

22 **Abstract**

23 The growing demand for extra virgin olive oil (EVOO), appreciated for its unique
24 organoleptic properties and health benefits, has led to various fraudulent practices to
25 maximize profits, including dilution with lower value edible oils. The adulterated oils
26 would be of poor nutritional quality, more readily oxidized, and may contain unhealthy
27 substances formed during processing. Nevertheless, the range of available techniques
28 to detect fraud in EVOO production has been growing. Reliable markers of EVOO
29 adulteration include fatty acids and minor components such as sterols, tocopherols,
30 triterpene alcohols, phenolic compounds, phospholipids, volatile compounds, and
31 pigments. Additionally, increasing consumer interest in high-quality EVOO has led to
32 the development of robust scientific methods for its traceability.

33 This review focuses on i) the usefulness of certain compounds as markers of EVOO
34 adulteration; ii) the potential health risks of consuming adulterated EVOO; and iii)
35 reliable methods for the geographical traceability of olive oil.

36 In conclusion, fraudulent production practices need to be detected to preserve the
37 beneficial health effects of EVOO and to avoid the potential risks associated with
38 ingesting substandard oil. In this work, as EVOO certification and regulatory framework
39 limitations have already been extensively reviewed, we focus our attention on
40 biomarkers that guarantee both the authenticity and traceability of oil, and
41 consequently its health properties. When is unavailable to obtain a high resolution
42 mass spectrometry full fingerprint, stigmastadienes and the sterolic profile are
43 proposed as reliable markers.

44 **Keywords:** Authenticity, botanical traceability, geographic traceability, biomarkers,
45 food safety, healthy fat.

46 **1. Introduction**

47 Extra virgin olive oil (EVOO), considered to be the highest quality olive oil, is much
48 appreciated for its organoleptic and nutritional properties. Moreover, its consumption
49 has been gaining popularity beyond the Mediterranean area, where it is the main
50 dietary source of fat (De Santis, Cariello, Piccinin, Sabbà, & Moschetta, 2019; Flori et
51 al., 2019). EVOO is mostly composed of triglycerides (TAG) (98%), mainly
52 monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) (80%) such as oleic acid (C18:1), which are
53 responsible for its physicochemical properties (Carranco, Farrés-Cebrián, Saurina, &
54 Núñez, 2018; Jimenez-Lopez et al., 2020). In the remaining unsaponifiable fraction (1-
55 2%) stand different compounds which have known health benefits, such as phenolic
56 compounds and triterpenic acids (Cárdeno et al., 2014; Carranco et al., 2018; Criado-
57 Navarro et al., 2021; Gelmini et al., 2016). The nutritional profile of EVOO, particularly
58 its richness in antioxidant and anti-inflammatory phenolic compounds together with its
59 fatty acid (FA) profile, is associated with multiple health benefits, including the
60 prevention of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, neurodegeneration and diabetes
61 (Castro-Barquero et al., 2020; Estruch et al., 2018; García-Gavilán et al., 2018; Guasch-
62 Ferré et al., 2014; Lecerf, 2009; Tresserra-Rimbau et al., 2014).

63 Although all EVOO is produced following the same basic procedure, its composition
64 and sensory properties vary depending on factors such as the olive variety and
65 ripeness, environmental conditions and the technological methods used in processing,
66 and the storage conditions (Boneza & Niemeyer, 2018; Correa Fuentes, Martín Gordo,
67 Pinzón Reyes, & Cárdenas González, 2017; López-Yerena et al., 2019, 2021, 2020;
68 Polari, Garcí-Aguirre, Olmo-García, Carrasco-Pancorbo, & Wang, 2018). However, to be
69 in EVOO category (instead of virgin olive oil or olive oil), certain criteria must be

70 fulfilled: production should be exclusively by mechanical procedures; free fatty acidity
71 should not be over 0.8%; the oil must not have sensory defects and include fruity
72 attributes (Jimenez-Lopez et al., 2020). EVOO should also have a low peroxide index
73 and specific spectrophotometric values ($K_{232} \leq 2.5$, $K_{270} \leq 0.22$, $\Delta K \leq 0.01$), which are
74 indicators not only of quality, but also authenticity (Jimenez-Lopez et al., 2020; Ün &
75 Salim, 2018).

76 Even though the olive oil sector is highly regulated by the European Union (EU) by Reg.
77 (EEC) 2568/91 as amended (COMMUNITY, 2013b), and the International Olive Council
78 (IOC), which also establishes methods for their analysis, it is known that there are still
79 drawbacks in their analytical methods. (Conte et al., 2020). Authentication of food and
80 the detection of adulteration have been concerns throughout the evolution of food
81 industries (Bansal, Singh, Mangal, Mangal, & Kumar, 2017; Perez, Lopez-Yerena, &
82 Vallverdú-Queralt, 2020; Stadler, Tran, Cavin, Zbinden, & Konings, 2016), and EVOO
83 production is no exception (Carranco et al., 2018; González-Domínguez, Sayago,
84 Morales, & Fernández-Recamales, 2019). Owing to the growing complexity of food
85 production chains, more exhaustive measures and strategies are required to tackle
86 fraudulent attempts by food producers to boost their profits (Creydt & Fischer, 2018).

