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The definitive version is available at: La versione definitiva è disponibile alla URL: [http://http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.jafc.5b00275] Relationship between agronomic parameters, phenolic composition of grape skin and texture properties of *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Tempranillo

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1 Abstract

The relationship between the agronomic parameters of grapevine and the phenolic 2 composition of skin of Vitis vinifera L. cv. Tempranillo grapes was assessed. Physical 3 and mechanical properties of berries and their skins were also determined and correlated 4 to the chemical composition. Results showed a significant negative correlation between 5 6 grapevine vigor-related parameters (such as leaf area and bunch weight) and anthocyanin composition, whereas the percentage (w/w) of seeds was negatively 7 correlated with the amount of flavanols of grape skins. Texture properties of grape skins 8 9 also showed an important relationship with chemical composition. Berry hardness showed a negative correlation with the coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives but it was 10 positively correlated to skin flavanic composition. Moreover, significant regressions 11 with high coefficients of determination were found between phenolic composition and 12 13 grapevine vigor-related and texture variables, thus pointing out that these parameters might be useful for estimating phenolic composition of grape skins. 14

15 Keywords: phenolics, anthocyanins, flavanols, Tempranillo red grapes, HPLC-DAD-

16 MS^n , grapevine vigor, mechanical properties

17 Introduction

Important wine organoleptic properties as color, bitterness and astringency are 18 strongly influenced by the phenolic composition of grapes, which, in turn, also provides 19 important information about the ageing potential of wines.¹ Anthocyanins, which are 20 extracted from grape skins, are the main responsibles for wine color. In grapes, not only 21 22 the monoglucosides of anthocyanidins are present, but also the acetyl, caffeoyl and p-23 coumaroyl derivatives and even other unusual glycoside-derivatives, such as galactosides.² In Tempranillo cultivar, monoglucosides are the main anthocyanins and 24 25 acetic acid and p-coumaric acid are the most common acids esterifying the glucose moiety.³ Although monoglucosides of anthocyanidins are the major pigments, acyl 26 27 derivatives can play an important role in wine color stability since acylation can be related to an increase of the anthocyanidin stability against light, temperature or pH 28 changes.⁴ Moreover, the presence of a cinnamic acid, such as *p*-coumaric or caffeic 29 30 acid, in the structure can favor intramolecular copigmentation processes, and, as a consequence, changes in anthocyanin color in comparison with the original non-31 acylated pigment.⁵ 32

Flavanols are related to wine astringency and bitterness,⁶ although they can also play 33 an important role in long-term color stability.⁷ Grape flavanols slightly differ in their 34 35 structure and in their organoleptic properties according to their origin. Flavanols from 36 grape seed derive from (epi)catechin and show higher levels of galloylation, whereas 37 grape skin contain both catechins and gallocatechins and the corresponding derived proanthocyanidins.^{8, 9} Furthermore, flavanol galloylation has been associated with more 38 tannic and coarse notes in wine,¹⁰ whereas higher levels of prodelphinidins in wines 39 have as a consequence a reduction of these negative perceptions.¹¹ Moreover, 40

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Kennedy¹² has pointed out that winemakers prefer winemaking procedures leading to an increase of flavanol levels from skins and to a less extraction from seeds.

Accumulation of phenolic compounds in red grapes takes place gradually during 43 ripening¹³ and their content at harvest time considerably depends on cultivar, 44 agronomical practices, canopy microclimate, and bunch exposure.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ It has been 45 46 reported in literature that as vine vigor decreased, total soluble solid in grapes, total phenolics and anthocyanin content in wines increased.^{17, 18} In particular, Cortell and co-47 workers¹⁹ have reported greater anthocyanin accumulation in the low-vigor grapevines 48 and significant increases in skin flavanol contents in berries harvested from zones with a 49 reduction in vine vigor. However, it seems that vine vigor has not a significant influence 50 on the flavanol concentration in seeds.²⁰ Furthermore, although grapevine vigor is 51 mainly related to climatic conditions, it has been documented the occurrence of 52 important differences in grapevine vigor even for an established vineyard with identical 53 grape variety, age, and vineyard management practices. These differences have been 54 related to variations in topography, physical and chemical characteristics of the soil.²⁰⁻²² 55 As a result, it could be found within the same vineyard important differences on the 56 levels of acids, anthocyanins, and phenolics that can lead to variations on composition 57 and quality of wines.^{23, 24} 58

