

# Influence of Ageing Process on the Chemical Composition and Some Aromatic Compounds on Muscat Hamburg Distillate Produced in Albania

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**Abstract:-** Under study has been taken the variety Muscat Hamburg cultivated in Durres- Albania area in 2009, according to established agro-techniques. The variety taken in the study is characterized from the pronounced aroma flower. As an alcoholic distillate it can be highly aromatic. Muscat grapes contain a number of compounds that give muscat wines and distillates their distinct flavor. The study aims to identify these compounds after distillation process and after three years of ageing in Q.robur oak barrels. The analytical control for determining the aromatic compounds was conducted with the official methods of OIV and REG-CE 2870/2000 GC-MS and GC-FID. According to the analytical results performed respectively to the fresh distillate and the aged distillate, we see that some compounds increase in level such as: superior alcohols have a significant decrease from 221gr/hl (at the fresh distillate) to 282gr/hl anhydrous alcohol (at the three aged distillate), the acetic aldehydes increase from 13.3 gr/hl (at the fresh distillate) to 17 gr/hl anhydrous alcohol after three years of ageing some others increase such as linalol from 8.8 gr/hl a. a in the 19.5 gr/hl a. a, citronellol from 2.7 gr/hl a. a in the 4.3 gr/hl a. a among the compounds analyzed results that geraniol have an significant increased from 2.1 to 6.8 gr/hl a. a. By organoleptic evaluation results that the distillate produced shows pronounced aroma flower that is attributable to the variety and the higher changes of the aromatic compounds under the ageing process.

**Keywords:** Muscat Hamburg; flower aroma; linalol; higher alcohols; geraniol.

## I. INTRODUCCION

The aromatic potential inherent in grapes can either be realized or destroyed during the alcoholic fermentation. The preferable flavors of wine depend on a balance of volatile constituents such as acids, alcohols, aldehydes, ketones and esters, with yeast bouquet resulting largely from higher alcohols and esters (Swiegers et al., 2005) [1]. The normal methods of monitoring the fermentation used are measurement of sugar (or, more accurately, dissolved solids) by hydrometry, measurement of temperature and sensory evaluation. One mole (180 g) of glucose yields about 103 kJ (24.5 kcal) as heat, and each percent of sugar (1°Brix) in the must generates enough heat during fermentation to raise its temperature by 1.3 °C/l, if no heat is lost. (Jackson, 2000b) [2]. Although alcohol is a major component of wine, there are many by-products of fermentation which will have a major impact on quality. The characteristic fruit flavors of wine are primarily due to a mixture of hexyl acetate, ethyl caproate, ethyl caprylate, isoamyl acetate and 2-phenylethyl acetate, that have specific functions in the yeast cell, while others are still speculative (Pretorius and Lambrechts, 2000) [3]. Higher alcohols are produced during alcoholic fermentation through the conversion of the branched chain amino acids present in the medium (valine, leucine, isoleucine, threonine and phenylalanine), and are important precursors for the formation of esters, which are associated with pleasant aromas. They can also be produced de novo from a sugar substrate (Clemente-Jiminez et al., 2005) [4]. The temperature of fermentation has a considerable effect on the aromatic character of the wine. Low temperatures and slower fermentations are well known to help retain the fruit character of the juice. These aromatic compounds are lost at high temperatures. The influence of fermentation temperature on the production of yeast-derived aroma compounds at 15°C and 28°C was investigated. Higher concentrations of compounds related to fresh and fruity aromas were found at 15°C, while higher concentrations of flowery related aroma compounds were found at 28°C. The formation rates of volatile aroma compounds varied according to growth stage.

## **II. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

### *A. Variety and wort production*

The variety is cultivate in field area where the soil is a clay-loess and lime is added to improve. In this ecosystem characterized as part of the Mediterranean climate the annual temperature is 11°C, the average temperature of vine vegetation is 17°C, the amount of active temperatures 3705°C, relative humidity 76-80%. This variety has its plant time during the months April-August and it should not be watering before harvest. ( K. Marku and R. Kongoli 2012 ) [5] The variety taken in the study is characterized from the pronounced aroma flower. After the harvest the selected raw material is in good condition, the grape undergo to the mechanical analysis, the determination of acidity, the sugar content and then is suppressed according to the raki production. The determination of the percentage of sugar with refractometer is base on the relationship between the concentration of soluble dry matter and the coefficient of the refraction of light, the used refractometre shows Brix degree. Fermentation is monitored daily by measuring the density and temperature, after preparing the fermentated material it goes to fractional distillation. The study aims to identify these compounds in the fermented must (wine without using SO<sub>2</sub>) before distillation process and in the distillate obtained from this wine. The distillation is carried out by a distiller allowing a high alcoholic degree without need for redistillation.