87 In this review, we focus on the most recent approaches to detect adulteration of EVOO
88 with lower value oils based on the profiling of FA and minor components such as
89 phenolic compounds, volatile compounds, tocopherols, phospholipids, and pigments,
90 proposing stigmastadienes and sterols as markers for detecting its adulteration. We
91 also look at the potential health risks of consuming adulterated EVOO and describe
92 reliable methods for the geographical traceability of olive oil. Although there are
93 excellent reviews focused on olive oil authentication (Bajoub, Bendini, Fernández-

94 Gutiérrez, & Carrasco-Pancorbo, 2018) and the weaknesses in the regulatory
95 framework (Conte et al., 2020), our approach draws attention to global traceability
96 organized by biomarkers, not by analytical techniques or type of adulteration and,
97 most importantly, includes a section that highlights the possible risks of ingesting
98 fraudulent EVOO.

99 **2. Fraud, authentication, and traceability of EVOO**

100 **2.1 Fraudulent activities in EVOO production**

101 Fraudulent activities in the food industries, a global issue of increasing concern,
102 comprise a wide range of malpractices, including adulteration (dilution, substitution,
103 and unapproved enhancement), mislabeling and smuggling (Stadler et al., 2016).
104 Economic gain is the main reason for committing food fraud, but its significance is not
105 only a question of illegality, as it can lead to adverse health consequences for the
106 consumer (Bansal et al., 2017). An extensive study analyzing the evolution of food
107 fraud over 30 years (1980-2010) found that the type of adulterated food most
108 frequently reported in academic articles is olive oil (Moore, Spink, & Lipp, 2012). As
109 traditional methodologies for identifying such adulterations through the assessment of
110 quality and purity have some limitations (Conte et al., 2020), new analytical techniques
111 need to be developed (Barbieri et al., 2020; Creydt & Fischer, 2018; Damiani, Cavanna,
112 Serani, Dall'Asta, & Suman, 2020; Violino et al., 2021).

113 The most commonly reported frauds in EVOO production are: (i) mixing EVOO with
114 lower quality oils that are cheaper to produce; (ii) mislabeling, for example, falsely
115 claiming that refined olive oil is EVOO, or concealing the real place of origin; and (iii)
116 price fraud, which consists of reducing the oil price to artificially lower the market
117 value (García Martínez, 2020). Adulteration can be with refined olive oil (Garcia,

118 Martins, & Cabrita, 2013; Torrecilla, Rojo, Dominguez, & Rodríguez, 2010), refined
119 olive–pomace oil (Fragaki, Spyros, Siragakis, Salivaras, & Dais, 2005; Torrecilla et al.,
120 2010), lampante olive oil (Fragaki et al., 2005) and olive pomace oil (Guimet, Ferré, &
121 Boqué, 2005; Yang & Irudayaraj, 2001). Other edible oils from other plants such as
122 hazelnut (Arlorio et al., 2010; Chiavaro, Vittadini, Rodriguez-Estrada, Cerretani, &
123 Bendini, 2008), soybean (da Silveira et al., 2017; Fasciotti & Netto, 2010; Jabeur et al.,
124 2014; Mendes et al., 2015; Milanez et al., 2017; Poiana et al., 2015; Tiryaki & Ayvaz,
125 2017; Yang & Irudayaraj, 2001), corn (Jabeur et al., 2014), canola (Salivaras & McCurdy,
126 1992) and sunflower (Jabeur et al., 2014) have also been used.

127 Different EVOO components have been proposed as possible markers of fraudulent
128 activities, including natural chlorophyll, diacylglycerols (DAG), FA, wax esters, phenolic
129 compounds, and sterols (Garcia et al., 2013; Gómez-Coca, Pérez-Camino, Bendini,
130 Gallina Toschi, & Moreda, 2020).

131 **2.2 Authentication**

132 Consumer demand for authenticity and traceability of food products means that
133 quality certification is of great interest for the food sector. In this context, a range of
134 government legislation and regulations as well as international agency guidelines have
135 been published (Conte et al., 2020; Melucci et al., 2016).

136 The quality of olive oil is governed by the IOC together with the European Community
137 and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Stadler et al., 2016), an organization that
138 proposes several analytical methods, including gas chromatography (GC), high
139 performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or gravimetry, among others. European
140 regulation derives from the IOC and Codex Alimentarius Commission regulations, as
141 well as most of the national regulations, such as Brazilian one. However, there are

142 some countries still lacking internal regulations for EVOO, in the case of USA, the FDA
143 still has no regulation defining this product.

144 In Europe, to achieve the category of EVOO, the oil must comply with a range of
145 parameters set out in the EU Regulation No. 2568/91 (COMMUNITY, 1991) and
146 consequently modified in the EU Regulation 1348/2013 (COMMUNITY, 2013b), which
147 are assessed by chemical and sensory tests using IOC methods and standards (Jimenez-
148 Lopez et al., 2020). The quality criteria evaluated in olive oil are free acidity, the
149 peroxide index, ultraviolet (UV) absorption (coefficients K232, K270 and ΔK), fatty acid
150 ethyl esters, sensory characteristics (Conte et al., 2020; Jimenez-Lopez et al., 2020).
151 These basic quality parameters, together with composition in fatty acids and sterols as
152 well as profiles in phospholipids, tocopherols, phenolic molecules, volatile compounds
153 etc., can offer information very useful to check authenticity of EVOO and possible
154 applied fraudulent activities to it (Azizian et al., 2015; Mikrou et al., 2020). Some
155 examples are presented in **Table 1** with the analytical techniques and the data
156 processing methods used for their determination.

