hilly environment of southern Italy (Mirabella Eclano - AV, Campania region: Lat.  
134 41.047808°, Lon 14.991684°, elev. 368 a.s.l.), in a farm oriented to the production of high quality wines, namely  
135 Quintodecimo.

136 The study area is included in the “marl-sandstone/carbonate hills” landscape system (D3). The only information on soil  
137 types is available on a rather coarse scale: a soil-landscape map of the whole Campania Region at a 1:250.000 scale (Di  
138 Gennaro et al., 2002).

139 The main soil types of the Mirabella Eclano area are identified as Haplic Calcisols and Calcaric Cambisols. However,  
140 considering the scale, this map cannot be employed to describe the soil type at the specific site of the experiment.

141 The vineyard studied was Aglianico cultivar (controlled designation of origin –DOC /AOC), standard clone population  
142 planted in the year 2000 on 1103 Paulsen rootstocks (espalier system, cordon spur pruning, 5000 units per hectare)  
143 placed along a slope of length 90 m with an 11% gradient. The “green manure” management is applied.

144 The long-term (2003-2013) mean daily temperature annually of the study area was 14.7 (±0.9) °C, while the mean annual  
145 rainfall was 802 (±129) mm (data from the Regional weather station of Mirabella Eclano – AV- at 1 km of study area)

Climate monitoring within the farm during the 2011 to 2013 vintage showed that during the cropping season (April to early October) the mean daily temperature was 20.9 ( $\pm 1.2$ ) °C, while the precipitation was very variable during the three vintages, ranging from 285 to 200 mm.

## 2.2 Method used for mapping Homogeneous Zones

The viticulture microzoning procedure used is rooted in procedures already applied at various scales. This includes standard soil mapping and geometric spatial analysis of solar radiation, bioclimatic indexes, morphometric data and remotely sensed images (Failla et al. 2004; Vaudour 2001; Vaudour et al. 2010). Moreover, the procedure included geophysical mapping which has proved to be a very useful tool for soil spatial analysis also in precision viticulture (Andrenelli et al. 2010; Priori et al. 2010; Priori et al. 2012).

More specifically, the employed procedure is given in the flow diagram in fig. 1:

**Step 1:** Identification of Homogeneous Zones (HZs) obtained from standard soil mapping (landscape units, soil profiles, minipits, etc.) at a detailed scale supported by geophysical survey. These HZs were also statistically described in terms of their DTM and DSM derived parameters.

**Step 2:** Evaluation of the hydrological indicator of crop water status (potential crop water stress index - CWSI) by applying physically based simulation modelling to the representative soils of the previously defined HZs, and definition of functional Homogeneous Zones (fHZs);

**Step 3:** vine/must/wine monitoring over the fHZs;

The realization of step 1 gives an advanced but "static" description of landscape useful for making a standard Land Evaluation (qualitative and empirical approach) to evaluate how suitable the land is for the vine. The innovation is enclosed in step 2, where a key component of the functional behavior of soils to vine responses is described dynamically by means of a physically based approach (Bonfante et al. 2011). This last step makes it possible to discriminate soil behavior through a hydrological indicator of plant water status (Crop Water Stress Index - CWSI) and to identify the functional Homogeneous Zones (fHZs) from the HZs. The term "functional" is employed in order to strengthen the soil-plant-climate functionality. Finally, step 3 allows evaluation of plant behavior within any fHZs and testing of the occurring CWSI.

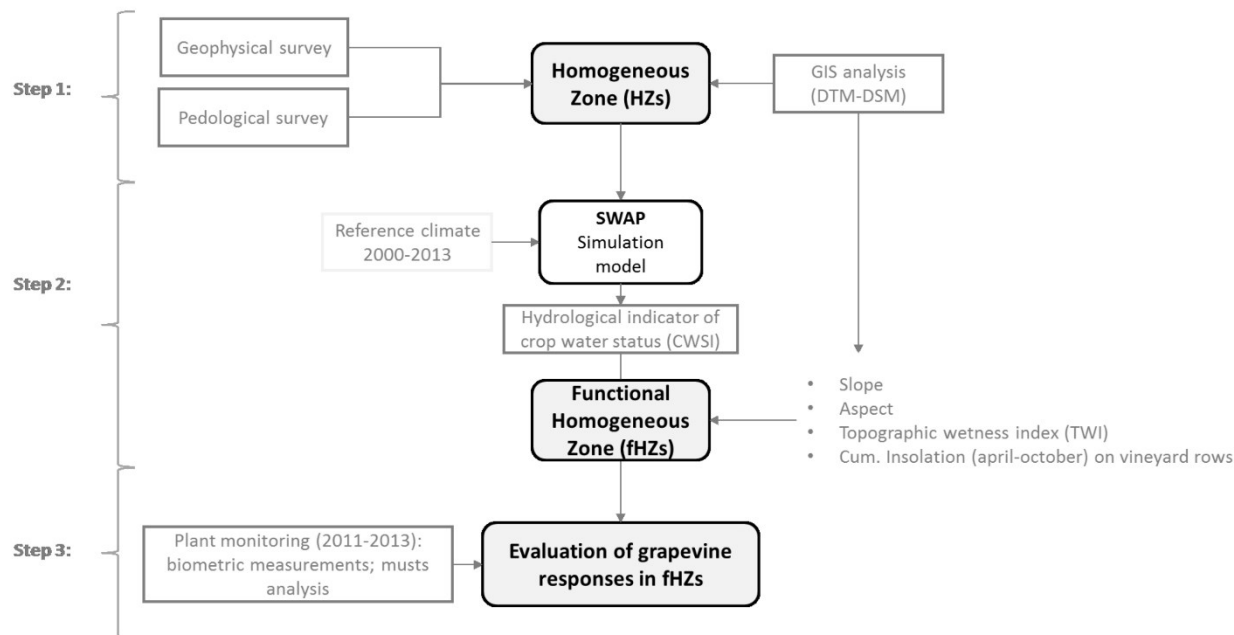


Fig. 1. Flow diagram illustrating the proposed approach applied to the case study of Quintodecimo farm.

## 173 2.3 Pedological survey and soil measurements

174 A combined geophysical-pedological approach was used to derive the map of the Homogeneous Zones (HZs) in the  
175 study area. These HZs were obtained after a detailed soil survey that was adapted to the specific need of this research.  
176 A preliminary map of the most important soil forming factors in the area was obtained by combining a geomorphological  
177 analysis of LIDAR-derived DEM with local geological information. This led to the identification of the main soil-landscape  
178 units. The actual soil survey (soil profiles, minipit and augering) was supported by geophysical survey techniques. These  
179 techniques, based on non-invasive tools (generally applied to environmental studies, e.g. for geological prospecting),  
180 were used as very quick survey systems that gave initial information on the general spatial variability of the soils that  
181 were investigated, better planning of the field investigation in the pedological survey, and improvement in the soil map  
182 resolution emphasizing the spatial soil micro-variability (traditional soil surveys and soil analysis are usually time-  
183 consuming and expensive, especially for high resolution maps). Geoelectrical soil mapping has become widely accepted  
184 and considered as a successful geophysical method that provides the spatial distribution of relevant agronomic  
185 information for precision farming (Lück et al., 2009).

186 Methods based on electrical properties are particularly promising as support to pedological surveys because important  
187 soil physical properties are strongly correlated to electrical conductivity which, changing in space, can represent spatial  
188 soil distribution. Geophysical methods offer a valuable means for obtaining subsidiary data in an efficient way, and have  
189 been widely applied in soil sciences for a considerable period of time (Samouëlian et al., 2005).

190 In this study the apparent soil electric conductivity (ECa), was carried out by Electro-Magnetic Induction (EMI) sensors,  
191 which represents a very useful tool for identifying soil map units and soil properties in respect of clay content (Morari  
192 et al., 2009), soil depth (Saey et al., 2009), water content (Davies, 2004; Cousin et al., 2009; Lück et al., 2009; Tromp-  
193 van Meerveld and McDonnell, 2009) and water salinity (Doolittle et al., 2001).

