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1       **Exploring mouthfeel in model wines: Sensory-to-instrumental approaches**

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40 **Abstract**

41 Wine creates a group of oral-tactile stimulations not related to taste or aroma, such as  
42 astringency or fullness; better known as mouthfeel. During wine consumption, mouthfeel  
43 is affected by ethanol content, phenolic compounds and their interactions with the oral  
44 components. Mouthfeel arises through changes in the salivary film when wine is consumed.  
45 In order to understand the role of each wine component, eight different model wines  
46 with/without ethanol (8%), glycerol (10 g/L) and commercial tannins (1 g/L) were  
47 described using a trained panel. Descriptive analysis techniques were used to train the panel  
48 and measure the intensity of the mouthfeel attributes. Alongside, the suitability of different  
49 instrumental techniques (rheology, particle size, tribology and microstructure ,using  
50 Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)) to measure wine mouthfeel sensation was  
51 investigated. Panelists discriminated samples based on their tactile-related components  
52 (ethanol, glycerol and tannins) at the levels found naturally in wine. Higher scores were  
53 found for all sensory attributes in the samples containing ethanol. Sensory astringency was  
54 associated mainly with the addition of tannins to the wine model and glycerol did not seem  
55 to play a discriminating role at the levels found in red wines. Visual viscosity was  
56 correlated with instrumental viscosity ( $R=0.815$ ,  $p=0.014$ ). Hydrodynamic diameter of  
57 saliva showed an increase in presence of tannins (almost 2.5-3-folds). However, presence  
58 of ethanol or glycerol decreased hydrodynamic diameter. These results were related with  
59 the sensory astringency and earthiness as well as with the formation of nano-complexes as  
60 observed by TEM. Rheologically, the most viscous samples were those containing glycerol  
61 or tannins. Tribology results showed that at a boundary lubrication regime, differences in  
62 traction coefficient lubrication were due by the presence of glycerol. However, no  
63 differences in traction coefficients were observed in presence/absence of tannins. It is  
64 therefore necessary to use an integrative approach that combines complementary  
65 instrumental techniques for mouthfeel perception characterization.

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68 **Key words:** wine mouthfeel, trained sensory panel, particle size, viscosity, astringency,  
69 tribology

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## 1. Introduction

81 Wine is a unique and complex matrix that creates numerous sensations. These sensations  
82 appear even before the wine is consumed and persist even after the wine is swallowed (also  
83 called the finish of the wine). Aromas greatly influence the hedonic behaviour, starting  
84 with its initial smell in the glass, continuing with the wine being processed in the mouth,  
85 mixed with saliva and the after swallowing feelings, created by the breathing airflow  
86 (Munoz-Gonzalez, Martin-Alvarez, Moreno-Arribas, & Pozo-Bayon, 2014). Moreover, in  
87 wine, as consequence of oral-tactile stimulations, there is also another group of sensations  
88 not related with taste or aroma. These include astringency, body, burning, balance, pricking  
89 (Jackson, 2009), warmth and viscosity (Gawel, Oberholster, & Francis, 2000). These  
90 sensations are believed to be affected mainly by the ethanol content (King, Dunn, &  
91 Heymann, 2013), phenolic compounds (Ferrer-Gallego, Hernández-Hierro, Rivas-  
92 Gonzalo, & Escribano-Bailón, 2014; Quijada-Morin, Williams, Rivas-Gonzalo, Doco, &  
93 Escribano-Bailon, 2014) and their interaction with the oral components and/or oral  
94 physiological factors. Oral-tactile sensations arise mainly from the changes induced by the  
95 consumed food and/or beverage in the integrity of the salivary film perceived, which is  
96 perceived by the filiform papillae. As these papillae are highly innervated by free nerves  
97 endings (also called tactile sensors), they transfer any sensory input caused by the change  
98 in the salivary film by the trigeminal nerve through the trigeminal ganglion to the brainstem  
99 receptive areas (Jacobs et al., 2002). This is where the multimodal information is integrated  
100 (Verhagen & Engelen, 2006) and a perception of food ingestion is created.

101 Oral-tactile sensations are also known as mouthfeel sensations (DeMiglio, Pickering, &  
102 Reynolds, 2002) and usually are described by sensory analysis techniques, such as  
103 descriptive analysis, in which a trained panels define these sensations and score their  
104 intensities. In spite of the importance of wine tasting, the use of a sensory panel can be  
105 expensive and the training can be longer than instrumental characterization. Also, it is  
106 possible that the terms used by an expert with special sensory training may not be  
107 understood by others (Lehrer & Lehrer, 2016). Furthermore as panelists are trained or  
108 specialized in a determined product or set of products, what is a “heavy” wine for a  
109 California Pinot Noir trained panelist could be “light” for a French Burgundie panelist  
110 (Lehrer & Lehrer, 2016) and vice versa, making it difficult for cross- country comparisons.