The numerous physiological and chemical changes that grape berries undergo during grape ripening induce not only modifications on their chemical composition but also in their texture features.²⁵ These textural modifications have been studied through the evaluation of the grape mechanical properties, which in turn, have been correlated to grape quality.^{26, 27} A strong relationship between texture parameters and phenolic ripeness degree and grape variety has been reported.²⁸⁻³⁰ In addition, these textural parameters have been demonstrated to be an useful tool to study phenolic extractability from grape skins.³¹ However, the studies in literature about the relationship between
grapevine-related characteristics, berry mechanical properties and phenolic composition
of grapes are scarce.

Due to the importance of phenolic compounds for wine organoleptic properties, 69 phenolic composition has to be taken into account for the selection of harvest date. 70 71 However, the harvest date is traditionally and chiefly selected based on the 72 technological maturity of grapes, which is related to sugar concentration of grapes and 73 therefore determines the alcohol content of wine. Nevertheless, the environmental and 74 climatic conditions may cause technological maturity to be reached before phenolic maturity, and it seems that global climate change is going to increase this delay,³² 75 76 making even more difficult to choose the appropriate harvest date in order to obtain high quality wines. For this reason, the knowledge about detailed phenolic composition 77 78 of grapes can be helpful to establish strategies for harvest planning.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the usefulness of parameters related to grapevine vigor and grape texture as indicative tools of the grape skin phenolic composition. Specifically, the main objective of this work was to study the relationship between the phenolic composition of *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Tempranillo grape skins and the vigor-related grapevine characteristics. In addition, the relation between texture properties of the berries and their phenolic composition has also been assessed.

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Materials and Methods

86 *Samples*

Thirteen different locations of a vineyard (100 ha) located in Zamora, Spain (coordinates 41°18'26"N 5°21'45"W), were selected based on different orographic terrain features, such as orientation, altitude and slope. For each location, all the grapes (*Vitis vinifera* L. cv Tempranillo) from two different grapevines were collected. All

grape samples were collected in the same day at harvest time. Grape samples consistedof 300 berries randomly-selected from all collected grapes.

93 Analysis of phenolic composition

Skins were manually separated from berries and extracted following Ferrer-Gallego 94 and co-workers.³³ The detailed phenolic composition of grape skins (mg/g of skin) was 95 96 analyzed by means of HPLC-DAD-MS. Grape-skin extracts were directly analyzed for 97 determining anthocyanin composition whereas it was fractionated as explained bellow before analysis of flavanols. In both cases, HPLC analyses were performed in a 98 Hewlett-Packard 1200 Series HPLC (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany). 99 Mass spectrometry was carried out using an API 3200 Qtrap equipped with an ESI 100 101 source and a triple-quadrupole linear ion trap mass analyzer that was controlled by Analyst 5.1 software (Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt, Germany). All the analyses were 102 103 performed in triplicate.

Anthocyanin composition was determined by using the methodology described by 104 Alcalde-Eon and co-workers.³ Twenty-three different anthocyanins were identified and 105 quantified, and grouped into eleven variables depending on the type of anthocyanidin 106 107 and on the type of anthocyanin derivative (see **Table 1**). Quantification was performed by HPLC-DAD using external calibration curves of standards of 3-O-glucosides of 108 109 delphinidin, cyanidin, petunidin, peonidin and malvidin, purchased from Extrasynthèse 110 (Lyon, France). Each determined anthocyanin was quantified using the calibration curve 111 of the corresponding anthocyanin monoglucoside.