194 However soils, like every other geological material, are not uniform, consequently what is specifically measured is an  
195 apparent electrical conductivity (ECa), which can be defined as the actual conductivity of a rock homogeneous and  
196 isotropic equivalent to a real heterogeneous and anisotropic media.

197 The instrument used for surface mapping the electric conductivity was the EM38-DD (Geonics Ltd., Ontario, Canada)  
198 used in both VDM (vertical dipole mode) and HDM (Horizontal dipole mode). The sensor of instrument was calibrated  
199 to minimize the errors before the survey, which was performed in July 2011 during grape ripening. The instrument was  
200 placed on a PVC sledge and pulled by a tractor along the inter-rows, at a distance of about 5 meters to avoid interference  
201 phenomena. The use of the sledge makes it possible to keep the instrument at a constant distance from the soil, making  
202 data acquisition easier and more accurate.

203 The data were recorded on a GPS-supplied data-logger with European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service  
204 (EGNOS)–Wide-Area Augmentation System (WAAS) correction (accuracy » 3 m), which made it possible to  
205 georeferenced and map the measured property. The instrument was set to acquire one measurement per second.

206 Data post-processing was performed by ordinary kriging with 1 m resolution. The final result of the EM38-DD survey  
207 was therefore a regular grid of data points including ECa for two depths (1.6 m for VDM and 0.76 m for HDM). These  
208 horizontal (HDM) and vertical (VDM) ECa maps were used as baseline data for a pedological survey based on soil  
209 augerings and soil profiles descriptions. This was done similarly with the classic (overlying procedures) soil survey of  
210 other thematic layers (geology, geomorphology, etc.).

211 The soil profiles were described according to FAO (2006). Chemical analyses were performed according to the official  
212 methods of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry REF. The grain size distribution (GSD) was determined by a  
213 laser granulometer (Malvern Mastersizer 2000).

214 Undisturbed soil samples (volume  $\cong 750 \text{ cm}^3$ ) were collected from each soil horizon and hydraulic properties were  
215 determined in the laboratory to simulate the hydrological conditions of the soil by means of an agro-hydrological model,  
216 which is illustrated in section 2.5.

217 Soil samples were saturated from the bottom and the saturated hydraulic conductivity was measured by a permeameter  
218 (Reynold et al., 2002). After sealing the bottom surface to set a zero flux, measurements were then taken during drying:  
219 at appropriately pre-set time intervals, the weight of the whole sample and the pressure head at three different depths  
220 (by means of tensiometers) were determined. An iterative procedure was applied for estimating the water retention  
221 curve from these measurements. The instantaneous profile method was used to determine the unsaturated hydraulic  
222 conductivity. Moreover, some points at a lower water content of the dry branch of the water retention curve were

223 determined by a dew-point system (WP4 dew-point potentiometer, Decagon devices, Inc.). Details on the tests and  
 224 overall calculation procedures were described by Basile et al. (2012) and Bonfante et al. (2010).  
 225

## 226 2.4 The hydrological indicator: Crop Water Stress Index (CWSI)

227 The effects of water stress on wines quality, appearance, flavour, taste and aroma have been clearly highlighted by  
 228 different authors: Matthews et al. (1990) Van Leewen et al., 2009, Chapman et al., 2005; Acevedo-Opazo et al., 2010,  
 229 Intrigliolo and Castel 2011 and Romero et al., 2013, differentiating also the effects between early or late water deficit  
 230 treatments. The estimate of water stress at the different phenological stages can indeed, therefore, represent an  
 231 important tool in terroir classification. Different variables (e.g. air temperature, wet-bulb temperature, etc.) could be  
 232 applied to develop a proper water stress index, but as reported by Kozak et al., 2006, the use of transpiration  
 233 information is realistically more variable (in respect to Evapotranspiration) for defining the crop water stress. In our  
 234 approach, to simulate the soil water balance we used a simulation model (SWAP) based on the Richards equation, very  
 235 different from the one applied by Kozak et al. It is very robust for stimulating the soil water balance and, moreover, it  
 236 was previously used and tested in Italy and in the same Campania Region (Bonfante et al., 2010; 2011).  
 237 The stress index estimated from the model output is a daily crop water stress index (CWSI), defined as follows:  
 238

$$239 \text{CWSI} = [1 - (T_r/T_p)] \cdot 100 \quad (1)$$

240 where  $T_r$  is the daily actual water uptake and  $T_p$  is the daily potential transpiration.

241 The sum of the daily CWSI in the required period represents the cumulated stress  $\text{CWSI}_{cum}$ :

$$244 \text{CWSI}_{cum} = \frac{[\int_{t_1}^{t_2} 1 - (T_r/T_p) \cdot dt]}{(t_2 - t_1)} \cdot 100 \quad (2)$$

245 The application of this index, changing the integration time ( $t_1$  and  $t_2$ ), makes it possible to estimate plant water stress  
 246 at different stages of crop growth (shoot growth, flowering, berry formation, berry ripening) (Fig.2).

247 Finally, this index was used to analyse the PHZs behaviours and successively define the HZs.  
 248  
 249

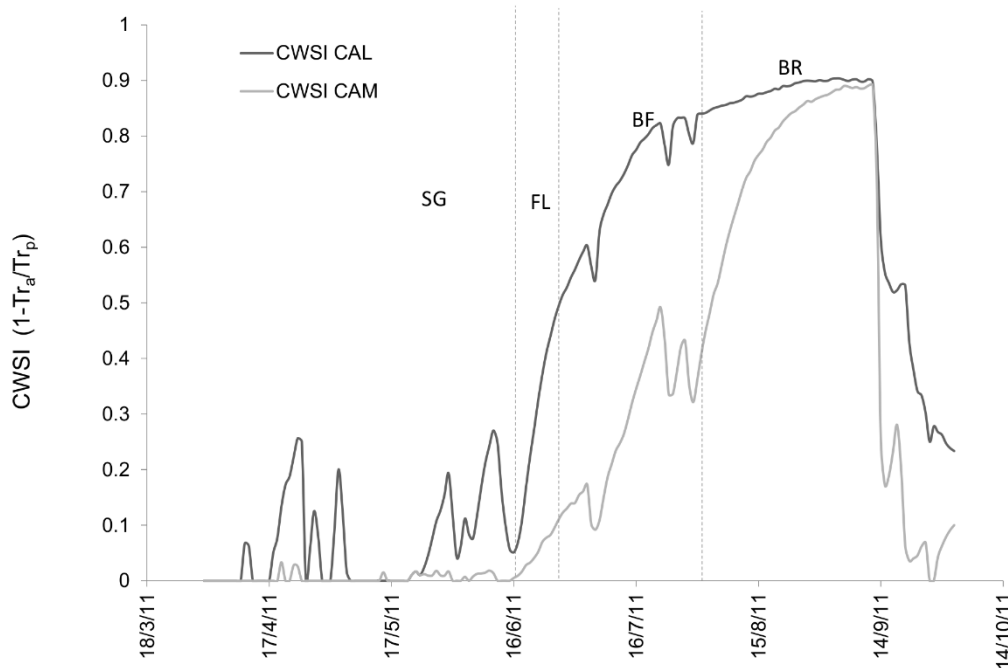


Fig.2. The crop water stress index (CWSI) simulated by SWAP in the HZs CAL and CAM in the year 2011 during the cropping season. (SG= Shoot growth; FL= Flowering; BF= Berry formation; BR= Berry Ripening )

## 2.5 Simulation modelling

The Soil–Water–Atmosphere–Plant (SWAP) model (Kroes et al., 2008) was applied to solve the soil water balance and to calculate the CWSI for each soil identified by the soil survey. It was already used in viticulture by different authors (Ben-Asher et al., 2006; Minacapilli et al., 2009; Bonfante et al., 2011; Rallo et al., 2012). SWAP is an integrated physically based simulation model of water, solute and heat transport in the saturated – unsaturated zone in relation to crop growth. In this study only the water flow model was used; it assumes a 1-D vertical flow processes and calculates the soil water flow using the Richards equation:

$$C(h) \cdot \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \left[ K(h) \cdot \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} + 1 \right) \right]}{\partial z} - S(h) \quad (3)$$

where  $C(h) = \partial \theta / \partial h$  is the differential soil water capacity,  $\theta$  ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{cm}^{-3}$ ) is the volumetric soil water content,  $h$  (cm) is the soil water pressure head,  $t$  (d) is the time,  $z$  (cm) is the vertical coordinate taken positively upward,  $K$  ( $\text{cm d}^{-1}$ ) is the hydraulic conductivity and  $S$  ( $\text{cm}^3 \text{cm}^{-3} \text{d}^{-1}$ ) is the water extraction rate by plant roots.