111 Therefore, if wine mouthfeel could be quantitatively measured using an instrumental  
112 technique, that may allow wineries to have a faster, repeatable, harmonized and cheaper  
113 characterization complementary to the use of a panel of experts (Laguna, Bartolomé, &  
114 Moreno-Arribas, 2017; Laguna & Sarkar, 2017). This would be an innovative approach for  
115 enologists to modulate the astringency and quality characteristics of wines (Rinaldi,  
116 Gambuti, & Moio, 2012).

117 However, the key challenge lies in quantifying the sensory “mouth feel” feelings with  
118 instrumental technique taking into account the wine properties and its interactions with the  
119 human saliva. Our main hypothesis is that wine mouthfeel could be characterized by a  
120 combination of instrumental techniques based on the study of the interaction of saliva and  
121 wine components, fluid flow behaviour and frictional forces. Until now, changes in

122 rheological properties of wine upon consumption have not been well understood. Neto et  
123 al. 2015 measured the viscosity of wines at different temperatures with varying alcohol,  
124 dry extract and reducing sugar contents. Results showed that density and viscosity of wines  
125 decreased at higher temperatures. Regardless of temperature, wine viscosity was mainly  
126 affected by the dry extract, whereas wine density was mainly influenced by the alcohol  
127 content. It is worth noting that authors studied the wine in isolation and not in presence of  
128 saliva and did not perform any sensory analysis. Hence, it is unclear if such instrumental  
129 changes had any impact on the sensory perception. Prinz and Lucas (2000) studied the  
130 changes of viscosity of saliva by adding powdered tannic acid until saturation, and they  
131 observed a decrease in magnitude of the viscosity of saliva. However, such saturated tannic  
132 acid solution might not represent the wine matrix.

133 More importantly, wine mouthfeel does not only depend on flow properties (rheology). In  
134 mouth, saliva forms a pellicle that act as a lubricant. In presence of polyphenolic  
135 compounds, salivary proteins tend to form complexes (Hagerman & Butler, 1981) that  
136 causes rupturing of the salivary pellicle. As a consequence, there is an increased activation  
137 of mechanoreceptors, located within the mucosa (Horne, Hayes, & Lawless, 2002;  
138 Kallithraka, Bakker, & Clifford, 1997; Lesschaeve & Noble, 2005). Based on this, wine  
139 mouthfeel in presence of saliva can be characterised using mechano-surface techniques,  
140 such as tribology (Pradal & Stokes, 2016; Upadhyay, Brossard, & Chen, 2016). Using a  
141 Mini Traction Machine with polydimethyl siloxane material, “chemically pure”  
142 polyphenols (epigallocatechin gallate) were added to saliva (Rossetti, Bongaerts, Wantling,  
143 Stokes, & Williamson, 2009) and it was found that catechin-induced astringency was  
144 related to a loss of saliva lubrication. Later, Brossard, Cai, Osorio, Bordeu, and Chen  
145 (2016) studied the friction properties of saliva-wine system by using a purpose-built  
146 tribometer (device attached to a Texture Analyser) with a stainless steel-PDMS system.  
147 Authors compared the friction coefficient of saliva in presence of wines (real and model  
148 wine) indicating that the coefficient of friction of saliva increased in presence of wine. It is  
149 worth highlighting that in this study only four wines mixed with saliva were assessed, , and  
150 the surfaces of steel ball used might not be representative of the oral surfaces (Brossard et  
151 al., 2016). Therefore it is difficult to establish whether tribology is a predictive quantitative  
152 tool for astringency characterization in wines or not because of a low number of samples  
153 investigated with a large deviation (Pradal & Stokes, 2016). Furthermore, currently rare  
154 attention has been paid in literature to understand the change in salivary film in presence  
155 of other wine components, especially those known to alter the mouthfeel sensations, such  
156 as tannins or alcohol.

157 In order to gain deeper in the understanding of the influence of individual wine components  
158 on mouthfeel, this study has two main objectives: (i) to study the oral sensations perceived  
159 and described by a trained panel using model wine with special emphasis on mouthfeel  
160 characteristics, (ii) to use a combination of instrumental techniques (dynamic light  
161 scattering, rheology, tribology and electron microscopy) that can help to unravel those oral  
162 sensations in ex vivo or in vitro representative conditions.

163

## 2. Material and methods

### 2.1. Model wine

Model wine components were chosen based on real red wine components. Samples were created with either presence or absence of ethanol (E) (ethanol absolute food grade, AppliChem, Panreac, Barcelona, Spain), glycerol (G) (Mineral Waters, Purflee, United Kingdom) and tannins (T) (oak tannin, Agrovin, S.A., Ciudad Real, Spain) in a model wine matrix (W). W contained commercial inactive dry yeast (Superbouquet MN, Agrovin, Ciudad Real, Spain), seed extract (Vitaflavan, Les Dérivés Résiniques et Terpéniques, France), reduced L-glutathione (Solgar, Leonia, N.J. EEUU) and tartaric acid (Mineral Waters, Purflee, United Kingdom). All components used were food grade and were dissolved in still water (Agua Mineral Fuente Alta, Spain).