In order to analyze flavanols and phenolic acids, grape-skin extracts were fractionated prior to HPLC-DAD-MS analysis with the objective of eliminating the anthocyanins. Fractionation was carried out according to the procedure described by González-Manzano and co-workers for wine samples.³⁴ Chromatographic analysis was

performed following the methodology reported by Ferrer-Gallego and co-workers.¹⁰ 116 Detection was carried out at 280 nm (proanthocyanidins) and 330 nm (phenolic acids) 117 as the preferred wavelengths. Quantification was performed by HPLC-DAD using 118 external calibration curves of purchased standards, unless standards of dimeric and 119 120 trimeric procyanidins which were isolated in our laboratory as described by González-Manzano and co-workers.³⁴ Nineteen different flavanols were determined and grouped 121 122 into twelve variables depending on the type of flavanol and the polymerization degree (see Table 1). The calibration curves of catechin, dimeric procyanidin and trimeric 123 procyanidin were employed for quantifying catechin and epicatechin, dimeric 124 procyanidins and trimers and tetramers of procyanidins respectively. Galloylated 125 procyanidins were quantified using the epicatechin 3-O-gallate calibration curve, 126 whereas gallocatechins and prodelphinidins were quantified using the gallocatechin 127 128 calibration curve. Two hydroxybenzoic acids and eleven hydroxycinnamic acids and their tartaric esters or glucosidic derivatives were determined and grouped into seven 129 variables (see Table 1). Hydroxybenzoic acids and hydroxycinnamic acids were 130 quantified using the gallic acid and *p*-coumaric acid calibration curves respectively. 131

132 Biophysical and technological variables

Eight different biophysical variables were studied (see Table 1), which were also 133 determined at harvest time for each grapevine selected. Data are the average of the 134 values determined for the two grapevines of the same location. Leaf area (m²) was the 135 total leaf area of grapevine. In order to calculate this value, the number of long, 136 medium-length and short vine shoot of each grapevine was determined. Considering 137 that long vine shoots have in average 20 knots with 4 big-size leafs each one, whereas 138 139 medium-long ones have 12 knots with 3 medium-size leafs each one and short vine shoots have 8 knots with 2 small-size leafs each one, the total number of leafs of each 140

size could be calculated. The average area of each kind of leaf was determined from the 141 area of 10 leafs of each size, which was used to calculate the total leaf area. The grape 142 production (kg) was the total weight of bunches of each grapevine. The average weight 143 144 of bunches was calculated as the average of the weight of all bunches collected from the same grapevine. The average weight of berries was calculated from the weight of 50 145 146 different berries collected from the same grapevine. Moreover, the percentage (w/w)that skin and seeds represented in berry weight was also measured after manual 147 separation of skin and seeds from berries. Grapevines were also pruned after leaf fall 148 allowing us to calculate the weight of fresh wood. The pruned wood was then dried for 149 72 h at 60°C and the weight of dried wood was determined. 150

^oBrix and pH were directly measured in the grape must by using an optical refractometer and a pH-meter, respectively. Titratable acidity was calculated after acidbase titration of must employing NaOH 0.1 M and expressed as tartaric acid equivalents (g/L).³⁵

155 *Instrumental mechanical properties*

The mechanical properties of the berries were assessed following Letaief and co-156 workers methods.³⁶ A whole-berry texture profile analysis (TPA) double-compression 157 test was carried out at a test speed of 1 mm/s until 25% of sample deformation (2 158 seconds waiting time between compressions), with the hardness (N), gumminess (N) 159 and chewiness (mJ) parameters calculated from the force-distance curve.³⁶ Berrv skin 160 break force (F_{sk}, N) was evaluated with a puncture test on the intact berry performed at 161 a test speed of 1 mm/s until 3 mm of sample deformation.³⁶ while the berry skin 162 thickness (Sp_{sk}, µm) was assessed with a 0.2 mm/s compression of a piece of skin using 163 a 2-mm flat cylindrical probe.³⁶ These parameters were determined analyzing 30 164 randomly selected berries collected from the two grapevines of each location. 165

