CLAYVER

Clayver is made of stoneware. This kind of ceramic is chemically more inert and considerably harder than clayware. The most common contaminants coming from clayware vessels are Iron and aluminium. The chemical composition of Clayver combined with the considerably high firing temperature ensure zero risk.

Clayver vats are resistant, but some precautions must be taken to avoid ruptures, chippings and other damagements. Generally any direct contact (especially hits, strokes etc) with metals (namely iron and steel) must be avoided. If it is necessary to lay on their side the containers, make sure to place a soft interface (paperboard, wood etc) between Clayver and the floor.
A particular attention must be paid to the top edges of the Clayver. Sharp edges are delicate and the top flattened surface must not be scratched to maintain a good sealing.
If a racking pipe is used, make sure that the steel pipe is protected from the direct contact to the edges of the container by means of a silicon socket. The same is true for any kind of stock or steel tool put inside the Clayver for example to move up lees.

First :
When you receive the Clayver, all you have to do is rinse it well and it is ready to use. No need for processing and preparation

Normal Cleansing :
When the Clayver are full, you can clean any stains with sulfur water.
When the vats are empty, you can easily use acidic or basic solutions in “reasonable” concentrations, without fear of damaging the material.
The Clayver can be cleaned very well with soda diluted to 5%, very useful with hot water to remove scale easily
The vats can also be de-red and thus go from a black grape variety to white with the use of hydrogen peroxide.
-Allowed products: NaOH solutions, Peracetic acid, Citric acid solutions, Metabisulfite
-Hydropower, but don’t target directly the top edges of the Clayver
-Steam. Be careful of thermal shock, heat the vat gradually and let it cool naturally without rinsing with cold water. Avoid any direct contact between the steel pipes and internal surfaces of Clayver or the glass lid. Do not tighten much the clamps system and possibly place a cardboard interface under the steel ring.

Deep Cleansing
Clayver is porous.This must be considered especially when the vat is cleaned and stored empty. That’s the reason why a product with a high penetration capacity is needed. Enzymes can be helpful for this task. We suggest a couple of products but many others are available.
Fill up the clayver with warm water (60°) and add the proper amount of products like REALCO ENZYWINE R10, or LAFFORT DECAPOL EXTRALIFE.
Keep the Clayver filled up for one day then spill out the solution into one other Clayver. Fill up the first Clayver with a solution of water and citric acid and let it inside for one other day. A final rinsing of water + metabisulfite could be also helpful.

Finally, keep in mind that the Clayver is now like a sponge soaked with water. IT MUST BE DRIED UP AND MAINTAINED DRY. It is sufficient to place one bulb lamp hanging from the top hole (not in direct contact to the material) or use a professional hairdryer to heat and dry the Clayver from the inside. Possibly store it in a dry place or put a bulb lamp inside whenever the Clayver is empty.

CLAYVER

FAQs to learn more about Clayver, our ceramic container for wine containment and aging

WHAT IS CLAYVER?

A DEFINITION

Clayver is a ceramic container with 250, 400, 550, 650, and 850 liters capacity. The shape can be spherical or oblong to limit the weight and favor the convective motions that appear naturally in the fermentation and aging phase on the fine lees. The spherical shape also allows an easier handling of the container in its movements and makes cleaning easier.

WHAT IS CLAYVER MADE OF?

MATERIALS

Clayver is made of stoneware. It is obtained from a mix of raw materials selected with the precise aim of making it suitable for containment and aging of wine. A small residual porosity allows a little exchange of oxygen with the external environment. This type of material ensures an excellent chemical inertia and no release of metallic ions to wine. Despite gres being particularly hard and resistant it is still sensitive to impact. A certain care is necessary therefore in its handling.

IS CLAYVER “NATURAL”?

NATURAL ORIGIN MATERIAL

The adjective “natural” is often abused. Clayver is a man-made product, but all the raw materials in the mix have natural origin. They are selected for their purity and enological suitability, mixed with water, molded into a sphere shape and finally fired. Nothing else.

WHAT DIFFERENCES ARE THERE WITH TERRACOTTA?

ONLY ONE KIND OF EARTH

Terracotta, unlike Clayver, is made of only one kind of material, usually extracted in the area of transformation without any selection and fired at temperatures below or just above 1000°C.

Moreover terracotta presents usually a high level of porosity, often excessive, and sometimes requires waterproofing in order to contain liquids.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES WITH CONCRETE?

RESISTANCE TOWARDS ACIDS

Clayver can be compared to concrete for its impermeability and thermic insulation. However Clayver undergoes a high temperature treatment that makes it far more stable compared to concrete. Clayver therefore acquires an extremely high chemical resistance to acids and bases that concrete doesn't have.

CLAYVER

WHAT DIFFERENCES ARE THERE WITH STEEL?

INSULATION | POROSITY

There are three differences with a steel container:

* Clayver's higher level of thermal insulation due to its weight and the width of the inside, that is over 2 cm;
* no electric conductivity and therefore fewer problems of wine reduction;
* small residual porosity that allows a transfer of oxygen to wine, although modest.

WHAT DIFFERENCES ARE THERE WITH WOOD?

ABSENCE OF SUBSTANCES GIVEN TO WINE

The main difference between Clayver and wood consists in the absence of substances released to wine. Clayver's porosity is equivalent to that of wood but the oxygen transfer rate is generally lower, because of wood's different organic matrix.

HOW DO YOU MOVE CLAYVER?

ATTENTION AND CARE

Clayver is made with ceramic and therefore can break if it is subject to quite violent impact against hard corners or if it falls from even modest heights. For this reason the movement of Clayver must be carried out always by rolling it over surfaces that aren't hard or protected ones, for example with cardboard, or by hoisting it and inserting in its mouth a wooden board longer that its diameter and lifting it from the center with a rope.

Clayver usually comes with a stainless steel stand.

It can be moved with a normal pallet truck. When you lift up the container we recommend laying it to the ground as gently as possible. Only the 250 liter Clayver can be rotated on itself (when empty) and turned upside down and only on the steel support, in order to clean it for example with a barrel washer or for storing when empty.

WHAT FOOD GUARANTEE IS THERE?

A GUARANTEED CERTIFICATION

Ceramics have a regulation for its use in use with food and must comply with precise limits with reference to the emission of cadmium and lead in an acidic environment. Clayver does not contain these substances. Clayver has passed all the release tests in acid solution with pH below 2.5 even as far as all the other elements in its natural composition are concerned. Clayver always issues on request certification according to Regulation 1935/2004/CE, 2005/31/CE Directive and Ministerial Decree 04/04/1985.

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