Initially the ethanol level chosen was 14%, however, that resulted in overpowering of the senses due to the flavor intensity of pure ethanol and thus it was not drinkable. For that reason, ethanol level was chosen on the basis of the minimum alcohol of wine (8%) from a legal perspective.

Samples were formulated one day before the analysis, filtered and adjusted to pH 3.8 using tartaric acid (1%) and kept in darkness at 17 °C until analysis. The eight different formulations studied are shown in Table 1.

### 2.2. Descriptive sensory analysis

A panel of 13 assessors (10 women and 3 men, 21-50 years old) participated in the quantitative sensory analysis (QDA®) (Stone, Sidel, Oliver, Woolsey, & Singleton, 2008) of the wine model solutions.

The panel members had various experience participating in wine sensory sessions. To start with, they attended an informative session about sensory analysis and a detailed explanation about sensory threshold, mouthfeel perception, QDA technique and the time implication.

Their sensory thresholds were tested twice for tannins, glycerol and ethanol. Tartaric acid solutions (to achieve a pH=3.8) with dispersed tannins (at a concentration of: 0.01, 0.025, 0.05, 0.1, 0.25, 0.75 and 1.2 w/v%), ethanol (at concentration of: 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1, 2 and 4 v/v%) and glycerol (at a concentration of: 0.5, 1, 2, and 4 w/v%) were used. The purpose of these threshold tests were not only to assure that the assessors were able to perceive the components at the levels presented in the model wine, but also to help them identify in the upcoming sensory sessions, the potential mouthfeel changes. During the test of sensory threshold, panelists wore blindfolds and nose clips. Recently, it has been published that most of the terms used in the mouthfeel wheel might not be adequate to characterize astringency (Vidal, Giménez, Medina, Boido, & Ares, 2015). Therefore, the descriptors for the model wines were developed by the panel members using the checklist method (Lawless & Heymann, 2010).

Panelists were instructed to focus on the mouthfeel characteristics, but if they believed that a particular taste or aroma was a key wine discriminating attribute, they were encouraged to write them down. After the first session, the panel leader collected and wrote all the

205 attributes on a board. The panel discussed the appropriateness of the selected attributes,  
206 their definitions, and procedures for assessing them. At the end of the session, a consensus  
207 on the list of attributes and procedures was reached. A second session to remind and check  
208 the agreement of all panelists was done. Following this, 8 sessions of training were attended  
209 by the panelists over a period of three weeks (2 sessions per week, until  $stdv < 2.0$  points  
210 was achieved in a 10 cm unstructured scale). In order to help them in this training,  
211 components at higher concentrations were given to compare against water at the beginning  
212 of the initial sessions. Therefore, solutions of ethanol (15%, maximum concentration of  
213 ethanol present in wines), glycerol (4%, double the concentration present in dessert wines)  
214 and tannins (1%) were presented. Tannin solution was labelled by the panelist as astringent,  
215 dry, wood taste and bitter; alcohol solution was labelled as hot and alcoholic and glycerol  
216 solution was labelled as viscous and sweet.

217 For the formal assessment (by triplicate), the panelists attended three sessions on different  
218 days. In each session, panelists received the samples in two blocks, with a delay of 30  
219 minutes between blocks. They evaluated first the samples without ethanol, and later the  
220 ones containing ethanol. This was done because the residual ethanol flavours can linger  
221 after finishing the taste of a sample, and it could stun the sense for the non-ethanol  
222 containing samples. Panelists were advised to rest one minute in between samples and were  
223 offered water, crackers and carrots as palate cleansers.

224 Panelists rated visual attributes before consumption (sediments, colour, viscosity), in-  
225 mouth attributes (taste: sweetness, bitterness, acid taste and wood taste; mouthfeel:  
226 astringency, dryness, earthiness, hot feeling, alcoholic feeling and viscosity) and after  
227 feeling (overall persistency, alcohol persistency and wood after taste). However, three of  
228 those attributes: sediment, in mouth viscosity and sweetness were removed after the third  
229 session because no consensus was obtained among the panelists. In Table 2, the descriptors  
230 and the extremes of the scale are shown.

231 For all the training sessions and formal assessment, panelists used a 10 cm unstructured  
232 scales to score the selected attributes for the model wine. Twenty milliliters of model wine  
233 was presented in a wineglass labeled with 3-digit random codes. All tests were conducted  
234 with samples at 17°C that is the red wine serving temperature.