Soil water retention is described by the unimodal  $\theta(h)$  relationship proposed by van Genuchten (1980), expressed in terms of the effective saturation,  $Se$ , as follows:

$$Se = \left[ \frac{1}{1 + (\alpha|h|)^n} \right]^m \quad (4)$$

Where  $Se = (\theta - \theta_r) / (\theta_0 - \theta_r)$ ,  $\theta_r$  and  $\theta_0$  are the residual water content and the water content at  $h=0$  respectively, and  $\alpha$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ),  $n$  and  $m$  are curve-fitting parameters.

Mualem's expression (Mualem, 1976) is applied to calculate relative hydraulic conductivity,  $K_r$ . Assuming  $m=1-1/n$ , van Genuchten (1980) obtained a closed-form analytical solution to predict  $K_r$  at a specified volumetric water content:

$$K_r(Se) = \frac{K(Se)}{K_0} = Se^\tau \cdot \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - Se^{1/m} \right)^m \right]^2 \quad (5)$$

where  $K_0$  is the hydraulic conductivity measured at  $\theta_0$ , and  $\tau$  is a parameter which accounts for the dependence of the tortuosity and partial correlation between adjacent pores.

The condition at the bottom boundary can be set in several ways (e.g. pressure head, water table height, fluxes, impermeable layer, unit gradient, etc.).

The upper boundary conditions of SWAP in agricultural crops are generally described by the potential evapotranspiration  $ET_0$ , irrigation and daily precipitation. The potential evapotranspiration is then partitioned into potential evaporation,  $E_p$ , and potential transpiration,  $T_p$ , according to the LAI evolution, following the approach of Ritchie (1972).

SWAP simulates water uptake and actual transpiration according to the model proposed by Feddes et al. (1978), where the root water uptake,  $Sis$ , is described as a function of the pressure head,  $h$ :

$$S(h) = \alpha(h) \cdot S_{max} = \alpha(h) \cdot \frac{T_p}{|z_r|} \quad (6)$$

where  $z_r$  (cm) is the thickness of the root zone and  $\alpha(h)$  is a semi-empirical function of the pressure head  $h$ , varying between 0 and 1. The shape of the function  $\alpha(h)$  depends on four critical values of  $h$ , which are related to crop type and to potential transpiration rates. The actual transpiration rate  $T_a$  ( $\text{cm d}^{-1}$ ) is computed by the integration of  $S$  over the root layer. The root depth is specified by the user as a function of the development stage.

290 *Model parameters and data for simulations:*

- 291 - the upper boundary condition comes from the daily data of the Mirabella Eclano Regional weather station (1
- 292 km from the study area) integrated with the micrometeorological station located ~~in~~ at the farm. Daily potential
- 293 Evapotranspiration ( $ET_0$ ) was determined by applying the Penman-Monteith equation.
- 294 - the bottom boundary condition was set as a unit gradient.
- 295 - crop data. The Leaf Area Index was measured in different phenological phases by a ceptometer, rooting depth
- 296 was measured during the profile description, the water uptake function parameters were derived from
- 297 literature (Taylor and Ashcroft, 1972).
- 298 - the hydraulic properties were parameterised by fitting a procedure of the van Genuchten-Mualem model to
- 299 the experimental data (see section 2.2).

300 The SWAP model was previously calibrated and validated in both representative soils from the study area, on the soil

301 water content measured at different soil depths by TDR probes (5 soil depths until 100 cm) in the years 2011 and 2012

302 respectively. In particular, the Root Mean Square Error (Loague and Green 1991) showed values (over all the soil profile)

303 of 0.034 ( $\pm 0.03$ ) for the calcisol and 0.032 ( $\pm 0.01$ ) for the cambisol with a correlation index "r" of 0.75 ( $\pm 0.3$ ) and 0.90

304 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) respectively (indexes are a weighted average over depths along the profile (until -100 cm, rooting zone).

305 The RMSE values agree with those shown in a previous study (Bonfante et al., 2010). Moreover, Sheikh and van Loon

306 (2007) reported several RMSE values obtained from calibration and validation procedures by: Heathman et al. (2003),

307 Crescimano and Garofalo (2005), Mertens et al. (2005), Sing (2005), Wegehenkel (2005) and Sheikh and van Loon (2007).

308 Most of these results have a range of 0.03-0.05. Finally, Eitzinger et al. (2004), comparing SWAP, CERES and WOFOST

309 models, obtained RMSE values ranging from 0.007 to 0.07 for different soils, models and crops.

310 We can therefore consider the application of SWAP in both soils as being good for predicting the soil water balance.

311

## 312 2.6 GIS analysis: DTM and DSM information

313 High resolution Digital Surface Models (DSM) and Digital Terrain Models (DTM) of the study area were acquired

314 (respectively in April 2011, 1 m spatial resolution – DTM and July 2013, 0.30 m spatial resolution- DSM) with LiDAR

315 technologies, as part of an ongoing project in the study area. These models represent the elevation values of the ground

316 level plus those aboveground (i.e. canopy). They were processed using specific software coupled with the GIS

317 environment (ArcGIS, QGIS and SAGA open source software) to support the procedures of step 1 concerning (i) the

318 geomorphological analysis for the pedological survey (identification of preliminary landscape mapping units), and (ii) to

319 investigate the variation of the study area within the Homogeneous Zones. These high spatial resolution acquisitions

320 gave detailed auxiliary spatial information such as the estimate of solar radiation taking into consideration shadows

321 from vineyards. Specifically, continuous maps of slope, aspect and topographic wetness index (TWI) were obtained from

322 the DTM and potential insolation at very high spatial resolution from the DSM. More specifically, these last derived

323 maps were realized considering the presence of vineyard rows as a 3D objects in space, able to influence insolation

324 through the formation of intra-rows shadows. Subsequently, all of this information was used to characterize the

325 differences between the fHZs identified in the vineyard.

326

## 327 2.7 Crop measurements

328 Monitoring was conducted for three years (2011 to 2013) within the fHZs (identified in step 2) on the vegetative growth

329 of 27 plants (54 plants over 2.3 ha) until the harvest. The measurements were realized randomly on a weekly or biweekly

330 basis, in relation to the measured variable and the physiological crop stage.

331 The Leaf water potential (MPa) was assessed for each site on an individual set of 10 plants using a Scholander type

332 pressure bomb (SAPS II, 3115, Soil moisture Equipment Corp., Santa Barbara CA, U.S.A). Photosynthetic  $CO_2$  assimilation

333 ( $\mu mol\ m^{-2}\ s^{-1}$ ), stomatal conductance to water vapour ( $mol\ m^{-2}\ s^{-1}$ ) and effective quantum yield of PSII photochemistry

334 ( $\Phi PSII$ ) in light-adapted leaves were measured by means of a portable photosynthesis system (Li-6400-40, LiCor, Lincoln,

335 NE, U.S.A.). The light source was set at a saturating Photosynthetic Photon flux density of  $1800\ \mu mol\ m^{-2}\ s^{-1}$  while the

336 external  $CO_2$  source was set at  $370\ \mu mol\ mol^{-1}$ . The instrument software calculated the various gas-exchange

337 parameters on the basis of the von Caemmerer and Farquhar (1981) model, and  $\Phi PSII$  according to Genty et al. (1989).