166 <u>Statistical analysis</u>

Principal component analysis (PCA) was used for data analysis as unsupervised 167 pattern recognition method. The data matrix was constituted by the values determined 168 for all the 46 variables described in Table 1 for each selected location. Correlation 169 analyses were carried out and Pearson's coefficient and the two-tailed *p*-value were 170 171 obtained. Backward stepwise multiple linear regression (MLR) was performed in order 172 to assess the relation between phenolic composition and the rest of variables. The coefficient of determination (R^2) and the signification (*p*-value, bilateral) of the built 173 models were studied. The software package IBM® SPSS® Statistics v. 21.0 (IBM, 174 Armonk (NY), USA) was used for data processing. 175

176 **Results and Discussion**

177 *Study of correlations*

Principal component analysis was conducted as unsupervised pattern recognition in 178 order to observe relationships between biophysical, technological and texture variables 179 and those related to phenolic composition. Fig. 1 shows the projection of the samples on 180 the plane defined by the first and second principal components and also the 181 corresponding loadings plot. The first principal component (PC1) describes 44.15% of 182 the variability and the second principal component (PC2) describes 16.93% of the 183 184 variability. As can be seen in Fig. 1a, the distribution of samples into the score plot did 185 not show any important grouping, thus pointing out to the important differences among 186 the selected grapevines (see also Table 1 in Supporting Information), which will allow us to study possible correlations between the variables employed. Fig. 1b shows the 187 variables on the loadings plot. It can be observed that there is a strong opposition along 188 189 PC1 between flavanol composition of grape skins and some of the biophysical variables studied, such as leaf area (*Leaf area*), the average weight of bunch (*Bunch weight*), the 190

weight of fresh (*Fresh wood*) and dry wood (Dry wood) and the percentage (w/w) of 191 192 seeds in total grape weight (Perc seed). This latter variable also showed a clear negative relationship with the total anthocyanin content (Anthoc). Hence, it seems that it 193 might be a negative relationship between the biophysical features of grapevine 194 determined in this work and the phenolic composition of grapes. In the same way, the 195 196 acyl derivatives of anthocyanins [mainly the coumaroyl derivatives (Coumar)] showed 197 high negative values in PC2, in contrast to texture variables and leaf area, which 198 showed high positive values in this PC. Thus, there also may be a negative relationship not only between the composition on anthocyanin acyl derivatives of grapes and their 199 200 texture properties but also between the levels of these compounds and the biophysical 201 features of grapevine. Moreover, from the low loading values obtained for Brix degree in PC1 and in PC2 (lower than 0.45 and higher than -0.08 respectively), it seems that 202 203 this variable barely contribute to explain sample variability. This could be related to similarities on the sugar content (°Brix) of analyzed grapes (see Table 1 in Supporting 204 Information), which would indicate that all samples were collected at a similar status of 205 technological maturity. However, phenolic composition is crucial for samples 206 207 differentiation, which may point out important differences on the phenolic maturity of 208 collected samples. These results indicate that grapes collected from the same vineyard at 209 a similar status of technological maturity can show important differences on phenolic 210 ripeness. These differences, as it will be explained bellow, can be related to differences 211 on grapevine vigor.

In order to assess the significance of these relationships, the correlation between all variables employed in the study was investigated by means of the Pearson's coefficients and its significance. Table 2 shows the most important significant correlations between the phenolic composition of grape skins and the rest of variables employed in this study.