235

236

### 2.3. Particle size measurement

237 Dynamic light scattering was used to measure the size of aggregates (if any) formed due to  
238 the interaction between wine components and salivary proteins (human saliva, HS), using  
239 a Zetasizer Nano (Malvern instrument, Malvern, UK), equipped with a 4 mW He-Ne laser  
240 (output wavelength of 633 nm). The test was carried out with the addition of fresh HS from  
241 ten donors to the eight different model wine formulations in a ratio 1:1 (w/w). This part of  
242 the study has approved by Faculty Ethics committee at University of Leeds [ethics  
243 reference (MEEC 15-052)]. Hydrodynamic diameter (Z-average diameter) of human  
244 salivary proteins in absence or presence of different model wines without dilution was  
245 measured using back-scattering technology at a detection angle of 173°C. The model wine  
246 and HS were mixed at 37 °C for 10 min to ensure interaction (if any), which is higher than  
247 the general residence time of wine.

248 Each sample was run three times; each run consisted of three acquisitions that lasted for  
249 60 s/acquisition. The result was reported as the mean and the standard deviation calculated  
250 from the nine readings from an individual sample.

## 251 **2.4. Rheology**

252 The rheological test was carried out for the wine samples in presence of fresh HS provided  
253 by one donor (model wine: saliva = 1:1 (w/w)). As the viscoelasticity of saliva decreases  
254 with storage (Stokes & Davies, 2007), the HS was used immediately after collection. The  
255 shear rate was measured in a rotational Kinexus rheometer (Malvern, UK). The rheometer  
256 was equipped with a 60 mm of cone (1°) and plate geometry with a gap of 0.03 mm. One  
257 milliliter of a mixture of HS and model wine was placed with a pipette onto a pre-heated  
258 plate (37 °C). A temperature cover was used to maintain the samples at the specified  
259 temperature (37 °C) and avoid evaporation. In order to avoid protein-air adsorption a  
260 solution of 0.1% of SDS was applied on the edge of the cone-plate geometry (Stokes &  
261 Davies, 2007). Flow curves were obtained for samples at a shear rate ranging from 0.01-  
262 100 s<sup>-1</sup>. Data from the flow curves were fitted to the Ostwald de Waele fit ( $\sigma = K\dot{\gamma}^n$ ),  
263 where K (Pa s<sup>n</sup>) is the consistency index and n is the flow index. At least three  
264 measurements were performed per sample.

## 265 **2.5. Tribology experiments**

266 It is recognized that no fluid is capable of mimicking all the properties of real HS (Rossetti  
267 et al., 2009; Stokes & Davies, 2007). However, due to the large quantity of saliva needed  
268 for each individual tribological experiment, a solution mimicking the ionic strength, pH  
269 and mucin concentration of saliva (SS) was used in this study. The SS contained 0.636g  
270 of K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1.594 g of NaCl, 0.202g of KCl, 0.021g of uric acid, 0.198g of urea and 3 g of  
271 mucin (porcine gastric mucin II, (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO, USA ) in 1 L of  
272 Milli Q water (purified by a Milli-Q system) (Sarkar, Goh, & Singh, 2009). Porcine gastric  
273 mucin was used as it simulated the rheological properties of human saliva at the afore-  
274 mentioned concentration. Milli-Q water (water purified by treatment with a Milli-Q  
275 apparatus; Millipore Corp., Bedford, MA, USA) was used as the solvent for simulated  
276 saliva preparation.

277 Friction measurements were performed at 37 ° C using a Mini-Traction Machine (MTM,  
278 PCS Instruments Ltd., UK) operated under low-load conditions. The tribo-pairs consisted  
279 of Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS, PCS instruments Ltd, UK) ball with a diameter of 19.5  
280 mm and a flat disc (46 mm), latter with a thickness of 5 mm; both of which rotated about  
281 their axis producing a sliding-rolling contact. For all experiments, a normal load (L) of 1  
282 N was applied. Stribeck type analysis was conducted in an attempt to identify the  
283 lubricating properties of each wine-SS mixture by varying the sliding speed of the plate  
284 from 1 to 1000 mm/s and then was decreased stepwise from 1000 mm/s to 1mm/s and the  
285 resultant traction coefficient was observed. Three replicates were done per sample.

286 Prior to each of the test, each ball and plate was submerged in SS for 15 minutes to facilitate  
287 the adsorption of the simulated saliva film. Surfaces were then placed within the tribometer  
288 and 30 mL of each model wine added. For the tribology analysis, it was decided to select  
289 samples with and without T and with and without EG were selected. Then, the following

290 samples W, WT, WEG and WEGT were analyzed. The same analysis was also completed  
291 for contacts immersed in distilled water and SS

## 292 **2.6. Transmission electron microscopy**

293 Negative-Stain Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) images were used to visualize  
294 the microstructure of the polyphenols and HS complexes. Immediately after mixing, the  
295 sample was fixed onto a copper mesh grid and stained with a phosphotungstic acid solution  
296 (2%) for 4 min and air dried at room temperature after excess liquid had been removed by  
297 a filter paper.