338 The chlorophyll content of the leaves was optically estimated as a relative index (CCL) using a handheld meter (CCM200,  
339 Chlorophyll content meter Apogee Instruments, Inc., Logan, UT.) as the ratio of the fractional transmittances at 653 and  
340 931 nm.

341 A linear Accupar LP-80 PAR-LAI ceptometer (Decagon Device Inc., Pullman, WA, USA) was used to measure light  
342 interception by the vineyard and to estimate the leaf area index (LAI). The ceptometer had 80 photosynthetic photon  
343 flux density (PPFD) sensors spaced at 1 cm intervals, and it was programmed to average readings of 10 sensors at a time  
344 before logging data. The PPFD transmitted through the canopy (PPFDt) was measured at 0.25 cm above soil surface over  
345 a grid of 0.1 x 0.1 cm<sup>2</sup> across an area of length 2 m and with 2 m between the rows. The measurements were carried  
346 out in 3-4 replicates in both CAL and CAM sites, while the measurements taken in a clear area near the two sites were  
347 taken as the PPFD incident over the canopy (PPFDi). Intercepted light (PPFDint) was calculated as the difference between  
348 incident and transmitted PPFD, whereas the fractional light interception (fi) was calculated as the ratio between PPFDint  
349 and PPFDi. Statistically significant differences between the means of the analysed variables for the two sites were  
350 evaluated using the Student's t-test. A null hypothesis was rejected at  $P \leq 0.05$ .

## 351 2.8 Must/wine characteristics

352 In addition to the crop measurements, the must and wine characteristics were monitored within the fHZs (identified in  
353 step 2) on 27 plants for three years (2011 to 2013). In particular, of the 27 plants monitored, 12 were used to collect  
354 the grapes at harvest and 15 for sampling scalar grapes.

355 The Standard chemical analyses and spectrophotometric measurements of must and wine were carried out as follows:  
356 Standard chemical analyses (soluble solids, total acidity, pH, total polyphenols (Folin--Ciocalteu Index) and  
357 Absorbances (Abs) were measured according to the OIV Compendium of International Methods of Analysis of Wine and  
358 Musts (OIV 2007). Color intensity (CI) and hue were evaluated according to the Glories method (1984). Total  
359 anthocyanins were determined by the spectrophotometric method based on SO<sub>2</sub> bleaching (Ribèreau-Gayon and  
360 Stonestreet 1965). Tannins were determined according to Ribèreau-Gayon and Stonestreet (1966). Analyses were  
361 performed in duplicate using basic analytical equipment and a Shimadzu UV-1800 (Kyoto, Japan) UV  
362 spectrophotometer.

363 Polyphenol was extracted from the grapes as follows: the separate extraction of berry components was carried out in  
364 duplicate, simulating the maceration process necessary for the production of red wines (Mattivi et al., 2002; Vacca et  
365 al., 2009). Briefly: berries (200 g) were cut in two with a razor blade, and seeds and skins were carefully removed from  
366 each half of the berry. The pulp on the inner face of the berry skin was removed using an end-flattened spatula in an  
367 attempt to preserve skin integrity. Skins and seeds were immediately immersed in a 200 mL solution of ethanol: water  
368 (12:88 v/v), 100 mg/L of SO<sub>2</sub>, 5 g/L tartaric acid and a pH value adjusted to 3.2 (with NaOH) and extracted for five days  
369 at 30°C. The extracts were shaken by hand once a day. Skins and seeds were removed from the hydro-alcoholic solution  
370 after five days and the skin extract was centrifuged for 10 min at 3500 × g. Extracts were poured into dark glass bottles,  
371 flushed with nitrogen and stored at 4°C until spectrophotometric analyses.

372 Quantitative data relative to the phenolic compounds of the treated wines were compared using Fisher's least  
373 significant differences (LSDs) procedure. Analyses were performed using XLSTAT (Addinsoft, XLSTAT Version 2013.6.04).  
374 All data are means of four values (2 experimental replicates X 2 analytical replicates).

375

## 376 3. Results and Discussion

### 377 3.1 Homogeneous Zones (HZ) identification after soil and geophysical mapping

378 In order to identify potentially different environments leading to Homogeneous Zones, we performed a standard soil  
379 mapping adapted to the specific needs of this research. The combination of a geomorphological analysis of LIDAR-  
380 derived DEM and local geological data led to the production of preliminary landscape mapping units. These mapping  
381 units (not reported) depict three different environments, namely (i) a summit landscape unit having a slope gradient of  
382 about 5-10% developed over clayey sediments with clear signs of local erosional processes, (ii) an upslope landscape  
383 unit having a slope gradient of about 25-30% developed over clayey sediments with little signs of erosional processes,

384 (iii) a downslope landscape unit having a slope gradient of about 7-15 % developed over a colluvium landform with no  
 385 signs of erosion.  
 386 An EMI survey was then produced on these units to orient the pedological survey (also in terms of soil variability) and  
 387 to define the boundaries of HZs.  
 388

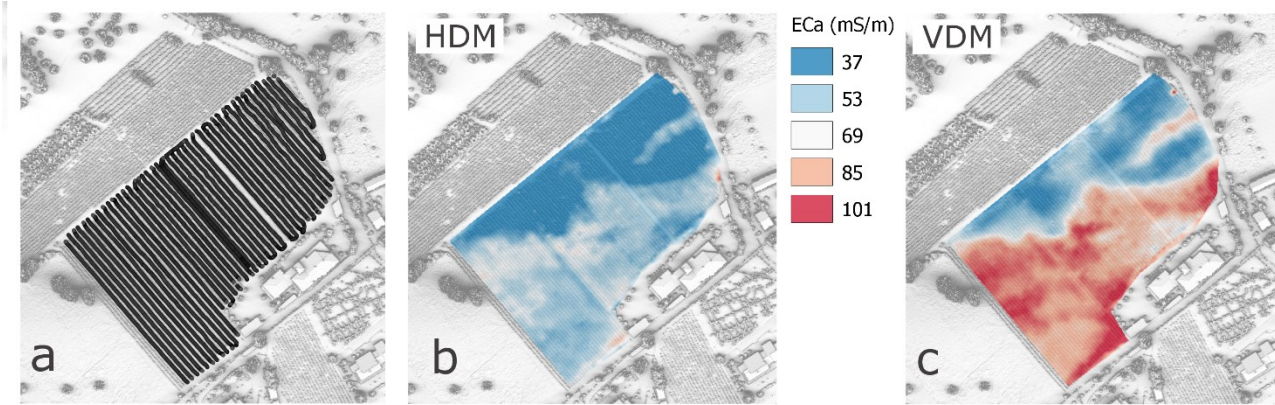


Fig. 3. a) Local acquisition recorded by GPS; b) ECa map of Horizontal Dipole Mode (HDM); c) ECa map of Vertical Dipole Mode (VDM)