### *B. Analitical method*

The analytical control for determining the aromatic compounds in the fresh distillate and the aged distillate was conducted with the official methods of OIV and REG-CE 2870/2000 GC-MS and GC-FID. Gas chromatographic assays of volatile compounds may prove particularly interesting as a means of determining both the origin of the raw material used in the distillation process and the actual conditions of distillate. Some spirits contain other volatile components, such as aromatic compounds, which are characteristic of the raw materials used to obtain the alcohol, of the aroma of the spirit drink and of the special features of the preparation of the spirit. These compounds are important for evaluating the requirements set out in Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89. Congeners in spirit drinks are determined by direct injection of the spirit drink, or appropriately diluted spirit drink, into a gas chromatography (GC) system. A suitable internal standard is added to the spirit drink prior to injection. The congeners are separated by temperature programming on a suitable column (6ft x 2mm i.d, packed 5% Carbowax 20 M on 80 – 100 Carbopak B. Gase flow:He, 300- 30 ml/min) and are detected using a flame ionisation detector (FID). The concentration of each congener is determined with respect to the internal standard from response factors, which are obtained during calibration under the same chromatographic conditions as those of the spirit drink analysis.

### *C. Chemicals and standards*

As recomanded from REG-CE 2870/2000 for this work were used exclusively reagents with purity of more than 97% purchased from a provider accredited to ISO 3696 and have a certificate of purity, free from other compounds at test dilution. Acetal and acetaldehyde must be stored in the dark at a temperature lower than 5° C; all other reagents should be stored at room temperature. Absolute Ethanol (CAS 64-17-5). methanol (CAS 67-56-1). Propan-1-ol (CAS 71-23-8). 2-methylpropan-1-ol (CAS 78-33-1-). Acceptable internal standards: pentan-3-OL (CAS 584-02-1), pentan-1-ol (CAS 71-41-0), 4-methylpentan-1-ol (CAS 626-89-1) and methyl nonanolo (CAS 1731-84-6). 2-methylbutan-1-ol (CAS 137-32-6). 3-metibutan-1-ol (CAS 123-51-3). ethyl acetate (CAS 141-78-6). Butan-1-ol (CAS 71-36-3). Butan-2-OL (CAS 78-92-2): Acetaldehyde (CAS 75-07-0). Acetal (CAS 105-57-7): Ethanolic 40% v/v. To prepare an ethanolic to 400 ml/l, put 400 ml of ethanol in a 1 litre volumetric flask and make up to volume with distilled water by mixing thoroughly. Preparation and storage of calibration solutions (procedure used for the validated method). All calibration solutions should be stored at temperature below 5° C and renewed once a month. The masses of the components and solutions should be recorded with the accuracy of 0.1 mg. Calibration Solution-A Pipette the following reagents into a 100 ml volumetric flask, containing approximately 60 ml ethanol solution in order to limit losses of components for evaporation; make up to volume with ethanol solution and mix thoroughly. Record the weight of the flask, of each component added and the total final weight of contents. Volume (ml) of methanol 3.0, Propan-1-ol 3.0, 2-methylpropan-OL 3.0, 2-methylbutan-OL 3.0, 3-methylbutan-OL 3.0, ethyl acetate 3.0, 3.0 Butan-1-ol, 3.0 Butan-2-OL, Acetaldehyde 3.0 Acetale 3.0.

#### *D. Analytical procedure*

Volatile compounds were analysed using an gas chromatograph equipped with a flame ionization detection (FID) system. And GC-MS Determination of volatile compounds by GC is a way to define the characteristics of raw materials and the product emerge after distillation. Most compositions are distinguished in chromatogram are aromatic compounds and flavor. These compounds are significant for the evaluation of requirements defined in Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89 Chromatographic conditions GC-MS, used for the analysis of distillates, are as follows:

- Samples are injected directly after injections of internal standard.
- Chromatogram acquired represent the decoded a few score points, especially after 24 minutes, the unwritable to present organic acids, especially acetic acid and butyric.
- Initially are evident in the base line, specifically in the first few minutes, owing to ethanol and water.
- Quantitative assessment of analyte are in extract ion, while identification is based on Retention time and by comparison with the total ion spectra of the analyte in the study and the spectrum of pure ingredients (fit threshold > 80%).