## 298 **2.7. Statistical treatment**

299 Analysis of variance (one way-ANOVA) was applied to study the differences between the  
300 wine formulations in descriptive sensory analysis, particle size and rheology. For each test,  
301 the dependent variable was the results obtained by the trained panel, the Zetasizer or by the  
302 rheometer, and the independent variables were the model wine formulations. Tukey test  
303 was used for post hoc mean comparisons. To investigate components' influence on  
304 descriptive sensory attributes, analysis of variance for one dependent variable with ethanol,  
305 tannis and glycerol as fixed factors was performed. For the descriptive sensory analysis, all  
306 the sensory attributes were used as dependent variables, whereas the independent variables  
307 were the wine components: ethanol, tannins and glycerol.

308 Pearson's correlation of the instrumental analysis and mean intensity scores in the sensory  
309 descriptive test were computed.

310 These test were done using IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 22.0. (Armonk,  
311 NY: IBM Corp).

## 312 **3. Results**

### 313 **3.1. Sensory descriptive analysis by a trained panel**

314 The mean scores of the sensory analysis results are shown in Figure 1. All sensory attributes  
315 were significantly affected by at least one of the wine components under study. For better  
316 visualization, samples with and without ethanol were plotted separately.

#### 317 **[FIGURE 1]**

318 Visual attributes. Samples with tannins (WET, WEGT, WT and WGT) were perceived  
319 higher in amber colour intensity than samples without tannin (W, WG, WEG, WE). Visual  
320 viscosity was influenced by the presence of ethanol and tannin ( $F_{\text{ethanol/visual viscosity}}=21.49$ ;  
321  $p<0.001$ ;  $F_{\text{tannin/visual viscosity}}=14.33$ ;  $p<0.001$ ), but not their interaction ( $p>0.05$ ). Contrary to  
322 the widely accepted information that glycerol, provides viscosity, it did not influence the  
323 visual viscosity significantly ( $p_{\text{glycerol}}=0.142$ ).

324 In-mouth attributes. Sample W was scored as the most acid one, although pH was adjusted  
325 for all the samples to 3.8 measured in all samples. Bitter taste was higher for samples  
326 containing ethanol and tannin ( $F_{\text{ethanol/bitter}}=21.49$ ;  $p<0.001$ ;  $F_{\text{tannin/bitter}}=14.33$ ;  $p<0.001$ ),.  
327 However, the interaction between ethanol and tannin was not statistically significant  
328 ( $p_{\text{ethanol*tannin/bitter}}=0.387$ ). Glycerol at the concentrations used did not influence bitterness  
329 ( $p_{\text{glycerol/bitter}}=0.455$ ).

330 Earthiness was scored significantly higher for samples containing tannins  
331 ( $F_{\text{tannins/earthiness}}=21.37$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

332 Regarding the attributes taste and aftertaste of wood two groups were clearly identified:  
333 with and without tannins (significantly  $p < 0.05$ , see Figure 1). Model wines containing  
334 tannins had mean wood taste intensity of  $\sim 4$  points, while samples without tannins were  
335 rated from 0.5 to 2. The aftertaste of wood, was rated slightly lower than wood taste ( $\sim 3.5$ )  
336 for samples with tannins and almost zero for samples without tannins. Although wood  
337 taste was mainly caused by tannins ( $F_{\text{tannins/wood taste}} = 38.13$ ;  $p<0.001$ ), the presence of  
338 ethanol also influenced such taste significantly ( $F_{\text{ethanol/wood taste}} = 4.68$ ;  $p=0.031$ ), and had  
339 interactions with tannins ( $p=0.010$ ).

340 Although samples 'perceived astringency was mainly governed by the tannin content  
341 ( $F_{\text{tannin/astringency}}=28.31$ ;  $p<0.001$ ), ethanol also had a significant influence on this attribute  
342 ( $F_{\text{ethanol/astringency}}=6.77$ ;  $p<0.01$ ).

343 Ethanol was the only component that caused hot sensation ( $F_{\text{ethanol/hot sensation}}=161.86$ ;  
344  $p<0.001$ ). Therefore, WEG, WE, WET and WEGT samples were scored with 6 points of  
345 intensity difference (Figure 1).

346 Similar to the astringency, dryness was affected by ethanol and tannins, but unlike the case  
347 with the astringency, the effect of ethanol was higher ( $F_{\text{ethanol/dryness}} = 35.43$ ,  $p=0.01$ ) than  
348 that of tannin ( $F_{\text{tannin/dryness}} = 11.56$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). No effect by the interaction of components  
349 was found. Therefore, the WET, WE, WEG and WEGT samples were scored with greater  
350 intensity than the WT and WGT samples (Figure 1).

### 351 **3.2. Particle size**

352 Figure 2 shows the hydrodynamic diameter of the salivary proteins in absence or presence  
353 of wine components. As it can be observed, the hydrodynamic diameter of HS proteins was  
354 96.61 nm.