157 Authenticity of food or beverages can be established by an exact match between the
158 characteristics, properties and composition of the product and the description on the
159 label. Although the EU closely monitors the olive oil market, the risk of EVOO
160 adulteration remains high due to the economic gains at stake and the increasingly
161 sophisticated techniques employed (Bansal et al., 2017).

162 Among the EU regulations established to standardize the production and
163 commercialization of EVOO in Europe (Melucci et al., 2016) (the largest producer,
164 exporter, and consumer of olive oil in the world), Regulation EU No. 1019/02 defines
165 its labelling and packaging. Certified labelling is a way of providing the consumer with

166 assurance of food authenticity. The information on EVOO labels also includes its
167 classification as light, medium or intense, according to its sensory attributes.

168 **2.2.1. Fatty acids and glycerides derivatives**

169 FAs are present in the oil as triacylglycerols. Its main component is oleic acid, a MUFA
170 that accounts for 65-80% of the FA content (ranges obtained from: (Konuskan, Arslan,
171 & Oksuz, 2019; Orsavova, Misurcova, Vavra Ambrozova, Vicha, & Mlcek, 2015;
172 Rotondi, Morrone, Bertazza, & Neri, 2021; Vávra, Hájek, & Kocián, 2021; Wang et al.,
173 2019; Yahay, Heidari, Allameh, & Amani, 2021)). Oleic acid is reported to have
174 beneficial cardiovascular effects and, as MUFA, with its single double bond, it is more
175 stable than polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) (Yubero-Serrano, Lopez-Moreno,
176 Gomez-Delgado, & Lopez-Miranda, 2019). Other FA, such as linoleic are much less
177 abundant in EVOO than in other vegetable oils (Jimenez-Lopez et al., 2020). The FA
178 profile of EVOO thus distinguishes it from other edible oils (such as sunflower and
179 peanut oil), as shown in **Figure 1**, and its analysis can provide useful information for
180 the detection of adulteration. However, other edible oils such as rapeseed oil also
181 contain a high proportion of MUFAs. Several studies have compared the FA profiles of
182 EVOO and different oils commonly employed as adulterants, such as sunflower, corn,
183 peanut, coconut, or rapeseed (Aykas, Karaman, Keser, & Rodriguez-Saona, 2020;
184 Mikrou et al., 2020; Yang, Ferro, Cavaco, & Liang, 2013), using GC coupled with a flame
185 ionization detector (FID) or mass spectrometry (MS), the traditional method to
186 evaluate the lipid fraction of EVOO. This methodology, however, requires a
187 pretreatment of the sample to obtain FA methyl esters. Deodorized olive oil in EVOO
188 was successfully detected by the determination of diacylglycerols and free FAs
189 (Gómez-Coca et al., 2020). A comparative study analyzing TAG by electrospray

190 ionization MS (ESI-MS) and FA by GC-FID concluded that the spectroscopic technique
191 was faster and more efficient than the chromatographic method. Applying this novel
192 methodology, olein lineo 10-heptadecenoic was established as a lipid marker for
193 soybean oil added to EVOO (da Silveira et al., 2017).

194 In recent years, spectroscopic methods have emerged as useful and efficient
195 techniques for the determination of FA; not requiring a derivatization step, they are
196 less time-consuming than chromatographic methods. Thus, a simple technique able to
197 characterize EVOO and detect adulterations with corn oil was developed by Di
198 Girolamo *et al.* (2015) based on matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization MS
199 (MALDI-TOF MS) with unsupervised hierarchical clustering (UHC), principal component
200 analysis (PCA) and Pearson's correlation analyses. Authentication models for the
201 detection of high linoleic and high oleic vegetable oils in EVOO were developed based
202 on flow injection analysis-heated electrospray ionization-high resolution MS (FIA-HESI-
203 HRMS) combined with partial least squares (PLS)-discriminant analysis (DA), which
204 provided TAG profiles of olive oil samples (Quintanilla-Casas et al., 2021).

205 The lipid profile of EVOO was also successfully characterized using an untargeted
206 metabolic approach based on flow injection analysis-magnetic resonance MS (FIA-
207 MRMS) and chemometrics (Nikou, Witt, Stathopoulos, Barsch, & Halabalaki, 2020).

208 Indeed, it provided better projection and prediction models than LC-Orbitrap MS, with
209 the additional advantage that it allows simultaneous monitoring of both lipophilic
210 compounds and polyphenols. Moreover, Fourier transform-near infrared (FT-NIR)
211 spectroscopy coupled to chemometric tools such as PLS analysis was able to detect
212 adulterants (i.e., edible oils high in 16:0 (palm oil), 18:1n-9 (palm olein, hazelnut,
213 canola, or high OLA sunflower and safflower oils), 18:2n-6 (soybean, sunflower or corn

214 oil), and ROO) in EVOO (Azizian, Mossoba, Fardin-Kia, Karunathilaka, & Kramer, 2016;
215 Azizian et al., 2015; Azizian, Wang, Li, & Kramer, 2018). Another vibrational technique,
216 FT-Raman, combined with chemometrics (PCA and PLS) accurately classified EVOO
217 samples according to the harvest year, olive variety, geographical origin, and protected
218 designation of origin (PDO), and also detected adulteration with sunflower or waste
219 cooking oil, due to the different unsaturation degree of the FAs (Li et al., 2018;
220 Sánchez-López et al., 2016).