GC-FID method is specified by the current European norms REG-CE 2870/2000 and in particular paragraph III.

Method GC-MS (GC Perkin Elmer Autosystem XL):

- HP-innowax (30m x 0.320mm x 0.50 mm);
- Oven: 40°C (3 min) @ 2.5°C/min to 165°C (0 min) @ 10°C/min to 250°C (10 min);
- Flow: He, 2.70mL/min (4.5 min) @ 0.1mL/min to 1.70mL/min;
- Injector: 250°C, splitless (0.0-1.5min), split 50:1, 0.5 mL injected;
- MS Perkin Elmer Turbomass Gold
- Scan: 33-300 m/z;
- Source: 200°C, Electron Energy: 70eV, solvent delay: 0.9 min;
- Transfer line: 250°C;

The identification of volatile compounds was based on the matching of mass spectra of the compounds with the reference mass spectra of the NIST library. The identification of chromatographic peaks was also confirmed by comparing retention times with those of pure compounds. Quantitative analyses were made by employing the corresponding response factor in the reference solution, according to the internal standard method. Determinations were made in triplicate.

#### *E. Sensory analysis*

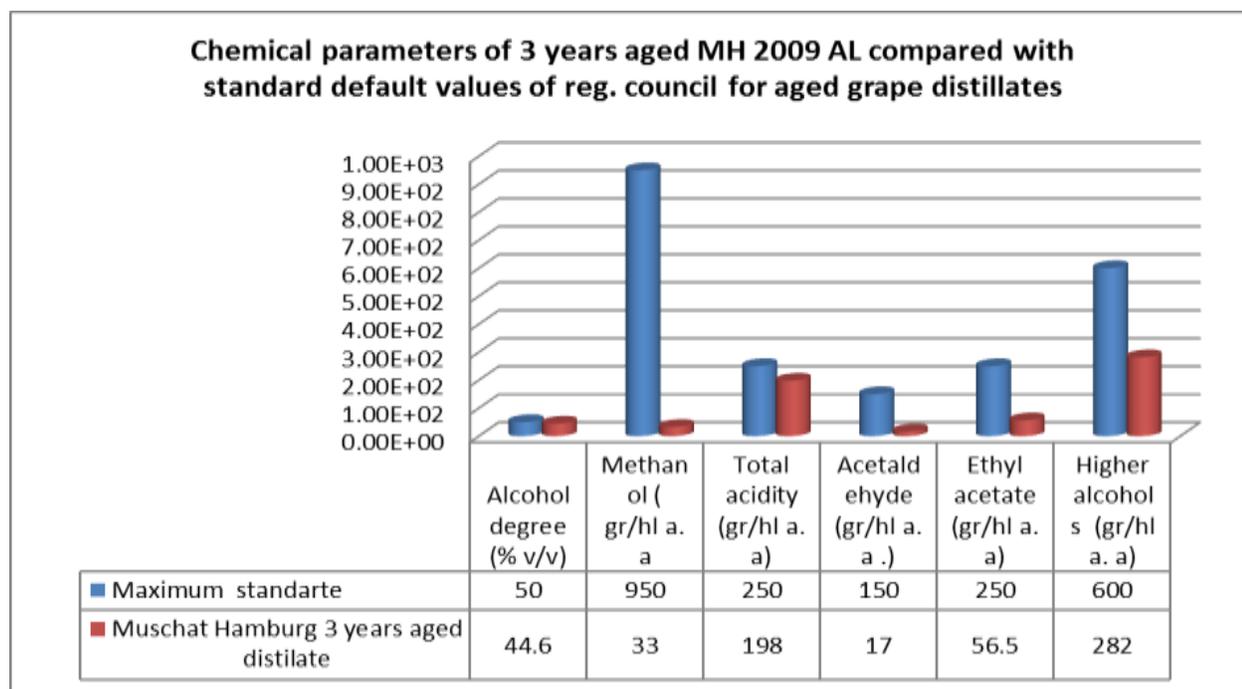
The sensory analysis is based on evaluated the intensity of the descriptive parameters and the qualifying parameters (in visual, aroma, taste, aftertaste and general impression) according to the evaluation form used in the sensory analysis of the aged grape distillates, all the samples have been tasted in tasting glasses, at room temperature.