355 **[FIGURE 2]**

356 An increase of diameter was observed for the sample WEG a. A, almost 2.5-3-folds  
357 increase in hydrodynamic diameter of salivary proteins was shown in presence of tannins  
358 (WT), which might suggest some degree of aggregation of the salivary proteins.  
359 Interestingly, the increase in the hydrodynamic diameter caused by tannins was lower in  
360 presence of ethanol and glycerol (decreased from 288.86 nm to 184.2 nm).

### 361 **3.3. Dynamic viscosity**

362 For better visualization, samples with and without ethanol have been represented  
363 separately (Figure 3a and Figure 3b). Additionally, a table with the viscosity at a shear of  
364  $1 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and the fitting the curve to Ostwald de Waele fit ( $\sigma = K\dot{\gamma}^n$ ) is shown.

365 The HS was the most viscous sample and when water was added in the same ratio as  
366 compared to that of the wine models (1:1 w/w), a dilution effect was observed with HS  
367 becoming less viscous. Therefore, HS+water was used to compare the wines and not just  
368 HS. As it can be observed in Figure 3, the most viscous samples were those containing

369 glycerol or tannins (WG, WGT, WET). Sample W had similar viscosity as compared to  
370 that of HS+water, and WE was the comparatively less viscous.

371 In summary, the three components (E, G, T) added to W influenced the viscosity of the  
372 systems significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ). Ethanol significantly decreased the viscosity  
373 ( $F_{\text{ethanol}}=19.93$ ,  $p=0.001$ ), whilst glycerol and tannins provided a viscosity increment  
374 ( $F_{\text{glycerol}}=12.31$ ,  $p=0.002$ ;  $F_{\text{tannins}}=43, 76$ ,  $p=0.001$ ).

375 [FIGURE 3]

### 376 **3.4. Tribology**

377 Figure 4 shows the friction coefficient versus entrainment speed for each sample analyzed.  
378 For easiness of interpretation, 1 trend line was fitted.

379 At lower entrainment speed ( $< 100$  mm/sec), typically defined as a boundary lubrication  
380 regime, differences in the traction coefficient were observed. Surfaces wetted by distilled  
381 water demonstrated the highest traction coefficients due to their hydrophilic nature when  
382 compared to other samples. Within the boundary lubricated regimes, 'W' and 'WG'  
383 demonstrated the highest and lowest traction coefficient respectively. As sliding speed  
384 increased ( $>100$  mm/sec), the traction coefficient for each sample decreased, typically  
385 explained through the transition into a 'mixed' lubrication regime. As expected all samples  
386 appeared to converge towards a similar traction coefficient value with further increase in  
387 the entrainment velocity. For all samples, except distilled water, some hysteresis was  
388 observed within the traction coefficient. A higher traction coefficient was typically  
389 observed with decreasing entrainment speed with little differences was observed between  
390 the wine samples at both higher and lower sliding speeds. This indicates that some  
391 structural change within the lubricant might have occurred as a result of frictional  
392 dissipation at the contacting interfaces. Although traction coefficients were higher during  
393 the reverse traction phase when compared to the forward traction phase, model wine  
394 samples imparted some lubricity when compared to distilled water.

395 Figure 4 further demonstrates the lubricating capacity of SS, showing the ability of mucins  
396 to lubricate. An atypical traction plot was observed as a function of entrainment speed with  
397 no distinct transition from a boundary to mixed lubrication regime observed. This is  
398 presumably due to the electrostatic affinity of the anionic mucins to the positively charges  
399 surfaces (i.e. PDMS), potential hydrophobic interactions between mucin and PDMS as well  
400 as the exhibition of highly non-Newtonian properties of the SS. Differences in the reverse  
401 traction phases were again observed, with a prolonged transition from mixed to boundary  
402 lubricated regimes seen and a lower traction coefficient observed. Whilst SS imparted  
403 superior lubrication properties when compared to model wines and distilled water, it is  
404 evident that some structural changes had occurred to the lubricant during the forward  
405 traction phase.

406 [FIGURE 4]

### 407 **3.5. Complexes observed by TEM**

408 Figure 5 shows the TEM images of HS, HS/water mixture and HS/model wines mixtures.

409 [FIGURE 5]

410 As it can be observed, aggregates were formed in HS/model wine mixtures (Figures 5c, 5d,  
411 5e, 5f). Aggregates were absent in HS/water mixtures (Figure 5b).. These aggregates were  
412 observed more neatly in those samples with extra addition of tannins (5d: WT; 5f: WEGT),  
413 which is consistent with dynamic light scattering data (Figure 2). It cannot be ignored that  
414 the saliva pellicle structure had changed in samples even in presence of wine matrix  
415 components alone (Figure 5c).

#### 416 4. Discussion

417 The present study constitutes one of the first approaches to integrate sensory evaluation  
418 and a range of complementary instrumental techniques (rheology, tribology, dynamic light  
419 scattering and electron microstructure) for evaluating the role of individual and/or group  
420 of major wine components on mouthfeel. As expected, components added (glycerol,  
421 tannins and ethanol) created different sensory properties, captured by the trained panel. Our  
422 study also showed how rheology, particle size and tribology results, in the boundary  
423 regimes, were able to quantitatively discriminate the samples and related them with the  
424 sensory assessment.