221 In summary, analytical techniques such as NIR or Raman spectroscopy, are likely to
222 grow in importance and replace traditional chromatographic methods for the
223 detection of adulterants based on FA determination. Overall, they provide efficient
224 results with the advantage of a simpler sample treatment step compared to
225 chromatography, which reduces the time of analysis.

226 **2.2.2. Phospholipids**

227 Olives and olive oil contain a diversity of phospholipids as minor components (Alves,
228 Cunha, Amaral, Pereira, & Oliveira, 2005). The profile of phospholipids, whose
229 concentration in EVOO is lower than in other vegetable oils (Antonelli et al., 2020), can
230 provide a distinct “fingerprint” for traceability and authenticity studies (Alves,
231 Domingues, & Domingues, 2018; Gallina Toschi, Bendini, Lozano-Sánchez,
232 Segura-Carretero, & Conte, 2013).

233 Phospholipid analysis using an ionic liquid as a matrix and extraction solvent and
234 MALDI-TOF-MS detected the presence of hazelnut oil in EVOO (still detectable at a 1%
235 contamination level) due to a significant increase in phospholipid signals (Calvano, De
236 Ceglie, D’Accolti, & Zambonin, 2012). In another study based on phospholipids
237 analysis, MALDI-TOF MS coupled to UHC and PCA was used to characterize the oil type

238 and was able to reveal very low levels of corn oil in EVOO (as low as 0.5%) (Di Girolamo
239 et al., 2015).

240 **2.2.3. Tocopherols**

241 Tocopherols (vitamin E compounds) are found in seed oils in four different forms: α -, β ,
242 γ - and δ -tocopherols (Ergönül & Köseoğlu, 2014) but in EVOO, δ -tocopherol has not
243 been detected, only α -, β -, and γ -tocopherols have been described, with α -tocopherol
244 representing more than 95% of the total tocopherol content (Beltrán et al., 2010).
245 Tocopherol content and composition depend on several agronomic factors, including
246 the cultivar, fruit ripeness and agroclimatic conditions (Beltrán et al., 2010). Some of
247 the efforts developed to combat EVOO fraud have focused on the tocopherol profile as
248 a potential marker able to detect adulteration with high selectivity, sensitivity, and
249 accuracy.

250 The concentration of tocopherols in EVOO changes when it is adulterated with other
251 vegetable oils, including lower quality olive oils (Omwange et al., 2021). Depending on
252 the adulterating oil, the concentration can increase, when adulterated with sunflower
253 oil for example (Lia, Castellano, Zammit-Mangion, & Farrugia, 2018), or decrease,
254 when adulterated with olive oil (Merás, Manzano, Rodríguez, & de la Peña, 2018).
255 Accordingly, autofluorescence excitation-emission profiles combined with multi-way
256 classification allowed approximately 15% of olive oil and 3% of olive pomace oil to be
257 detected in EVOO (Merás et al., 2018). Front-face fluorescence spectroscopy coupled
258 with UV-induced fluorescence imaging differentiated between pure EVOO and
259 adulterated oils based on a specific region of excitation emission matrices (between
260 300 and 600 nm) corresponding to tocopherols, tocotrienols, phenolic compounds,
261 oxidation products, and vitamin E (Omwange et al., 2021). The dilution of Maltese

262 EVOO with several vegetable oils (corn, soybean, linseed, and sunflower) was
263 identified by fluorescence spectrometry combined with PCA, PLSR and an artificial
264 neural network (Lia et al., 2018). In another study, the authenticity of EVOO was
265 assessed using the α/β tocopherol ratio and the presence of δ -tocopherol to detect the
266 fraudulent addition of oils from other sources (Chen et al., 2011).

267 Tocopherols have antioxidant properties and can therefore be detected by means of
268 electroanalytic methods (Apetrei & Apetrei, 2014; Tsopelas, Konstantopoulos, &
269 Kakoulidou, 2018). Voltametric fingerprinting of EVOO can reveal changes in the
270 concentration of electroactive compounds such as tocopherols. A voltametric e-tongue
271 successfully detected adulterations of olive oil with less than 10% of sunflower,
272 soybean and corn oils (Apetrei & Apetrei, 2014). In another study, voltametric
273 fingerprinting combined with PLS-DA provided a clear discrimination between olive oils
274 (extra virgin and regular) and olive pomace/ seed oils (Tsopelas et al., 2018). This
275 assumption is supported by the much lower tocopherol content of olive oil compared
276 to seed oils (Kamal-Eldin, 2006).