The phenolic composition did not show any significant correlations with the percentage 216 (w/w) of skins (data not shown). However, they corroborate the negative relationship 217 between the percentage (w/w) of seeds in relation to the whole grape (*Perc seed*) and 218 the flavanic composition of grape skins indicated in the PCA plotting (Fig. 1b). This is 219 in accordance with studies in literature which have reported that skin weight was not a 220 221 determining factor for anthocyanin potential of the berries, but that seeds weight seemed to significantly affect the grape composition.³⁷ All variables related to flavanic 222 composition showed high negative coefficients of Pearson with Perc seed variable. 223 Among them, the total content of flavanols (PAC), as well as the total content of 224 procyanidins (PC) and prodelphinidins (PD) showed Pearson's coefficients lower than -225 226 0.76. Moreover, these correlations are highly significant (p < 0.01). Thus, it seems that the heavier the seed, the lower amounts of flavanols in the skins. It might be possible 227 228 that synthesis of flavanols in seeds and in skin could be competitive, and that the highest weight of the seed reflects higher synthesis rate of flavanols in this part of the 229 berry, at the expense of the synthesis in the grape skin. This negative correlation is also 230 observed between total hydroxybenzoic acids content in grape skin and the percentage 231 232 (w/w) of seeds. Since one of the two hydroxybenzoic acids (the major one) found in the 233 skin is gallic acid, and this acid is also found in grape seeds, this negative correlation 234 might be also due to the same reason that those proposed for flavanols.

Total leaf area of grapevine also correlates negatively with phenolic composition of grape skin. Anthocyanin compounds presented the highest negative Pearson's coefficients. Malvidin derivatives (*Mv*) and the acyl-derived anthocyanins (*Acyl*) levels were the most strongly correlated to leaf area. The acyl-derived, and, in particular, the coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives (*Coumar*), also showed a strong negative relationship with the weight of wood pruned from the grapevine (*Fresh wood* and

Dry wood). These two variables, together with leaf area, could be related to vine vigor. 241 Our results are consistent with those recently reported by Song and co-workers¹⁷ that 242 have found that as vine vigor decreased, total soluble solid in grapes and total phenolics 243 244 and anthocyanins in wines increased, thus pointing out a negative relationship between vine vigor and grape phenolic composition. Moreover, vine vigor could be related to the 245 246 grapevine water availability that in turn seems to affect the composition of grapes since 247 an excess in water conditions has demonstrated to be more negative for anthocyanin contents than strong deficit conditions.³⁷ 248

It could also be observed (Table 2) a significant negative relationship between the 249 average weight of bunches (Bunch weight) and the monoglucoside (Monoglc) and total 250 251 anthocyanin (Antoc total) contents. Moreover, the level of anthocyanin caffeoyl derivatives is also strongly correlated (r=-0.666, p<0.05) to average weight of berries 252 (Berry weight). Therefore it seems that the heavier the bunches and berries were, the 253 lower levels of anthocyanins (both total, monoglucoside and caffeoyl derivatives) the 254 skins and, consequently, the berries showed. These results are in accordance to those 255 reported in literature showing that the total anthocyanin content (mg/berry) and 256 anthocyanin concentration (mg/kg of berries and in mg/g of skin) were dependent on 257 berry mass variation.³⁸ Likewise, it seems that the berries in which seeds accounted for 258 259 a higher weight percentage (*Perc seed*) show lower levels of monoglucosides, since a 260 significant negative correlation (r=-0.600, p < 0.05) between these two variables was 261 observed. It has been reported that berry weight is more related to seed weight than to skin and flesh weight,^{37, 38} so this might explain why both *Berry weight* and *Perc seed* 262 263 variables showed a relationship with anthocyanin composition whereas no-relation were 264 found with *Perc* skin variable. These correlations between physical features of berries and its phenolic composition might be explained because grape development occurs in 265

two main stages. The first stage, comprising the flowering and green berry stages, and maybe even prior to that, during differentiation of the primordia,³⁹ seems critical in determining berry weight.³⁸ However, anthocyanin and sugars accumulation takes place in a second stage, from veraison to harvest. Thus, if the first stages were the most important, bunches, berries and seeds could be heavier but grapes may show lower levels of anthocyanins.