389 The ECa maps obtained were used as baseline data in the pedological survey.  
 390 The ECa maps (figures 3) showed that the vineyard was clearly characterized by the presence of two major patterns of  
 391 ECa, generally homogenous, corresponding to two areas: (i) summit and upper slope (red area in fig. 3c) and (ii) down-  
 392 slope (bluish area in fig. 3c). The ECa mean difference between the two areas was statistically significant ( $P<0.05$ ). The  
 393 difference between summit and upslope previously observed by the preliminary landscape analysis (on high resolution  
 394 DTM), however, did not always correspond to the ECa mapping and, moreover, the boundaries between the two main  
 395 areas identified by the ECa pattern is oblique (with respect to slope) and not linear as would be expected with DTM  
 396 analysis.  
 397 Landscape mapping unit analysis was combined with ECa mapping, observing ECa homogenous and heterogeneous  
 398 areas and performing 25 qualitative rapid soil observation (minipits, augers). Six soil profiles and 10 augers were  
 399 localized to include major variability. The soil profiles and augers were described and sampled. Bulk and undisturbed  
 400 soil samples were collected from each described soil horizon and submitted for chemical and physical analysis.  
 401 From the pedological characterization (76 soil samples in total, 51 from 6 soil profiles and 25 from augers; augers data  
 402 are not shown), two main soil types were identified: Cambic Calcisol (Clayic, Aric) and Eutric Cambisol (Clayic, Aric,  
 403 Colluvic) (WRB, 2014).  
 404 These soils are likely to have evolved from a different parent material; the Cambisol evolved over colluvium (including  
 405 traces of pumices), not present in the upper part of the vineyard, while the Calcisol evolved from the clayey sedimentary  
 406 bedrock. The different origin is also expressed by the soils color: brown (10YR) for the Cambisol and yellowish (5Y) for  
 407 the Calcisol.  
 408 Calcisol is richer in total carbonates than Cambisol (mean 232.7 g/kg and 41.2 g/kg respectively), with a Bk horizon at a  
 409 depth of about 45 cm with the common accumulation of carbonates. This induces a differentiation of the pH between  
 410 the two pedons (Calcisol mean 8.2; Cambisol mean 7.0). The organic Carbon Content (O.C) and Cation Exchange Capacity  
 411 (CEC) were higher in the Cambisol (avg. values of O.C. in the topsoil was 1.0 and 2.1% for the Calcisol and Cambisol  
 412 respectively; avg. value of CEC along the soil profile was 24.3  $\text{cmol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$  in the Cambisol and 16.8  $\text{cmol} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$  in the Calcisol).  
 413 The electrical conductivity (EC) is generally low in both soils, highlighting the absence of significant quantities of salts in  
 414 solution (173 and 246  $\text{mS} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  for the Cambisol and Calcisol respectively). The texture is clay loam in both soils.  
 415 The physical characteristics of two soil profiles, representative of the two soil types indicated, are reported in table 1.  
 416 Despite the similar texture, the hydraulic properties measured in the lab showed some important differences (Tab. 1).  
 417 Among them: i) Calcisol showed a pronounced vertical heterogeneity (i.e. the  $k_0$  and  $l$  of the Bk horizon are very different  
 418 from the adjacent upper and lower horizons); ii) Cambisol showed a relative vertical homogeneity, especially in the Bw  
 419 horizons; iii) despite the fact that the porosity of Calcisol is higher than that of Cambisol (see saturated soil water  
 420

421 contents,  $\theta_0$ ) the available water content (AWC) in the first 80 cm of soil depth was lower (i.e. Calcisol 80 mm and  
 422 Cambisol 145 mm).  
 423

Tab.1. Physical properties of Calcisol (CAL HZ) and Cambisol (CAM HZ)

Soil/HZ	Soil horizon and thickness (cm)		Texture			Hydrological properties					
			Clay	Silty	Sand	Rocks fragments	Q <sub>0</sub>	K <sub>0</sub>	a	l	n
			(g/100g)				(m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> )	(cm/d)	(1/cm)		
Cambic Calcisol (Clayic, Aric)/ CAL	Ap1	0-10/20	31.9	38.1	30.1	a	0.575	669.3	0.642	-1.78	1.30
	Ap2	10/20-45	32.0	37.7	30.3	a	0.474	171.5	0.223	-3.44	1.10
	Bk	45-80	32.6	39.7	27.7	a	0.435	9.7	0.126	-12.81	1.10
	BC	80-105	33.8	39.3	27.0	a	0.390	995.0	0.074	1.46	1.23
	CB	105-130+	34.9	37.6	27.5	a	0.543	1000.0	0.078	0.50	1.23
Eutric											
Cambisol (Clayic, Aric, Colluvic)/ CAM	Ap1	0-40	34.2	31.5	34.4	a	0.484	179.1	0.008	-1.00	1.45
	Bw1	40-90	37.6	30.0	32.5	b	0.462	2.3	0.003	-1.00	1.21
	Bw2	90-120	42.9	29.5	27.7	b	0.387	3.7	0.005	-1.00	1.15
	Bw3	120-160+	41.1	30.8	28.1	b	0.416	19.0	0.021	-2.70	1.17

424 *a= absent; b= few fine sub-rounded pumiceous stones*  
 425

426 Integrating the soil and geophysical survey with the physical, hydrological and chemical soil analysis made it possible to  
 427 separate two main Homogeneous Zones:

428 CAL: Cambic Calcisol (Clayic, Aric) developing at the summit and in the upslope landscape position and

429 CAM: Eutric Cambisol (Clayic, Aric, Colluvic) developing in the downslope landscape position.  
 430

### 431 3.2 Modelling application (potential CWSI estimation)

432 The potential Crop water stress index (CWSI) data were obtained by analyzing the water balance in the soil–vegetation–  
 433 atmosphere (SVA) system in the two HZs using the SWAP hydrological model applied over eleven years of daily climate  
 434 data (2003-2013). This information is especially important because it helps evaluate the dynamics of the water stress of  
 435 the soils present in the study area, representing a very powerful tool for vineyard planning.

436 In particular, the level of CWSI between the two HZs in each plant phenological phase (Fig. 2 and 4) can be compared,  
 437 defining the functional Homogeneous Zones (fHZs) on the basis of their similarity in functional behavior in relation to  
 438 vines and correlate it to different plant responses in terms of must quality and plant production.

439 On average, in CAL the potential CWSI was two times higher (13.9%) than CAM (5.9%), with clearly different increases  
 440 during the cropping season (from flowering to harvesting) (Tab.2, Fig.2 and 4).

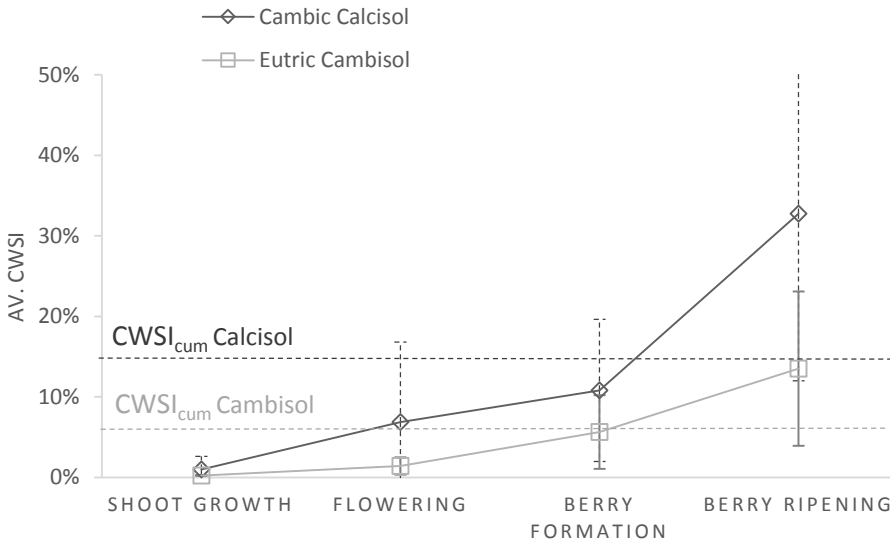
441 The maximum values of CWSI were obtained during berry formation with average values of 32.7% (+ 20.7) for CAL and  
 442 13.5% (+9.6) for CAM.

443 From the results of potential CWSI analysis, it is clear that the two representative soils of the study area, under the same  
 444 climate and plant conditions, show a different susceptibility to vineyard water stress. These results mean that the two  
 445 identified CAL and CAM HZs behave as Homogeneous Zones also in terms of their functional behavior. To describe this  
 446 output of the microzoning procedure from here onwards we shall refer to CAL and CAM functional Homogeneous Zones  
 447 (fHZs) as CAL and CAM fHZs.