277 In summary, the advantage of determining the tocopherol profile is that it requires
278 only minimal sample preparation, such as oil dilution (Chen et al., 2011; Lia et al.,
279 2018), obtaining methanolic extracts (Tsopelas et al., 2018) or directly analyzing the
280 EVOO (Apetrei & Apetrei, 2014; Merás et al., 2018), before subsequent analysis by
281 fluorescence and/or voltammetry with chemometrics. One of the least used
282 approaches for the detection of EVOO adulteration, tocopherol fingerprinting likely
283 deserves wider application.

284 **2.2.4. Phenolic compounds**

285 The main phenolic compounds in EVOO are secoiridoids, which are accompanied by
286 phenolic acids, lignans, flavonoids and phenolic alcohols (Lozano-Castellón et al.,
287 2020). As secoiridoids are characteristic of the Oleacea family (Jensen, 2002), a
288 reduction in their content could indicate a possible fraudulent blend, either adding
289 EVOO from another cultivar (ie: *Arbequina* is less rich in phenolic compounds than
290 *Picual*) or mixing EVOO with different types of oil. Most techniques for EVOO phenolic
291 analysis are based on liquid-liquid extraction and various determination methods, the
292 most common being liquid chromatography coupled to different detectors, such as a
293 diode array detector (International Olive Council, 2017b), MS (Alessandri, Ieri, &
294 Romani, 2014), or MS in tandem (Lozano-Castellón et al., 2021). Other methods are
295 nuclear magnetic resonance (Olmo-Cunillera et al., 2020) or GC-MS (Chiou et al., 2007),
296 which need an extra step for volatilizing the target compounds.

297 The squalene and tyrosol concentration allowed pure EVOO to be differentiated from
298 EVOO blended with seed oils, pure EVOO presents higher concentration of both
299 compounds, then when plotting the concentration of tyrosol against the concentration
300 of squalene, the blended samples are located near the origin of the plot (0,0) and it is
301 possible to identify them (Hayakawa et al., 2020). Using an e-tongue, it was possible to
302 discriminate between pure EVOO and EVOO containing sunflower, soybean and corn
303 oils, based on the specific electrical properties of phenolic compounds and their lower
304 concentration in the adulterated samples (Apetrei & Apetrei, 2014). Using a partial
305 least squares regression (PLSR) model generated from the HPLC-UV spectrum of the
306 phenolic extract, monovarietal *Arbequina* EVOO was accurately distinguished from the
307 same variety mixed with *Picual* EVOO, refined olive oil or sunflower oil (Carranco et al.,
308 2018). In a recent study, a PLSR model generated from fluorescence spectra of the

309 phenolic profile was used to discriminate between pure EVOO and EVOO blended with
310 olive oil (Omwange et al., 2021). Finally, EVOO adulterated with refined olive pomace
311 oil was identified based on the phenolic and sterol content, as these compounds are
312 more hydrophilic in the pomace after the first oil extraction than in EVOO (Drira et al.,
313 2020).

314 The EVOO phenolic profile can be affected by numerous factors, such as the olive
315 cultivar, agronomic techniques (López-Yerena et al., 2019), the extraction procedure
316 (López-Yerena et al., 2021) and storage (Castillo-Luna, Criado-Navarro, Ledesma-
317 Escobar, López-Bascón, & Priego-Capote, 2021). As refined vegetable oils contain much
318 lower content of phenolic compounds (Orozco-Solano, Priego-Capote, & Luque de
319 Castro, 2011), their usage to adulterate EVOO will result in a lower phenolic
320 concentration, but not the addition of a new phenolic compound that could potentially
321 serve as a marker. Hence, this type of adulteration is difficult to assess based on
322 phenolics alone, as their concentration can also be reduced depending on the variety,
323 by an extraction parameter or improper storage, so they should be targeted along with
324 other compounds (Nikou et al., 2020).

325 **2.2.5. Volatile compounds**

326 EVOO is highly appreciated by consumers, mostly for its pleasant aroma and
327 characteristic flavor. Aroma depends on the volatile fraction, which differs according to
328 the olive variety, environmental growing conditions, and technological factors during
329 processing operations (Cecchi, Migliorini, & Mulinacci, 2021). Typical flavors and off-
330 flavor compounds that affect the volatile fraction of EVOO are produced by different
331 mechanisms. Positive odors are mainly generated from the oxidation of linoleic and
332 linolenic acids by enzymes of the lipoxygenase pathway, which are released when the

333 fruit is crushed and have a major impact during malaxation. Conversely, the main
334 defective or off-flavors are due to sugar fermentations, amino acid conversion,
335 enzymatic activities of molds (musty), anaerobic microorganisms (muddy). They are
336 also the result of auto- and photo-oxidation of FA during EVOO storage, which
337 produces linear acids, alcohols, esters and ketones (Cecchi et al., 2021; Clodoveo,
338 Hbaieb, Kotti, Mugnozza, & Gargouri, 2014).