272 Finally, it was also observed a strong negative correlation between the texture 273 features of grape and its phenolic composition. In particular the berry skin break force (F_{sk}) and the levels of anthocyanidin-coumaroylglucosides (r=-0.635, p<0.05) and of 274 total acyl-derived anthocyanin (r=-0.589, p<0.05) are negatively correlated (Table 2). 275 These results are in accordance with those reported by Giacosa and co-workers⁴⁰ who 276 have observed on Shiraz grapes significant lower values of F_{sk} in berries showing higher 277 278 levels of coumaroyl-anthocyanins derivatives in its composition. These results are also consistent with other studies available in literature pointing out to the potential of the 279 mechanical properties of berry skin (such as F_{sk} and Sp_{sk}) to predict the anthocyanin 280 extractability.^{29, 31} Moreover, it has also been reported that cell-wall composition affects 281 the anthocyanin extraction, in particular, the presence of higher amounts of glucose, 282 283 rhamnose, 2-O-methylxylose and lignin in the cell-wall composition would prevent anthocyanin extraction from grape skin.⁴¹ Considering this, there might be a relationship 284 285 between the cell-wall composition and the levels of coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives 286 that may be explained by a possible interaction between the acyl-derived anthocyanins and some components of grape cell-wall, which in turn may determine the texture 287 features of grapes. Further studies about the cell-wall and phenolic composition and 288 289 texture features of berry skin must be carried out to assess this possibility.

Moreover, it has been observed a significant positive correlation between berry 290 291 hardness and its flavanic composition. It is worth noting the strong correlation between this texture parameter and the level of gallocatechin and epigallocatechin (r=0.699, 292 p < 0.01, Table 2). Thus, it seems that berry hardness might be indicative of the levels of 293 flavanols in berry skin. Rio Segade and co-workers³⁰ has reported that break force and 294 295 thickness of berry skin can be considered mechanical properties adequate for the 296 estimation of the degradability of the skin cell-wall. Degradation is related to the changes in the structure of cell-wall by depolymerisation and formation of new cross-297 linking bridges.⁴² and to changes in its composition by loss of galactose, and other 298 pectic sugars such as arabinose and rhamnose.^{30, 43, 44} Considering that these texture 299 parameters could be related to cell-wall composition, the correlation found between 300 flavanic composition and berry hardness might be explained, as in the case of acyl-301 302 derived anthocyanin, by a specific interaction of flavanols with some cell-wall components. In fact, Ruiz-García and co-workers⁴⁵ have pointed out that pectic 303 polysaccharides have an important binding-affinity for flavanols, whereas cellulose, due 304 to a low porosity, showed less affinity for these compounds. Thus, both higher levels of 305 306 flavanols and higher values of hardness of berry might be related to higher levels of cellulose in cell-wall. However, further specific studies about the relationship between 307 308 cell-wall composition and texture features of berries must be carried out to assess this 309 possibility.

310 *Regression studies*

Considering the aforementioned correlations, different multiple linear regressions (MLR) were carried out to assess the influence of biophysical, technological and texture variables employed in this work on the phenolic composition of grape skin. Backwardstepwise strategy was employed for MLR, in which all the considered variables were

315 used at the start of the process and then the least significant one is removed at each step. 316 The model is refitted after each step including only the most significant variables. First, due to the correlation found between the amount of coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives 317 318 and the texture parameters that pointed out a possible relationship between these compounds and cell-wall composition, the variable Coumar was selected as dependent 319 320 variable whereas the biophysical, technological and texture variables described in Table 321 1 were used as independent variables. Among all the variables considered, only the dry weight of pruned wood (*Dry wood*), the berry skin break force (F_{sk}) and the berry skin 322 thickness (Sp_{sk}) were considered statistically significant (p<0.05) in the fitted final 323 model. The value of the coefficient of determination (R^2) , the non-standardized 324 coefficients (B) and the standardized coefficients (β) were obtained. The coefficient of 325 determination ($R^2=0.856$) indicates that the proposed model explains the 85.6% of the 326 327 variability of the levels of coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives, which supposed a good 328 fit to the data. Table 3 shows the values of the regression constant and of the β parameter for each variable, which could be considered the best estimation about its 329 contribution to the model. As can be observed in the study of correlations, these three 330 variables (Dry_wood, F_{sk} and Sp_{sk}) showed a negative relationship with the levels of 331 coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives. The most important variable in the study was 332 333 Dry wood (β =-0.741), thus indicating out the importance of grapevine vigor in the 334 levels of these anthocyanin-type compounds in grapes.