The evaluation has been made by using a structured scale (10, no perception; 20, very low; 30, low; 40, middle; 50, high and 60, very high intensity).

### **III. RESULTS AND/OR DISCUSSION**

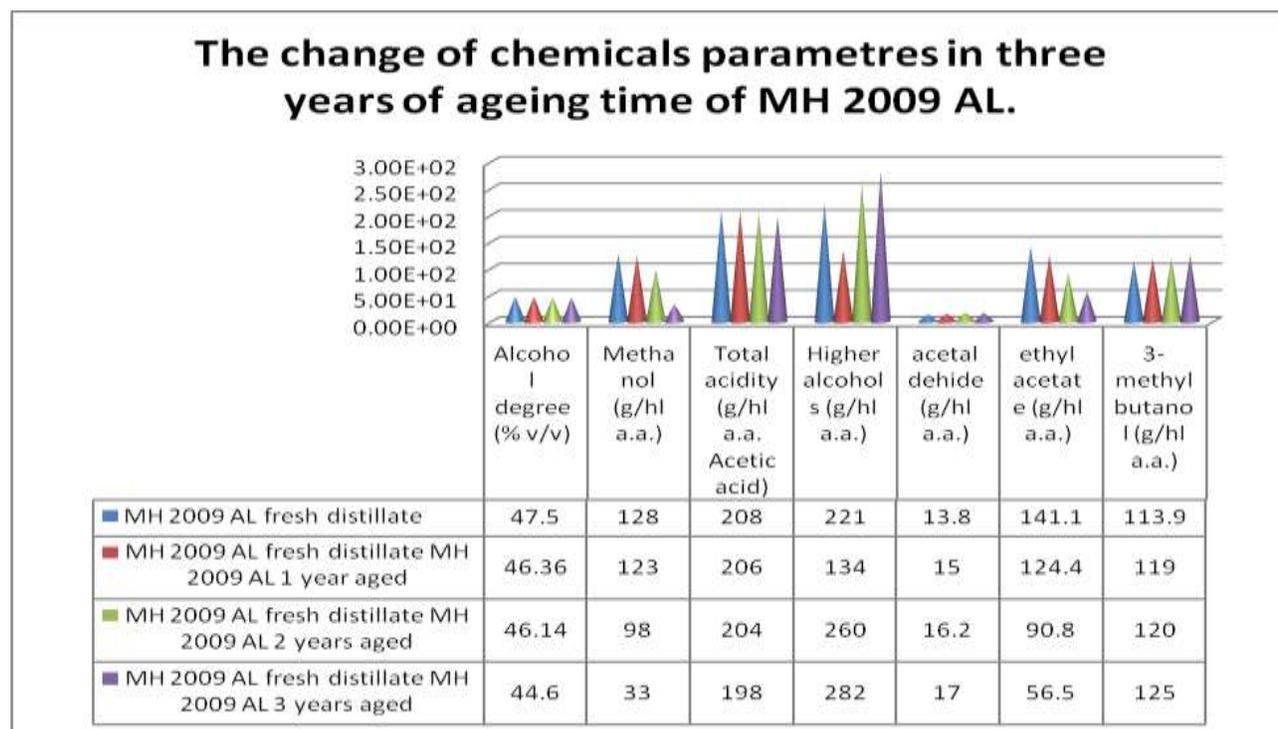
The results obtained for the chemical composition of the aged grape distillates analysed are shown in Chart 1. The results showed significant differences amongst the samples in the study. The presence and concentration of these parameters was related to the raw materials used, the conditions of fermentation, the distillation technique employed and the aging process.

**Chart 1.** Chemical parameters of 3 years aged MH 2009 AL compared with the standard default values of reg. council for aged grape marc distillates.



As seen from the results given in chart1 the chemical parameters of the 3 years aged Muschat Hamburg distillate (MH 2009 AL) shows that all the parameters are within standarte default values of reg. council for aged grape distillates. Muschat Hamburg (MH 2009 AL) aged distillate is presented with very low levels of methanol 33 g / hl a.a and acetaldehydit 17 g / hl a.a. This indicates the best quality of the distillate aged for 3 years Q.robur.