339 Oxidation is the principal cause of the deterioration of olive oil quality. Fatty acids are
340 the fraction most vulnerable to oxidation, their degradation leading to the production
341 of carbonyl compounds and subsequent development of unpleasant flavors and
342 oxidative rancidity (Gargouri, Zribi, & Bouaziz, 2015; Sanmartin et al., 2018; Silva,
343 Anjos, Cavalcanti, & Celeghini, 2015). Autoxidation can occur even in the absence of
344 light by a free radical mechanism in which the absorption of oxygen results in the
345 formation of hydroperoxides. These labile compounds evolve to produce a complex
346 mixture of volatile compounds such as aldehydes, ketones, hydrocarbons, alcohols,
347 and esters, which negatively affect the flavor of olive oil (Frankel, 2014). In fact, the
348 "extra virgin" or even "virgin" designation is granted only if lipid oxidation products
349 such as hydroperoxides do not exceed a stipulated limit and/or produce rancid flavors
350 (Hrncirik & Fritsche, 2005). Positive odors and/or volatile oxidation compounds can
351 also be used as markers of EVOO adulteration (Zhou, Zhang, Chen, Li, & Han, 2021).

352 The addition of other edible oils dilutes both the aroma and color of EVOO (Violino et
353 al., 2021). However, to date, the technological determination of volatile organic
354 compounds (VOCs) is not required to authenticate EVOO, even though they form an
355 intrinsic part of the quality of the product and the perceived intensity of positive
356 sensory attributes (Violino et al., 2021). There is clearly a need for reliable and

357 inexpensive methods that can rapidly assess the VOC profile of EVOO on an industrial
358 scale.

359 Over the last decade, numerous studies have targeted VOCs to identify EVOO
360 adulteration with lower value oils such as corn, soybean, sunflower, high oleic
361 sunflower, olive, soft-refined olive and refined olive oils (Azizian et al., 2015; Damiani
362 et al., 2020; Drira et al., 2021; Ozcan-Sinir, 2020; Van Durme & Vandamme, 2016;
363 Violino et al., 2021; Zhou et al., 2021). The techniques applied include GC-MS, GC-FID,
364 GC-olfactometry-MS (GC-O-MS), GC ion mobility spectrometry (GC-IMS), flash GC
365 electronic nose (FGC E-nose), thermogravimetric-GC/MS (TGA-GC/MS), selected ion
366 flow tube MS (SIFT-MS), FT-NIR and vis-NIR (**Table 2**). Among the strategies to isolate
367 VOCs for analysis by GC-MS are purge and trap extraction (Drira et al., 2021), non-
368 thermal plasma treatments (Van Durme & Vandamme, 2016) and profiling of the
369 headspace composition (Damiani et al., 2020). On the other hand, for analysis by SIFT-
370 MS, a temperature-controlled water bath at 30 °C for 30 min was used to release
371 volatile compounds until an equilibrium was reached at the headspace (Ozcan-Sinir,
372 2020). The application of PCA, PLS1, SIMCA, PLSR and artificial intelligence to spectral
373 data successfully predicted and determined adulterated samples.

374 In summary, a strong reduction of pentanal and hexanal and its derivative compounds
375 (which contribute to the green odor notes) has been observed in adulterated EVOO
376 (Violino et al., 2021). The higher amounts of PUFA in oils other than EVOO (e.g.,
377 sunflower oil) result in a higher rate of volatile oxidation than observed for some
378 oxidation markers (Van Durme & Vandamme, 2016). Although the composition of the
379 volatile fraction of EVOO is not a legal requirement to guarantee its authenticity, this
380 approach could be introduced as a useful tool to support EVOO quality.

381 **2.2.6. Pigments**

382 The color of EVOO is attributed to lipophilic chlorophyll and carotenoid pigments
383 present in the olive fruit (Uncu & Ozen, 2020). EVOO contains a rich variety of
384 chlorophyll derivatives (chlorophyll a and b, pheophytin a and b, and other minor
385 derivatives) and carotenoids (β -carotene, lutein, violaxanthin, neoxanthin and other
386 xanthophylls) (Lazzerini, Cifelli, & Domenici, 2017; Uncu & Ozen, 2020). The presence
387 of pigments depends on the olive variety, the stage of fruit ripeness, environmental
388 growing conditions, the extraction process and storage conditions (Giuffrida, Salvo,
389 Salvo, La Pera, & Dugo, 2007). Pigment profiling of EVOO has been applied as an
390 indication of quality and/or authenticity. Using this approach, corn, rapeseed, soybean,
391 peanut, sunflower, refined olive oil, olive pomace oil and/or old olive oils have been
392 detected as adulterants in EVOO (Ali et al., 2018; Aroca-Santos, Cancilla, Matute, &
393 Torrecilla, 2015; Aroca-Santos, Cancilla, Pariente, & Torrecilla, 2016; Ferreiro-González
394 et al., 2017; Merás et al., 2018; Milanez et al., 2017; Shi et al., 2019; Tan et al., 2018;
395 Uncu & Ozen, 2019).

396 A clear reduction in chlorophylls and carotenoids in adulterated EVOO has been
397 evaluated by UV-vis, fluorescence spectroscopy and/or FT-IR + UV-vis, which are quick
398 and reliable methods (Ali et al., 2018; Aroca-Santos et al., 2015; Ferreiro-González et
399 al., 2017; Merás et al., 2018; Milanez et al., 2017; Uncu & Ozen, 2019). In this field,
400 stimulated Brillouin scattering combined with UV-vis-NIR (Shi et al., 2019) and front-
401 face fluorescence and visible spectroscopy (Tan et al., 2018) have also been proposed
402 for the authentication of EVOO and the detection of adulteration with other vegetable
403 oils.