448 The statistical ANOVA analysis on  $CWSI_{cum}$  over the seasons showed a significant difference, with an alpha of 0.02  
 449 between the two soils. During the different phenological phases only the Berry ripening phase showed a significant  
 450 differences with an alpha of 0.02. This behavior can be explained considering that both soils started the growing season  
 451 with an optimum water content (accumulated during the winter), but during the season, the reduction of rainfall, the  
 452 increase of  $ET_0$  and the effect of plant water uptake emphasize the physical differences of these two SPA systems.  
 453 Concerning the high variability of SD during berry ripening, the differences depend on different climate conditions,

454 in particular rainfall amount, during the 11 years analyzed. We can clearly identify two very dry years (2003 and 2007)  
455 and two very wet years (2005 and 2010).

456 During the simulated years, the average rainfall in the period from 18 August to 15 October was 105 mm with an SD of  
457 46.9 (44% variation).



458 Fig. 4. The average values and standard deviation of the potential Crop Water Stress Index (CWSI) during the cropping season  
459 (reported in terms of phenological phases) of vines cultivated in the representative soils of homogeneous zones (CAL and CAM). The  
460 simulations were performed with SWAP models during the vintages from 2003 to 2013.

461

### 462 3.3 GIS analysis

463 Each functional Homogeneous Zone was then analyzed with respect to the variability of environmental characteristics  
464 derived from the high resolution DMS and DTM (Tab. 2; Fig. 4). The elevation and slope of CAL was higher compared to  
465 those of CAM; their mean difference is always significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) and it was about 15 m for the elevation and 4.7 % for  
466 the slope gradient. These differences are consistent with both geomorphic and soil settings.

467 The aspect shows a Nord-West and West orientation respectively for CAL and CAM fHZs. This aspect difference ( $P < 0.05$ )  
468 induces - in the vineyard rows - a differentiation in terms of total potential insolation ( $P < 0.05$ ) during the cropping  
469 season (1 April to 15 October) which is about 55 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> higher in the case of the CAM fHZ. Such differences are mainly  
470 due to the direct vineyard row insolation. This different insolation was tested directly on the Penman Monteith  
471 equation; results showed a negligible effect on evapotranspiration and then on CWSI, as predicted by the model.  
472 Probably a direct effect on grape bunches in terms of temperature could be realizable but this aspect was not treated  
473 in this work.

474



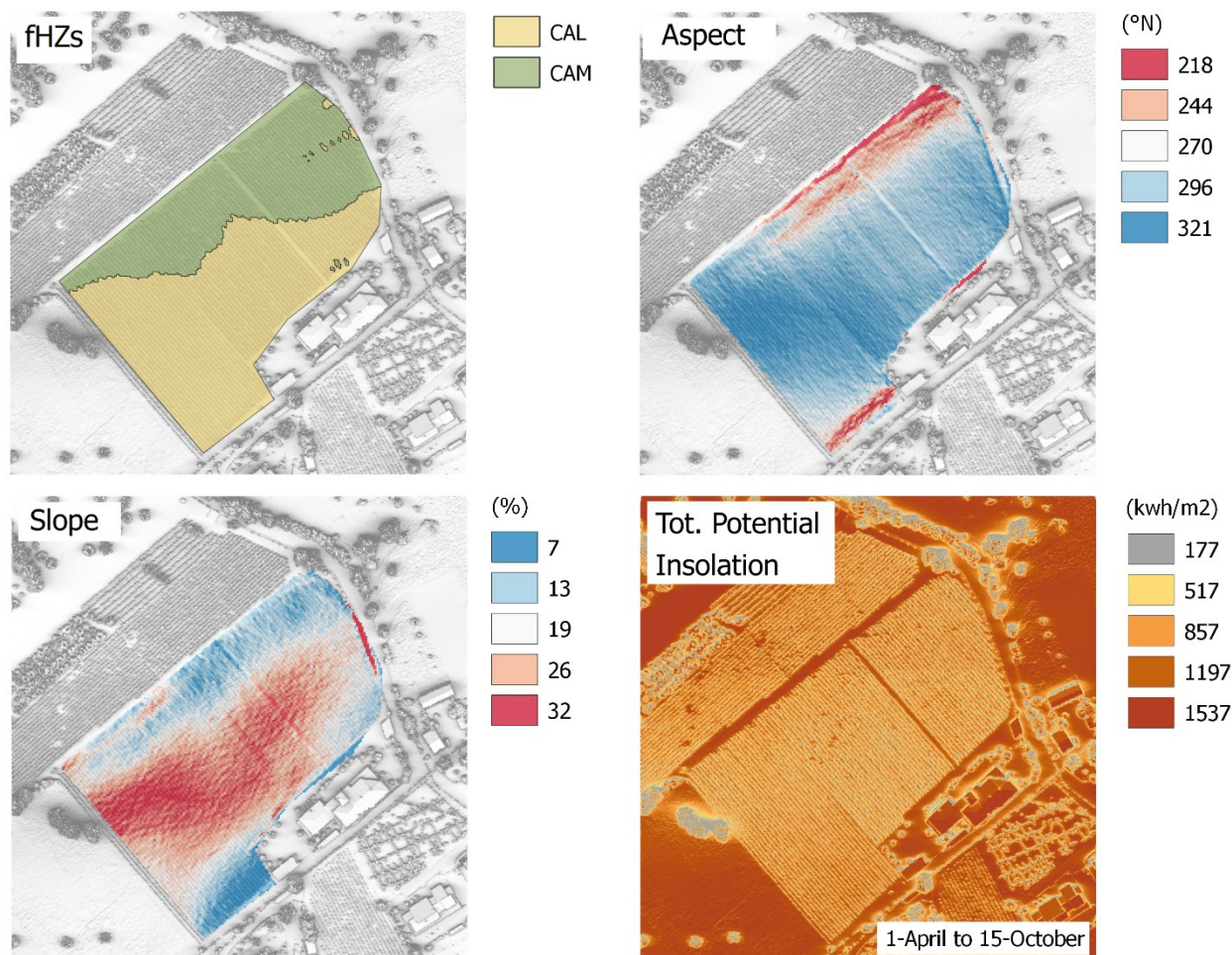


Fig. 5. The functional homogenous zones (fHZs) identified in the study area and the three maps derived from DSM and DTM analysis in a G.I.S environment: Aspect, Slope and Total Potential Insolation.

475

### 476 3.4 Vineyard records (crop/must measurements)

477 The experimental plots were identified inside the two fHZs and the phenological and physiological vine data were  
478 collected on 27 plants over three years (2011-2013).

479 Even though the experimental plots had the same cultivar (Aglianico), the same rootstocks (1103P) and the same  
480 management, the crop responses in terms of biomass development and must quality were very different.

481 Plants of CAM showed more vigour when compared to those of CAL (at fruit thinning, an average value of 11.1  
482 bunches/plant versus 10.0 were measured, with a peak of 14.6 versus 8.7 bunches/plant in the year 2011). Despite a  
483 very similar number of bunches/plant at harvesting (average value of 4.6 bunches/plant for CAM and CAL respectively),  
484 at harvest time the plant production of CAM was generally higher ( $1.81 \pm 0.29$  kg/plant) compared to that of CAL ( $0.97$   
485  $\pm 0.36$  kg/plant). The last results regarding the different berry weight and volume recognized during the three years  
486 (Tab. 2) are in agreement.

487 The analyses carried out on grape bunches over the three years of measurement showed a very robust qualitative  
488 differentiation between the two fHZs. Investigated parameters like sugar, anthocyanins, polyphenols in the skin, colour  
489 intensity, tannins in the skin and pH were always higher in CAL during berry ripening if compared to CAM. However, the  
490 titratable acidity, bunch volume and weight of 100 berries were lower in the CAL. The first results of microvinification  
491 showed higher values of ethanol (12.2 %v for CAM and 13.3 %v for CAL), colour intensity (7.8 for CAM and 12.8 for CAL)  
492 and tannins (2.9 g/l for CAM and 4.6 g/l for CAL) in CAL than in CAM.