**Chart 2.** The compared results obtained from GC-FID method for all the samples taken for analysis.



The alcoholic degree of the samples under study was within the margins established by the corresponding Regulation Council (37.5–50% v/v). The fresh distillate with 47.5% (v/v) is introduced into the oak wood at a high alcohol degree. It has been established that the alcoholic concentration will be 55% (v/v) of ethanol in the distillate, to obtain a greater extraction of compounds from the wood and better quality in the final product (Van Jaarsveld et al.) [6]. During the aging process, there are many changes in the analytical and sensory composition of the spirit, favoured by the high alcohol content [7]. During the aging process oscillations occur in the ethanol content of the distillate, a function of the temperature and humidity outside of the barrel, that is, the higher the outdoor humidity, the greater the loss of alcohol (Catão et al.) [8].

Acetaldehyde is a volatile compound formed during spontaneous or microbial mediated oxidation during the alcoholic fermentation of raw material. Its concentration in the final distillate is also influenced by the distillation system, the wood and the aging time [7]. The acetaldehyde concentration increased in lower levels during aging time it owes to the distillation system of the raw material and when the wood species used was *Q. robur*. Acetaldehyde in age-distilled spirits increased its concentration notably owing to the oxidation process in the barrel. The level of acetaldehyde in the aged Muschat Hamburg (MH 2009 AL) samples ranged between 13.5 to 17 g/hl a.a. It has been reported values of acetaldehyde in whisky of 11.5 g/hl a.a. (Nascimento et al.) [9] and in other distilled alcoholic beverages (tequila, rum, cognac, grappa and vodka) values of 12.4 g/hl a.a. (Parazzi et al.) [10].

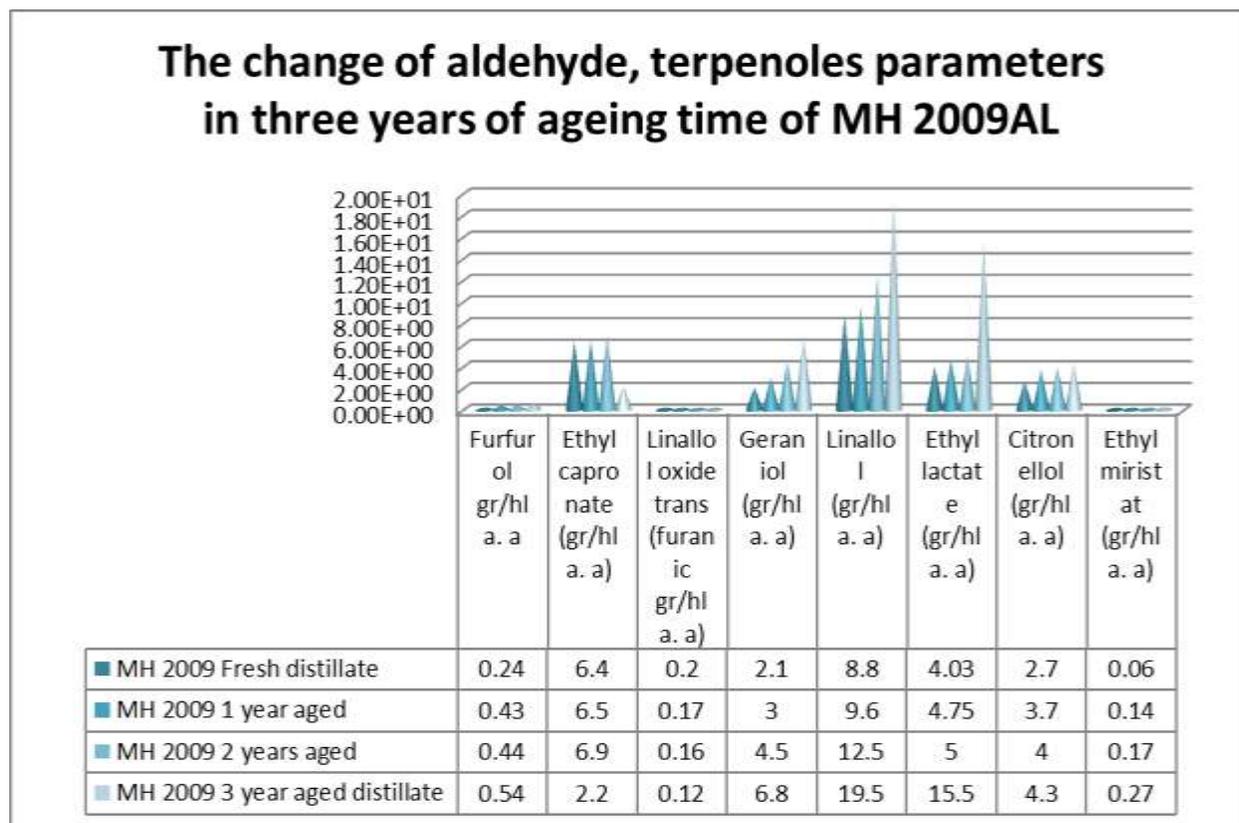
Total acidity values in the samples varied from 208 to 198 g/hl a.a. This parameter decreases significantly during the wood aging process, resulting from oxidation reactions of ethanol and from wood extraction [11].