404 Regarding chemometric analysis, PLS, PLSR, partial least squares-Jack-Knife algorithms
405 (PLS-JK), successive projections algorithm-multiple linear regression, stepwise multiple
406 linear regression (SW-MLR) and/or genetic algorithm-multiple linear regression (Ali et
407 al., 2018; Milanez et al., 2017; Tan et al., 2018) have been used. In addition, artificial
408 neural networks (Aroca-Santos et al., 2015), orthogonal projection to latent structures-
409 DA (Uncu & Ozen, 2019), linear-DA (LDA) (Ferreiro-González et al., 2017), parallel
410 factor analysis and discriminant unfolded PLS (Merás et al., 2018) models have been
411 used to identify and quantify adulteration in EVOO samples.

412 In summary, EVOO adulteration can be determined by comparing visible absorption
413 spectra. In the visible spectrum of EVOO, certain absorption bands in the range of 430–
414 480 nm and 670 nm stand out owing to the presence of various carotenoid and
415 chlorophyll pigments (Ferreiro-González et al., 2017). Adulteration of EVOO with other
416 seed and/or vegetable oils, can be differentiated spectroscopically by the intensity of
417 carotenoids and chlorophylls absorption peaks, as shown in **Figure 2**.

418 **2.2.7. Sterol, triterpene dialcohol and stigmastadiene composition**

419 Sterols and triterpene dialcohols are among the parameters used to officially establish
420 the purity of olive oil. Their composition permits discrimination between olive and
421 other oils and between olive pomace oils and non-solvent-extracted olive oils such as
422 EVOO (International Olive Council, 2021). The addition of other oils will increase the
423 concentration of those compounds and allow then the discrimination between pure
424 EVOO and adulterated EVOOs (Al-Ismael, Alsaed, Ahmad, & Al-Dabbas, 2010). The
425 official method involves several steps: compound separation from the saponifiable
426 fraction; partial purification by chromatography; and then derivatization and analysis
427 by GC-FID. As this is time- and reagent-consuming, shorter and simpler alternative

428 procedures have been developed (Gorassini, Verardo, & Bortolomeazzi, 2019;
429 Mathison & Holstege, 2013; Valli et al., 2021).

430 Various studies have focused on the analysis of sterols and triterpene dialcohols to
431 classify different EVOOs and detect their adulteration with other oils, including lower
432 quality olive oil or olive pomace oil. Based on the percentages of campesterol and
433 stigmasterol, adulteration with corn, soybean, sunflower and cotton oils was identified
434 (Al-Ismaïl et al., 2010), whereas uvaol and erythrodiol revealed the presence of olive
435 pomace oil (Mathison & Holstege, 2013). $\Delta 7$ -stigmastenol and campesterol proved to
436 be effective markers of EVOO adulteration with sunflower and corn oils, respectively
437 (Jabeur et al., 2014). Another study confirmed this usage of $\Delta 7$ -stigmastenol as well as
438 campesterol as a marker of adulteration with soybean oil (Youseff, Soubh, & Alassaf,
439 2014). The combination of several parameters, namely total sterol content,
440 desmethylsterol composition and triterpene dialcohols (erythrodiol and uvaol), was
441 successfully used to identify EVOO adulteration with canola, corn, peanut, safflower,
442 soybean, and sunflower oils, but this strategy failed to detect hazelnut oil (Srigley,
443 Oles, Kia, & Mossoba, 2016). The mean values of each sterol allowed EVOOs to be
444 differentiated according to the olive variety and oleaster cultivar, including hybrids
445 (Manai-Djebali et al., 2021). Sterol concentration could differ significantly from
446 different varieties, in the case of $\Delta 5$ -avenasterol for example, was reported to be
447 between 2.2 and 15.2 % of all sterolic fraction (Manai-Djebali, Oueslati, Martínez-
448 Cañas, Zarrouk, & Sánchez-Casas, 2018). Finally, a new method that analyses free and
449 esterified sterols and free and esterified triterpenic alcohols was able to detect the
450 adulteration of EVOO with only 2% sunflower oil (Valli et al., 2021).

451 Studies investigating ways of detecting EVOO adulteration have also targeted sterols
452 together with other compounds. Using ^1H NMR spectroscopy with lipid signal
453 suppression, Ruiz-Aracama *et al.* (2017) classified EVOOs according to various signals,
454 including those of sterols. A PCA model based on sterol and FA profiles clearly
455 separated EVOO containing cotton and sunflower oils (Kesen, 2019).

456 Thus, the sterol profile and fatty alcohols have demonstrated to be effective markers
457 for the detection of EVOO adulteration. The official method for their determination
458 has been improved upon, with the development of quicker and more ecological
459 alternatives that require fewer sample preparation steps and consume less reactant to
460 achieve similar results (Mathison & Holstege, 2013; Tena, Wang, Aparicio-Ruiz, García-
461 González, & Aparicio, 2015).