Considering the important role of flavanols in some organoleptic properties of wines such as astringency or color, MLR was also performed using the levels of total flavanols (*PAC*) as dependent variable and the biophysical, technological and texture variables described in Table 1 as independent variables. Table 3 shows the result of fitting. The proposed model explained 82.9% of the variability of total flavanol levels (R^2 =0.829),

which indicates the goodness of data fitting. As can be observed in Table 3, the percentage (w/w) of seeds and leaf area showed a negative relationship whereas berry hardness showed a positive relationship with flavanol content. The most important variable in this model is the percentage (w/w) of seeds, thus pointing out the importance of seed size on the flavanic composition of grape skins.

345 The proposed models indicated that there is a strong relationship between the 346 biophysical parameters of grapevine (mostly vine vigor represented by leaf area, dry 347 weight of pruned wood and seed weight), the texture features (evaluated as instrumental mechanical properties) of berries and the phenolic composition of grape skins. Although 348 this study has been carried out only in one vintage; we have chosen a vineyard large 349 350 enough to have important differences on orographic terrain features. This could be observed in the PCA and also in the high variability of variables that have been used in 351 352 this work (see Table 1 in Supporting Information). Thus, the results here presented set an important precedent since they establish the importance of agronomic parameters and 353 texture properties for estimating phenolic composition of grape skins. However further 354 studies involving different vineyards, grape cultivars and different vintages must be 355 356 done in order to corroborate the quantitative relationship between these variables.

In conclusion, the results obtained pointed out an important relationship between 357 358 phenolic composition of grape skin, biophysical features of grapevines and berry texture 359 properties. Anthocyanin composition showed significant negative correlation with 360 grapevine vigor-related parameters (such as leaf area and bunch weight), whereas the amount of flavanols of grape skins was negatively correlated with the percentage (w/w)361 362 of seeds. Moreover, the phenolic composition is also correlated to some mechanical 363 properties of grapes. Berry skin break force showed a negative correlation with the coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives, whereas berry hardness was positively correlated to 364

flavanic composition. Thus, it could be proposed a relationship between both acyl-365 derived anthocyanins and flavanols and grape cell-wall composition. A significant 366 regression was found between coumaroyl-anthocyanin derivatives and some biophysical 367 (weight of pruned wood) and texture (berry skin break force and berry skin thickness) 368 variables. Likewise, a significant regression was also found between flavanol levels and 369 370 the percentage (w/w) of seeds, leaf area and berry hardness. These results pointed out 371 that grapevine vigor-related and texture parameters might be useful for estimating 372 phenolic composition of grape skins. **Supporting Information description** 373

- 374 Supporting Information Available: Minimum, maximum, average values and coefficient
- of variation of all the variables employed in this study. This material is available free of
- 376 charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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513 Figure captions

- 514 Figure 1. Representation of the samples in the score plot (a) and the variables in the
- 515 loading plot (**b**) on the plane defined by the first and second principal components.