The methanol content in alcoholic beverages is very important because of its toxicity (maximum legal limit 1000 g/hl a.a. or 100% vol. ethanol) [12]; however, this compound has no specific odour, and thus does not contribute to the aroma of the distillate. This compound is naturally present in distilled grape marc spirits as a consequence of the enzymatic degradation of pectins [13, 14]. Methanol content in the analysed samples decrease from 128g/hl a.a. of fresh distillate to 33 g/hl a.a. in the three years aged distillate, this can be attributed to the low pectin content of the raw material employed in the elaboration of the alcoholic distillate. Methanol did not increase in concentration during the aging process (Parazzi et al.) [10].

Ethyl acetate is the most abundant acetate in the distillates derived from the secondary metabolism of the yeast during the alcoholic fermentation of grape pomace. However, it is the product of acetic acid esterification and thus its concentration increases during the aging process [15]. A high content of ethyl acetate in the distillate, above its perception threshold of 180 g/hl a.a., has a negative impact on sensorial characteristics and is perceived as having a solvent character [16]. In the samples analysed, the content ranged from 141.1 g/hl a.a. of fresh distillate to 56.5 g/hl a.a. the three years aged distillate, contributing fruity and floral notes to the aroma of the distillate. Ethyl acetate shows a mean content of 1.75 g/hl in whisky [17], lower owing to the storage conditions of the raw material and the distillation process. For Brazilian sugar cane spirits, the value of ethyl acetate was 62.65 g/hl a.a. after 3 years of aging (Parazzi et al.) [18].

The amount of total higher alcohols in the samples analysed varied from 221 g/hl a.a. from fresh distillate to 282 g/hl a.a. of three years aged distillate. The concentration of amino acids, the yeast strain, the fermentation conditions (pH, temperature, time) and the distillation process are all important factors in terms of the concentration of higher alcohols in the final distillate. Higher alcohols comprise the group that is quantitatively more important in the distillates. These volatile compounds are positively involved in the sensory quality of the distillate, if they are not present in high concentrations. The content of higher alcohols in the cognac after aging have an increase as a result of the phenomenon of concentration by ethanol evaporation (Snackers et al.) [19]. This author reported concentrations of higher alcohols of 37.36g/hl a.a. and 38.63 g/hl a.a. before and after the aging process, respectively. The increase of the higher alcohols during aging was primarily due to isoamyl alcohol (Parazzi et al.) [18]. In a study on the chemical composition of Calvados (apple brandy), it has been reported a total higher alcohol content in the range of 435.7 to 1441.07 g/hl a.a., (Guichard et al.) [20], a value significantly higher than the mean concentration for this group of compounds in the Muschat Hamburg (MH 2009 AL) samples analysed.

Chart 3. The compared results of aldehydes and terpenoles obtained from GC-MS method for all the samples taken for analysis.



Some compounds very important to the quality of alcoholic distillates which have a direct influence on their aromatic profile are also terpenolet, aldehydes and esters. As seen in chart 3, Furfur ol as one of the representatives of the aldehydes that comes as a result of overheating the mass of fermented must grape, is present in the fresh distillate 0,24 gr/hl a.a and in the aged distillate after 3 years is 0,54 gr/hl a.a.