425 Rheological results showed that some of the wine components changed the behaviour of  
426 the saliva due to its own physical properties and not essentially due to a saliva-wine  
427 ingredient interaction. In other words, it was observed that samples with glycerol had  
428 higher viscosities than samples with ethanol (see Figure 3). This was expected as viscosity  
429 of ethanol ( $\eta_{20^{\circ}\text{C}}=0.0012\text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ ) is three orders of magnitude lower than that of glycerol  
430 ( $\eta_{20^{\circ}\text{C}}=1.069\text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ ). Yanniotis, Kotseridis, Orfanidou, and Petraki (2007) measured wine at  
431  $16^{\circ}\text{C}$  with different ethanol and glycerol content (0–15% v/v, 0–20 g/L, respectively). At  
432 these concentrations, the viscosity almost varied linearly with ethanol and glycerol  
433 concentration. For example, for every 1% (v/v) increase in ethanol concentration, viscosity  
434 increased by  $0.047\times 10^{-3}\text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$  and for every g/L increase in glycerol concentration, viscosity  
435 increased by  $0.005\times 10^{-3}\text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$ .

436 It was possible to measure instrumentally viscosity differences of model wine and HS  
437 mixtures; these were correlated with the visual viscosity reported by the trained panel s  
438 ( $R_{\text{instrumental/visual viscosity}}=0.815$ ,  $p=0.014$ ). However, visual and instrumental viscosity were  
439 influenced differently by the wine components. For example, visual viscosity was  
440 influenced by ethanol and tannins but not by glycerol..

441 In human saliva, Prinz and Lucas (2000) added powdered tannic acid until saturation to  
442 fresh saliva, showing a decrease in viscosity of saliva. In our case, 0.1% of tannic solution  
443 was added to saliva (HS+WT), and in comparison with HS +water, the viscosity increased.  
444 This difference can be explained based on the fact that Prinz and Lucas (2000) used  
445 powdered tannic acid with a supersaturation effect, whilst the quantity of tannic acid used  
446 in the model wines in this study, was much lower, producing higher viscosity but not  
447 precipitating the salivary proteins.

448 Saliva in presence of wine with tannins, showed an increase in the hydrodynamic diameter,  
449 which was in congruence with formation of nano-complexes as observed by TEM  
450 micrographs 5d). This suggests that these complexes were potentially responsible for the

451 viscosity increases which were eventually broken down in the direction of flow supporting  
452 the Non-Newtonian behavior.. Similar polyphenols-saliva aggregates were found by  
453 Brossard et al. (2016) in red wines-saliva mixtures. These complexes can be attributed to  
454 the polyphenolic compounds in wines forming complexes with salivary proline-rich  
455 proteins (PRP) (Hagerman & Butler, 1981). The consensus is that these complexes, saliva  
456 protein and wine polyphenols, are formed via hydrogen bonding between hydroxyl groups  
457 of phenolic compounds and carbonyl and amide groups of proteins, also by hydrophobic  
458 interaction between the benzoic ring of phenolic compounds and the apolar side chains of  
459 amino acids such leucine, lysine or proline in salivary proteins (Laguna & Sarkar, 2017;  
460 Santos-Buelga & De Freitas, 2009).

461 As shown in the sensory results, presence of saliva-tannin complexes provoked earthiness  
462 and astringency sensation, furthermore a significant relation was observed between  
463 earthiness and particle size ( $R_{\text{hydrodynamic diameter/earthiness}}=0.706$ ,  $p=0.049$ ). This means that  
464 particles were not only large but also "gritty" and "particulate" to affect perception, which  
465 influenced the sensory perception (Engelen, Van Der Bilt, Schipper, & Bosman, 2005).  
466 Such gritty particle nature of the nano-complexes might have altered the lubricating  
467 properties of the salivary pellicles thus activating the mechanoreceptors, located within the  
468 mucosa (Horne et al., 2002; Kallithraka et al., 1997; Lesschaeve & Noble, 2005).

469 Hydrodynamic diameter of HS did not change significantly in presence of ethanol and  
470 glycerol (Figure 5e and Figure 2). This suggests that ethanol and glycerol, at levels present  
471 in wines, did not alter the salivary protein conformation and did not result in any nano-  
472 complex formation.

473 From the tribological results, it can be observed how the simulated saliva (SS) reduced  
474 the dynamic coefficient of friction between the PDMS surfaces as previously reported  
475 (Bongaerts, Rossetti, & Stokes, 2007; Laguna, Farrell, Bryant, Morina, & Sarkar, 2017).  
476 At the boundary lubrication regime of the wine model tested, it can be observed that WG  
477 was the sample with less traction coefficient, therefore, glycerol had a lubricant effect ..  
478 This is in agreement with previous literature, where glycerol was associated with various  
479 attributes, such as oiliness, persistence and mellowness (Lubbers, Verret, & Voilley,  
480 2001).