Name of variable	Meaning of the variable	Name of variable	Meaning of the variable	
Anthocyanins (mg/g	g of skin)	Phenolic acids (mg/g of skin)		
Dp	Total delphinidin derivatives	a_caftaric	Total caftaric acids	
Су	Total cyanidin derivatives	a_coutaric	Total coutaric acids	
Pt	Total petunidin derivatives	a_fertaric	Total fertaric acids	
Pn	Total peonidin derivatives	a_caffeic	Total caffeic acids	
Mv	Total malvidin derivatives	a_coumaric	Total coumaric acids and its glucoside derivatives	
Monoglc	Total anthocyanin monoglucosides	НС	Total hydroxycinnamic acids	
Acet	Total anthocyanin acetylglucosides	HB	Total hydroxybenzoic acids	
Coumar	Total anthocyanin coumaroylglucosides	Agronomic, biophysical and technological variables		
Caffeo	Total anthocyanin caffeoylglucosides	Leaf_area	Total leaf area (m^2)	
Acyl	Total anthocyanin acylglucosides	Fresh_wood	Total weight of fresh wood (kg)	
Anthoc	Total anthocyanins	Dry_wood	Total weight of dry wood (kg)	
Flavanols (mg/g of skin)		Grape_prod	Total weight of bunches (kg)	
Cs	Catechin and epicatechin	Bunch_weight	Average of the weight of bunches (g)	
PC_dimer	Dimers of procyanidins	Berry_weight	Average of the weight of berries (g)	
PC_trimer	Trimers of procyanidins	Perc_skin	Percentage (w/w) of berry skin	
PC_tetra	Tetramers of procyanidins	Perc_seed	Percentage (w/w) of berry seeds	
PC_gal	Total of galloylated procyanidins	Brix	°Brix of grape must	
PC_nongal	Total of non-galloylated procyanidins	pН	pH of grape must	
PC	Total of catechins and procyanidins	Titratable_ac	Titratable acidity of must (g/L of tartaric acid)	
GCs	Gallocatechin and epigallocatechin	Mechanical properties variables		
PD_dimer	Dimers of prodelphinidins	Hardness	Berry hardness by TPA test (N)	
PD_trimers	Trimers of prodelphinidins	Gumminess	Berry gumminess by TPA test (N)	
PD	Total of gallocatechins and prodelphinidins	Chewiness	Berry chewiness by TPA test (mJ)	
PAC	Total catechins, gallocatechins and	F _{sk}	Berry skin break force (N)	
	proanthocyanidins	Sp _{sk}	berry skin thickness (µm)	

Table 1: Variables

Table 2. Pearson's Coefficients Of The Most Important Significant Correlation Between Phenolic Composition Of Grape Skins And Biophysical, Technological And Texture Variables.

	Perc_seed	Leaf_area	Fresh_wood	Dry_wood	Bunch_weight	Berry_weight	F_{sk}	Hardness
Mv	ns	-0.691**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
Monogle	-0.600*	-0.561*	ns	ns	-0.577*	ns	ns	ns
Coumar	ns	-0.607*	-0.698**	-0.706**	ns	ns	-0.635*	ns
Caffeo	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	-0.666*	ns	ns
Acyl	ns	-0.660*	-0.682*	-0.692**	ns	ns	-0.589*	ns
Anthoc	ns	-0.652*	ns	ns	-0.586*	ns	ns	ns
GCs	-0.825**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.699**
PC_gal	-0.616*	-0.563*	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.648*
PC_nongal	-0.792**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.653*
PC	-0.764**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.661*
PD	-0.782**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.630*
PAC	-0.791**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.660*
HB	-0.723**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	0.678*

See Table 1 for further information about variable meaning. ns, * and ** indicate the level of significance (no significant, p<0.05 and p<0.01, respectively, n=26)

Table 3. Results Of The MLR Carried Out Using The Level Of Coumaroyl-Glucoside Anthocyanins (Up) And Of Total Flavanols (Down) As Dependent Variables.

Dependent variable: Coumaroyl-glucoside anthocyanins (Coumar, mg/g of skin)

	$R^2 = 0.85$	6	
	Non-standardized coefficients (B)	Standardized coefficients (β)	<i>p</i> -value
Constant	1.934		< 0.001
Dry_wood (kg)	-0.333	-0.741	< 0.001
$F_{sk}(N)$	-0.715	-0.300	0.008
Sp _{sk} (mm)	-0.002	-0.352	0.006

Dependent variable: Total Flavanols (PAC, mg/g of skin) R²=0.829

	Non-standardized coefficients (B)	Standardized coefficients (β)	<i>p</i> -value
Constant	2.664		0.020
Leaf_area (m ²)	-8.331	-0.406	0.019
Perc_seed	-0.335	-0.507	0.001
Hardness (N)	0.181	0.310	0.009

Figure 1



TOC Graphic