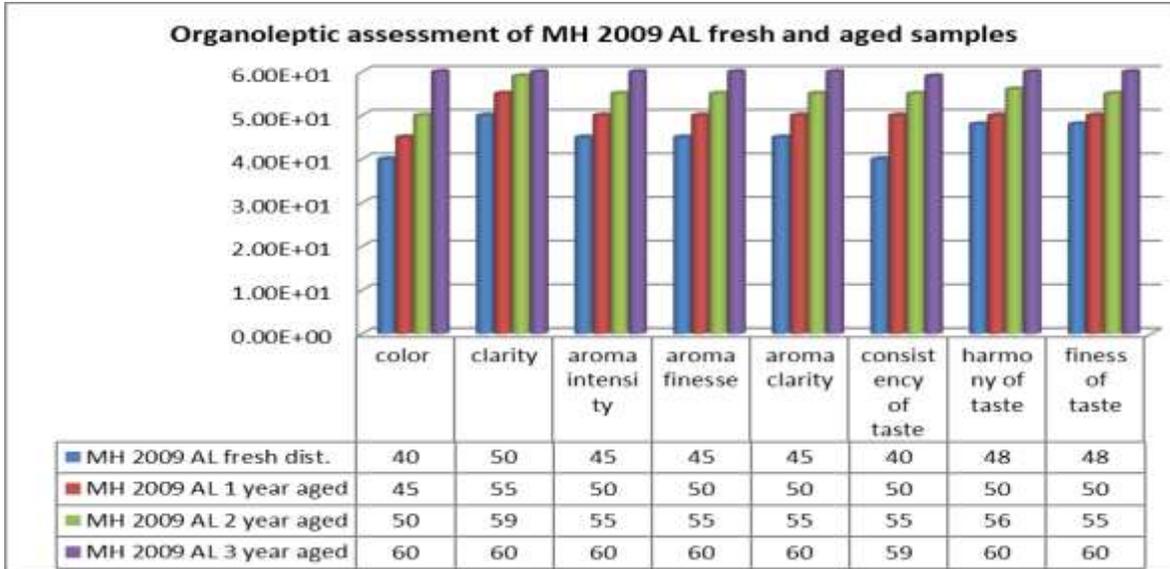
Ethyl capronate show a huge decrease it goes from 6.4 gr/hl a.a of the fresh distillate in 2.2 gr/hl a.a after three years of ageing in Q.robur. Also linallol oxide transfuranic has a little decrease level from 0.2 gr/hl a.a to 0.12 gr/hl a.a after three years of ageing time.

Terpenoles such as linallol, geraniol, citronellol have a huge increasement after three years of ageing time. So linallol goes from 8.8 gr/hl a.a of the fresh distillate in 19.5 gr/hl after three years of ageing time. Geraniol goes from 2.1 gr/hl a.a of the fresh distillate in 6.8 gr/hl after three years of ageing time. Citronellol goes from 2.7 gr/hl a.a of the fresh distillate in 4.3 gr/hl after three years of ageing time. These components are the main responsive for the flower aroma of the distillate.

Ethyl lactate goes from 4.03 gr/hl a.a of the fresh distillate in 15.5 gr/hl after three years of ageing time. ethyl miristate goes from 0.06 gr/hl a.a of the fresh distillate in 0.27 gr/hl after three years of ageing time.

