



## The Lunar Calendar

We all depend on the circle of things, the pattern of nature, the cycle of the elements.

At Son Alegre, one very important instrument for our working the land is the lunar calendar. A nature-based approach to agriculture might reap harvests with a lesser yield, but may make for a better quality, and a more organic wine. We have always observed the lunar calendar and the moon's phases, just the way our forbears have done when it came to pruning their fruit trees, grafting plums onto almond tree branches, planting new trees, sowing their crop, harvesting their wine, mating their sows, sheep or horses, or even having their own hair cut. One might even say that traditionally, the Mallorcan farmer's life has been governed by the moon much more than the sun.

At Son Alegre, we have chosen to return to these proven traditions and thus, approach agriculture by following the lunar phases, the planets and stars and their constellations, the weather patterns and the dynamics of *biorhythm*, following the *Rudolf Steiner* way of looking at nature and the influence of the moon and the elements.

Traditionally, the grape harvest is related to the cycles of the moon. For instance, the fortnight between the January New Moon and the January Full Moon is the time to cut the previous year's vines back and prune them back to the woody-stemmed plant. Our *vendimia*, the grapes harvest, usually starts on the August New Moon. Ever since we started our activities at Son Alegre, we have been guided by the lunar calendar and, so far we have been rewarded with good results.

We are proud of our work and we are grateful to the moon, nature in general, all our many helpers such as indigenous wild flowers and wildlife on our land.

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