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INDUSTRY PEOPLE

Rodrigo Soto, winemaker for Neyen, Primus, Ritual and Veramonte labels under the Gonzales Byass portfolio, made a South Florida stop to bring his distributor partners up-to-date on his latest works. This is a man who puts the health of Chile's terroir first, then his winemaking techniques and practices.

Concerns about climate change, grape quality and soil health prompted Rodrigo to covert vineyards under his watch to 100% organic. His 2017 vintage will be the first certified organic wines produced from those properties.

"I saw climatic events as a factor to deal with," said Soto. "It is already causing steep drops in production. I feel changing to organic practices allows the vineyards to accept and evolve through the years with less hardships as they adapt to changing temperatures, rainfall and sunshine. Organic allows the grapes to grow as nature intends without any manipulation or false additives from me as a grower."



Other welcoming news is the continued success in producing Pinot Noir wines under the Veramonte and Ritual labels. Rodrigo is one of the many vintners around the world trying their hand at growing the red burgundy grape. Surprisingly the delicate and finicky grape is performing well in Chile's native soils, which Rodrigo credits to his farming methods. For more information contact Transatlantic Wine & Spirits. ■

González Byass
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