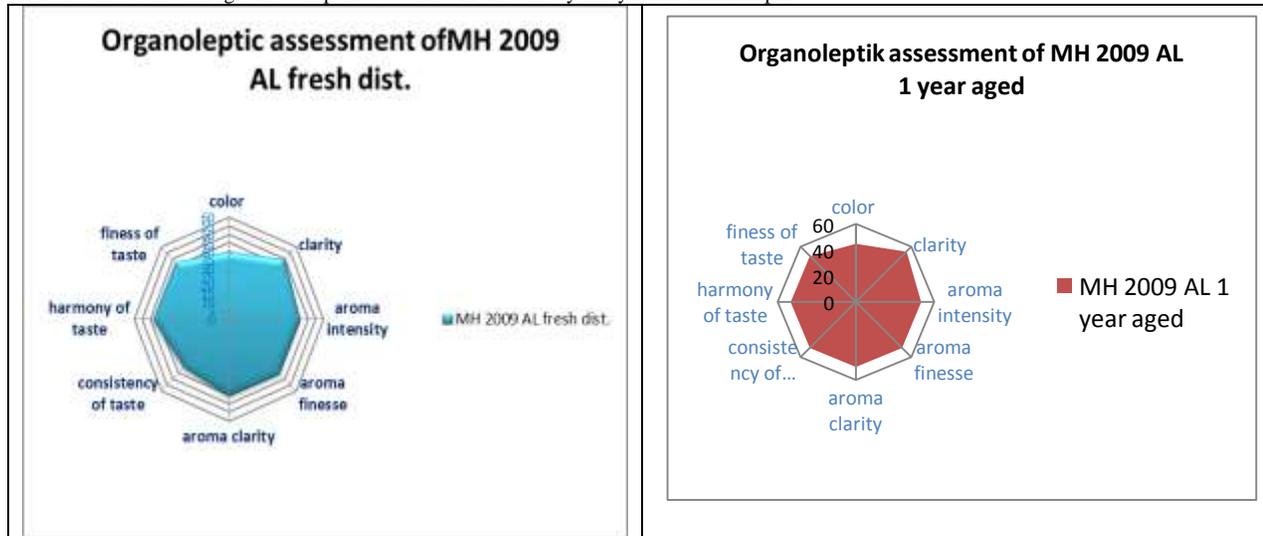
**Sensory analysis**

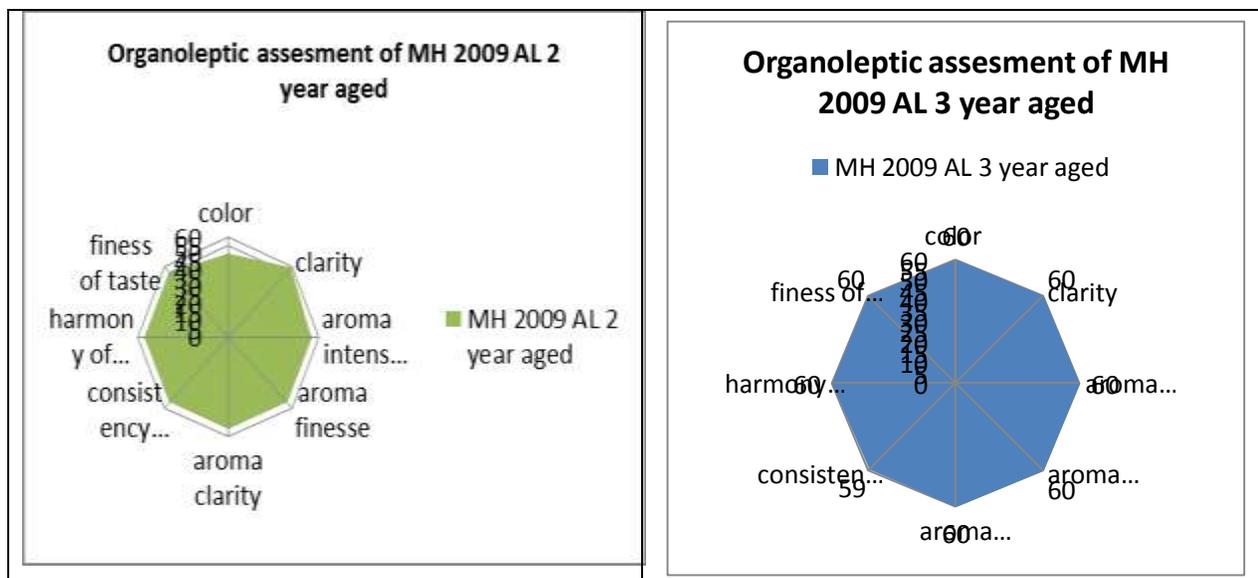
**Chart 4.** Shows the aroma profile of the fresh and aged samples evaluated according to the qualifying parameters.



The results reveal that the samples of MH 2009 AL aged in Quercus robur during 3 years have the best sensory profile and had obtained a greater intensity in all of the qualifying parameters.

**Chart 5.** Shows the average the total points obtained in the sensory analysis for each sample





#### IV. Conclusions

By organoleptic evaluation results that the alcoholic distillates of Muschate Hamburge MH 2009 AL grape aged in Q. robur for 3 years, shows pronounced aroma flower that is attributable to the variety and the changes of the aromatic compounds under the effect of the ageing process. Some compounds are very important to the quality of alcoholic distillates which have a direct influence on its aromatic profile such as terpenoles, aldehydes and esters. During the aging process, there are many changes in the analytical and sensory composition of the distillate the main change is reported for the volatile compounds such as increasing of geraniol, linallol, citronellol, that are the main responsive for the flower aroma of the distillate. It have been reported increasement also in ethyl lactate, etyl miristate, acetaldehyde, furfurool, the higher alcohols that are positively involved in the sensory quality of the distillate, The ageing process in the presence of Q. robur is associated with the reduction of the toxicity that was attributed to the presence of methanol in the fresh distillate and decreasing of total acidity resulting from oxidation reactions of ethanol and from wood extraction, Ethyl acetate contributing in fruity and floral notes to the aroma of the distillate.

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