481 To our knowledge there has been only one previous study that has analyzed wine samples  
482 using tribology techniques. The conclusion of the authors (Brossard et al., 2016) were in  
483 contrast with our present results. Brossard et al. (2016) stated that sensory perception via a  
484 physical stimulus can be quantified using tribology techniques. In our study, although  
485 panelists discriminated samples with and without tannins addition, tribology was not  
486 effective to discriminate the samples with/ without the presence of tannins. It needs to be  
487 remembered that Brossard et al. (2016), used four samples and a sliding speed of 0.075  
488 mm/sec, whilst the tongue movement speed has been at speeds of up to 200 mm/s (Hiimae  
489 & Palmer, 2003). Secondly, PDMS-steel tribopaires were used as opposed to PDMS-  
490 PDMS tribopaires alter used in this study. Furthermore, besides phenolic compounds, there  
491 are other components in wine, which can also contribute to astringency perception. For  
492 example the tartaric acid present, caused the change of pH (model wine pH=3.8 whilst

493 distilled water pH=7), altering the properties of the simulated saliva, i.e. mucins might be  
494 self-aggregating (Macakova, Yakubov, Plunkett, & Stokes, 2011) nearing the isoelectric  
495 point. Hence, the difference between the wine samples were not evident in these tribology  
496 results, as lubricating properties of SS containing mucin was diminishing owing to the low  
497 pH used in all wines in this study overshadowing the effects of tannin composition.

498 As a limitation of this study it should be mentioned that it was not feasible to use human  
499 saliva for the tribology test, and mucin 3 % wt% solution with salivary ionic composition  
500 and pH was used to simulate human saliva. However, the physical and chemical properties  
501 of this simulated saliva differ from those of HS. Even though, this study provides a first  
502 comprehensive understanding wine-saliva interaction.

503

## 504 **Conclusions**

505 In this paper, quantitative (rheology, particle size, tribology) and qualitative  
506 (microstructure) instrumental techniques were assessed to relate with wine mouthfeel  
507 properties, latter described by a trained panel. Overall, using a model wine matrix with the  
508 addition of tannins, glycerol and ethanol and evaluating the samples by sensory and  
509 instrumental techniques, it can be observed that particle size measurement correlates with  
510 sensory earthiness perception. However rheology and tribology techniques pose some  
511 challenges with respect to correlation with sensory perception. Although rheology was able  
512 to discriminate among samples, the changes captured were far too sensitive for the in-  
513 mouth perception. Tribology also complements the results obtained by the trained panel; it  
514 was able to display the difference in lubrication due to glycerol. However, due to the low  
515 pH of the samples, the differences found in astringency by the trained panel, were not found  
516 using a tribometer.

517 Therefore, these results suggest that instrumental methods cannot completely account for  
518 the complexity of the human perception, but can help to understand some of the in-mouth  
519 saliva-sine interaction quantitatively. Such tools offer a promising step towards  
520 standardizing testing protocols in wineries

521 With this consideration in mind, adaptation of the proposed techniques to represent oral  
522 conditions (e.g. use of bio-relevant surfaces and real human saliva in tribology  
523 measurements) need to be explored to study the surface and mechanical properties of the  
524 change in salivary film upon wine consumption.

525

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537

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664 **Figure captions**

665 Figure 1. Mean descriptive sensory scores of a) W (grey solid line), WT (grey dashed line),  
666 WG (black dashed line), WGT (black solid line) and b) WEGT (grey solid line), WE (grey  
667 dashed line), WEG (black dashed line), WET (black solid line).

668 Figure 2. Mean and standard deviation of the Z-average diameter of the mixture of human  
669 saliva (HS) and model wine. Bars with the same letter do not differ significantly ( $p > 0.05$ )  
670 according to Tukey's test.

671 Figure 3. Dynamic viscosity of model wine with human saliva (1:1) of a) HS (●), HS+water  
672 (1:1) (○) and mixture of HS with model wine W (▲), WG (◆), WT (■), WGT (□) and b)  
673 HS (●), HS+water (1:1) (○) and mixture of HS with model wine WE (Δ), WEG (◇), WET  
674 (□) and WEGT (□). In the left corner of each graph is presented the average of three values  
675 and the deviation values ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) of viscosities at 1 Pa.s ( $\eta_1$ ), the consistency index (K)  
676 and flow index (n). Means (in the same column) with the same letter do not differ  
677 significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) according to Tukey test.

678 Figure 4. Traction coefficient dependence at various entrainment speed of wine model with  
679 HS at a) forward traction and b) reverse traction for samples of W(■), WG (●), WT (▲),  
680 WEGT (▼), HS (◆) and distilled water (◀).

681 Figure 5. Negative-stain TEM micrographs of a) HS, b) HS+water, c) HS+W d) HS+WT,  
682 e) HS+WEG and f) HS+WEGT

683