493 ANOVA analysis showed that during the three years only the total anthocyanins and color intensity of the grape must  
494 were significantly affected by soil characteristics ( $p > 0.05$ ). These results are in agreement with previous findings  
495 showing that moderate, and not severe, water stress or drought stress increases anthocyanins concentrations in berry

496 skins (Ojeda et al., 2002). Among the three years considered, 2013 stands out because the grapes showed a lower  
497 content of sugars, a higher weight and a lower density of berries, mainly due to the fact that during 2013 the  
498 temperatures were lower and the ripening season was rainy. As a consequence, degree-day accumulation was slower  
499 and the berries larger due to their watering.

500 In both fHZs the minimum absolute values of LWP (-0.37 and -0.40 MPa in CAM and in CAL, respectively) were registered  
501 at the beginning of crop season, while the maximum absolute values were reached at the end of August (-1.65 and -  
502 1.85 MPa in CAM and in CAL, respectively). Nevertheless, during the three years of measurements the plants belonging  
503 to Calcisol (CAL fHZ, up-slope) faced a more intense water stress than those in Cambisol (CAM fHZ, down-slope), during  
504 the whole season. Consequently, stomatal conductance values during the three years agreed with those of LWP, with  
505 the Calcisol plants experiencing lower values, and thus lower transpiration rates than those of Cambisol. Assimilation  
506 rates followed the same behavior of stomatal conductance, highlighting that in CAM the plants had a more pronounced  
507 photosynthetic activity than those of CAL; in agreement with that, also the quantum yield of photosystem PSII in leaves  
508 adapted to light (PHI<sub>PSII</sub>) showed that CAM plants were more efficient than CAL plants in capturing the energy of the  
509 light absorbed by the photosystem PSII. Both photosynthetic activity and PHI<sub>PSII</sub> responded proportionally to the  
510 different chlorophyll a content, with the CAM plants showing the highest values. The Leaf Area index (LAI) was lower in  
511 CAL plants (avg. 1.28) than in CAM plants (avg. 1.48), as a consequence of the more severe water stress suffered by  
512 plants grown in the former. Moreover, during the three years of the experiment (2011-2013), the differences between  
513 the two fHZs of all parameters monitored on the plant were significant, with  $p < 0.001$  (T-test, Two-tailed). Only the LAI  
514 showed a P value of 0.014.

Tab. 2. Summary of results obtained in CAL and CAM HZs and CAL and CAM fHZs: (i) GIS analysis on DSM and DTM; (ii) Simulation modelling application; (iii) Plant monitoring and the characteristics of bunches during the three years of monitoring (2011 to 2013) on Aglianico cv.

Environmental characteristics and plant responses			CAL HZ / CAL fHZ	CAM HZ / CAM fHZ
GIS Analysis	DTM (1 m)	Elevation (m.s.l.)	363.8 (± 6.5)	348.5 (± 6.5)
		Slope (%)	23.2 (± 6.9)	18.5 (± 5.9)
		Aspect (°N)	300.8 (± 20.0)	276.6 (± 26.2)
		TWI	-2.3 (± 1.2)	-2.4 (± 1.1)
	DSM (0.3 m)	Pot. direct insolation (kwh/m <sup>2</sup> )*	635.9 (± 294.8)	708.1 (± 326.3)
		Pot. diffuse insolation (kwh/m <sup>2</sup> )*	136.6 (± 20.9)	137.3 (± 21.0)
		Tot. Pot. insolation (kwh/m <sup>2</sup> )*	789.9 (± 302.2)	845.4 (± 335.7)
Modelling - simulation - SWAP	CWSI <sub>cum</sub> **	Shoot growth	1.0 % (± 1.6)	0.23% (± 0.0)
		Flowering	6.9 % (± 9.9)	1.4 % (± 10.6)
		Berry Formation	10.8 % (± 8.8)	5.7% (± 4.6)
		Berry ripening	32.7 % (± 20.7)	13.5 % (± 9.6)
		CWSI over cropping season	13.9 % (± 8.6)	5.9 % (± 3.9)
Plant monitoring***	Leaf Water Potential (LWP) (Mpa)	Mean	-1.12 (± 0.33)	-0.92 (± 0.27)
		Min (abs.)	-0.4	-0.37
		Max (abs.)	-1.85	-1.65
	Chlorophyll content of leaves (CCL)		13.9 (± 4.3)	18.6 (± 6.67)
	Phot. CO <sub>2</sub> Assimilation (μmol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )		10.3 (± 6.0)	15.7 (± 5.9)
	Stomatal conductance (mol m <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )		0.15 (± 0.1)	0.23 (± 0.1)
	Instantaneous Water Use Efficiency iWUE(μmolmol <sup>-1</sup> )	Mean	81.6 (± 34.0)	72.3 (± 24.5)
	Leaf Area Index (m <sup>2</sup> /m <sup>2</sup> )		1.28 (± 0.30)	1.48 (± 0.46)
	Effectice quantum yield of photosystem PSII ΦPSII		0.11 (± 0.04)	0.15 (± 0.04)
Characteristics of bunch***	100 Berries	Weight (g)	205.7 (± 53.6)	221.7 (± 31.6)
		Volume (cm <sup>3</sup> )	188.3 (± 50.5)	205.8 (± 27.6)
		Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.09 (± 0.02)	1.05 (± 0.05)
		Sugar (Brix°)	23.2 (± 0.7)	21.3 (± 1.1)
	Grape must	pH	3.4 (± 0.09)	3.2 (± 0.14)
		Titratable acidity (g/l)	6.6 (± 1.0)	7.7 (± 1.5)
		Color intensity	5.4 (± 1.0)	4.1 (± 0.09)
		Color hue	0.53 (± 0.02)	0.52 (± 0.01)
	Grape skin	Total anthocyanins (mg/kg)	627.6 (± 67.6)	471.3 (± 45.3)
		Tot. Polyphenols (mg/kg)	1874.1 (± 418.9)	1745 (± 258.8)
		Tot. Tannins (mg/kg)	2.4 (± 0.4)	2.5 (± 0.2)
	Grape seed	Tot. Polyphenols (mg/kg)	1851.3 (± 321.8)	1967.5 (± 329.6)
		Tot. Tannins (mg/kg)	1.8 (± 0.37)	1.8 (± 0.27)

\* The potential insolation refers to the period 1 April to 15 October

\*\* Average values calculated over 11 years (2003-2013)

\*\*\* Average over three seasons of measurements (2011 to 2013)

## 4 Discussion

The effects of soil combination and climate on vine responses in terms of must characteristics and wine quality are well reported in literature as the basis of the terroir concept. With this work, conducted in a small study area, the usefulness of the adopted microzoning procedure was tested by quantifying the effect of soil properties on plant responses and must characteristics.

522 The effectiveness of the results achieved lies in the specific experimental setup that was conducted in the same  
 523 geomorphic land system, under the same climate conditions (only 90 m of slope, with about 15 m difference in  
 524 elevation) on the same plant cultivar (Aglianico monoclonal population) and under the same vine management.  
 525 We believe that under these conditions, the large-scale soil survey supported by the EMI survey represented a very  
 526 good cost/benefit approach to investigating vineyard potentialities in view of a soil-plant-climate relationships study.  
 527 Indeed the EMI approach made it possible to immediately identify a homogeneous pattern on which to focus the  
 528 sampling activities.  
 529 The identification and mapping at vineyard scale of the main soil types included in the functional Homogeneous Zones,  
 530 CAL fHZ, Cambic Calcisol (Clayic, Aric) and CAM fHZ, Eutric Cambisol (Clayic, Aric, Colluvic), allowed us to estimate and  
 531 study the different behaviour, in terms of crop water stress, of these two soils in the soil-plant-climate system. This  
 532 discriminated their different abilities in affecting the quality of a wine.  
 533 The potential CWSI referred to the last eleven years was very different between the two HZs. The variability expressed  
 534 by this index for each phenological phases was very high. This was due to the high variability of the weather data used  
 535 as input for the simulation modelling application.  
 536 These important differences between the soil-crop-climate behaviour are mainly due to the different hydrological  
 537 behaviour, because of the very different hydraulic properties of the soil (see Table 1).  
 538 It is essential to notice that the use of simulation models like the one used for this study requires an accurate phase of  
 539 model calibration and preferably the use of measured data, rather than those estimated by methods (such as  
 540 pedofunctions) that usually tend to smooth out the soil hydrological properties between otherwise very different soils.  
 541 This is also the case if the AWC is used as an indicator for crop water availability: the use of PFT could produce a clear  
 542 mistake, also if the studied soils present similar texture, as reported in section 3.1.  
 543 This was our case, where the two soils fell under the same textural class while having very different hydrological  
 544 behavior. Hence, the measurement of the hydrological properties was of primary importance in differentiating the two  
 545 environments.  
 546 The behaviour of each soil-plant and atmosphere system (CAL and CAM) was investigated in depth, making the  
 547 conclusion about their different ability to produce crop water stress very solid. Thus, it was possible to identify two  
 548 functional Homogeneous Zones, corresponding to the previous HZs.  
 549 The CAL fHZ represents a system where the Aglianico is subjected to a water stress that is twice as strong as that  
 550 occurring in the Cambisol fHZ, with a progressive differentiation from flowering to harvesting.  
 551 This is clearly in agreement with the water stress felt by plants during the three years of monitoring (avg. 22% of LWP  
 552 increase in the CAL). In addition, the  $r$  Pearson of CWSI estimated by the model and by the LWP measured on-field was  
 553 -0.98. Moreover, the different behaviour described by the potential CWSI was also confirmed by other plant  
 554 physiological measurements including: (i) stomatal conductance (the plants in CAL experienced lower values, and thus  
 555 lower transpiration rates, than those of CAM), (ii) assimilation of CO<sub>2</sub> rates (in CAM the plants had a more pronounced  
 556 photosynthetic activity than those of CAL) and (iii) the quantum yield of photosystem PSII in leaves adapted to light  
 557 (PHIPSI) (plants in CAM were more efficient than CAL plants at capturing the light energy absorbed by the photosystem  
 558 PSII).  
 559 From the enological viewpoint, grapes analyzed in this study showed important differences. In CAL fHZ, the grapes were  
 560 richer in sugars, anthocyanins, total polyphenols and had a lower content of total acids. Considering that Aglianico  
 561 wines, as traditionally produced, are generally rather acid, astringent and easily downfall red colour (Gambuti et al.,  
 562 2007), then these data clearly suggest that grapes belonging to CAL fHZ can produce wine with a more balanced taste  
 563 that is more alcoholic and less acidic.  
 564 Grapes from CAL fHZ showed a higher extractable polyphenol content than those from CAM fHZ, indicating that a more  
 565 aged wine can be obtained from this part of the vineyard. On the basis of grape sugar content, wines obtained from this  
 566 fHZ should be also characterized by a higher content of ethanol (13.5% v/v with respect to 12% v/v for CAM fHZ wines)  
 567 and should show a more intense colour because of the content of native pigments (anthocyanins) extracted from skins  
 568 and their colour intensity. In contrast, CAM fHZ berries showed a lower content of total anthocyanins extracted from  
 569 skins and a similar content of total polyphenols and tannins extracted from seeds. Taking into account the facts that: i)  
 570 anthocyanins are mainly extracted during the first phases of red vinification (consisting in the maceration of whole  
 571 berries during must fermentation), ii) complete extraction from the seeds requires the berry skins and seeds to be in



572 contact for a longer time with must-wine, and iii) seed tannins are more astringent than skin tannins (Gambutì et al.,  
573 2006), these data suggest that a specific winemaking procedure, such as short maceration, could help obtain from CAM  
574 fHZ grapes a red wine with a good colour intensity, which is not astringent and which is easier to drink.  
575 Therefore, the enological potentials of grapes belonging to the two sites are very different. By applying the proper  
576 winemaking procedure it is possible to obtain a more ready-to-drink wine from the CAM fHZ site and a long ageing wine  
577 from the CAL fHZ site.  
578 In conclusion, the use of a model output is a useful approach to evaluating and comparing the effects of the CWS in  
579 vines induced by soils.  
580 Anyhow, important prerequisites that should be considered are: i) model calibration (if previous data are available to  
581 calibrate it), ii) preferably measured data, iii) same plant cultivar and iv) same climatic and plant management  
582 conditions. This was our case, built up to investigate and compare the "soil suitability to grape production", limiting the  
583 effects of other environmental variables.  
584 This comparison would not have been feasible with different cultivars (each of which responds differently to water  
585 stress), or different boundary conditions.  
586 However, the great potential of the dynamic simulation models applied in this context can be seen. In fact, once the  
587 characteristics and parameters of the different SPA systems (i.e. LAI, climate data, cultivar relation between CWSI and  
588 quality must parameters, etc.) are known, it is potentially possible to estimate, as done in this work, what could be the  
589 plant responses to water stress and therefore its effects in must and wine quality, in any soil-plant combination or in  
590 any boundary conditions, including plant responses to future climate changes. This could have imaginable positive  
591 effects on future land use and management planning, for instance the choice of the most suitable plant varieties for  
592 specific production targets or the opportunity to apply drip irrigation systems in order to control the plant water  
593 status with the aim of improving quality or maintaining the current level. This concept is very similar to the approach  
594 reported in literature for other crops between the yield response and water stress (or water deficit) (see Menenti et  
595 al., 2014, or Monaco et al., 2014).

596 Finally, the GIS analysis of high resolution DTM and DSM showed that differences in terms of slope and elevation  
597 between the two identified fHZs, at vineyard scale, were low and not very important. On the other hand, the aspect and  
598 the potential insolation calculated over the cropping season (1 April to 15 October) showed that in the CAM fHZ the  
599 plants receive 7% or more total potential insolation during the cropping season compared to those cultivated in the CAL  
600 fHZ. This condition strengthens our results and confirms the hypothesis that for the scale of our work, soil drives the  
601 Aglianico plant expression in terms of must quality and then wine quality.

## 602 5 Conclusions

603 The procedures adopted for viticulture microzoning which include (i) standard large-scale soil mapping, (ii) geophysical  
604 mapping and (iii) soil-plant water stress evaluation on the identified fHZs, have shown their robustness in terms of their  
605 effects on plant, grape, must and wine quality.  
606 The inclusion of the soil-plant water stress evaluation was fundamental because plant water status affects the  
607 characteristics of the grape must, skin and seeds of the Aglianico vine.  
608 In particular the study has shown: i) the importance of the hydrogeology approach in knowing the soil properties, in  
609 order to come to a complete characterization of the different pedo-environments (also recognizable at field scale) aimed  
610 at viticultural zoning, equal to the well-recognized importance for soil chemical properties; ii) the link between must  
611 characteristics and soil characteristics, particularly CWSI estimated using a simulation model. This can be considered as  
612 preliminary information for zoning and planning the vineyard plant (e.g. without having local data for calibrating and  
613 validating the model); iii) the need to transform the soil map into a functional map in the viticultural zoning procedures,  
614 where the soils are evaluated dynamically on the basis of soil-plant and atmosphere system behaviour (e.g. soil water  
615 balance), with the definition of functional homogeneous zones (fHZs) for the vine; and (iv) the potentiality of this  
616 approach to explore future prospects in terms of more effective grape variety selection and precision irrigation  
617 application to overcome the high CWSI values expected from climate change.  
618

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622

623 **6 References**

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