462 On the other hand, detection of stigmastadienes has been proved to be a highly-
463 sensitive method to notice addition of refined oils to EVOO. Virgin olive oils (VOOs)
464 obtained by cold pressing do not contain enough quantity of these molecules to be
465 measured (less than 0.01 mg/kg^3), and EVOO's are defined by Regulation to contain
466 less than 0.15 mg/kg^3 of stigmastadiene (Uncu & Ozen, 2020). However, during the
467 refining process, the high temperatures to which the oils are exposed, lead to the
468 formation of 3,5-stigmastadiene by the dehydration of sterols, particularly of beta-
469 sitosterol, in measurable amounts ranging from 0.3 to 0.9 mg/kg^3 (Gordon & Firman,
470 2001). Concretely, the existence of stigmastadienes indicates the use of bleaching clay
471 or high temperature applications executed during the deodorizing of the refining
472 process. Thus, the detection of these steroidal hydrocarbons in VOOs is legally
473 accepted to reveal adulteration of the product by the presence of refined vegetable
474 oils (olive pomace, soybean, sunflower, palm...) (International Olive Council, 2017a;

475 Schneider, 2016).

476 Regarding to the stigmastadienes detection, Crews *et al.* (2014) described a test which
477 not only has been shown to be more rapid and easier to apply than other already
478 standardized alternatives, but also occurring to be a method that can detect other
479 sterenes in oils. This method presents a high sensitivity to low levels of
480 stigmastadienes. And even though it does not indicate the exact concentration of
481 refined oil existing, mixtures of less than 5% refined oils can be revealed.

482 **2.2.8. Oil fingerprint applied to the authentication**

483 In recent years, chromatographic and related techniques with spectroscopic detection
484 or coupled to MS, and combined with chemometrics, have proven to have an
485 exceptional capacity to discourse complex food authentication issues by fingerprinting
486 approaches (Medina, Pereira, Silva, Perestrelo, & Câmara, 2019). In this context, flow
487 injection analysis coupled to high-resolution MS (FIA–HRMS), using a fingerprinting
488 strategy and combined with PCA, PLS-DA, and SIMCA was used to distinguish olive oil
489 from other vegetable oils, as well as to perform an evaluation of its quality category
490 (Campmajó, Saurina, & Núñez, 2022). After external validation, remarkable
491 classification accuracies were reached. Moreover, putative identification of the most
492 common ions was performed by HRMS, allowing excellent discrimination of olive oil in
493 front of the other vegetable oil samples using PCA. As mentioned before, similar
494 approach based on TAG profile was satisfactorily used to detect high linoleic and high
495 oleic vegetable oils in EVOO (Quintanilla-Casas *et al.*, 2021).

496 On the other hand, using chromatographic fingerprints (HPLC coupled to charged
497 aerosol detector and high temperature GC coupled to flame ionization detector)
498 coupled to multivariate techniques was applied to authenticate the geographical origin

499 of EVOO without identifying or quantifying the chemical compounds (Vera, Jiménez-
500 Carvelo, Cuadros-Rodríguez, Ruisánchez, & Callao, 2019). The results were best when
501 fingerprints from the data from the two techniques were combined applying low-level
502 data fusion and PLS-DA was employed as the classification procedure. Similarly,
503 Quintanilla-Casas *et al.* (2020) established fingerprinting as a more efficient approach
504 than profiling sesquiterpene hydrocarbons to classify EVOO according to its origin.

505 **2.2.9. Proposed markers for EVOO adulteration detection**

506 During EVOO adulteration, FA profile and minor compounds profile are changed.
507 Phenolic compounds and volatile compounds decrease, while waxes such as
508 campesterol increase. Hence, monitoring several compounds could be useful to detect
509 adulteration, this is easily achieved recording EVOO fingerprint with HRMS.
510 Nevertheless, this approach requires expensive equipment not always available.
511 Another way of having fingerprints could be monitoring the absorbance or emission
512 spectra in the UV-vis range or using the FT-NIR spectroscopy. However, only active
513 compounds in the NIR or the UV-vis will be detected, hence few information will be
514 obtained compared to the HRMS analysis and it might not be enough for the detection
515 of adulterants.

516 EVOO is commonly adulterated with refined oils, such as rapeseed or hazelnut, or with
517 solvent extracted oils, such as pomace olive oil. During the deodorization that takes
518 place in the refinement process the oil is heated at 180 °C or even higher
519 temperatures, this step is present in both chemical and physical refinements (Varona
520 *et al.*, 2021). Thus, analyzing markers of heating, such as stigmastadienes or glyceryl sters
521 (GE) (Gordon & Firman, 2001; Kamikata *et al.*, 2019), could be a feasible approach to
522 detect EVOO adulterations with refined oils (Crews *et al.*, 2014). On the other hand, for

523 detecting adulteration with solvent extracted oils, analyzing the sterolic profile could
524 be a useful approach, as the concentration of those compounds will increase
525 (Mathison & Holstege, 2013).

526 In conclusion, when HRMS is not available, analyzing both stigmastadienes and sterols
527 could be a useful and cheap method to detect EVOO adulteration. As those
528 compounds are analyzed for olive oil categorization (COMMUNITY, 1991), no extra
529 equipment is needed for carrying out those determinations.

530

531 **2.3 Health issues derived from EVOO fraud.**

532 The health benefits associated with EVOO consumption have been extensively
533 demonstrated, particularly its protective effect against cardiovascular (CV) diseases
534 (Covas et al., 2006; Estruch et al., 2018; Guasch-Ferré et al., 2014). This positive impact
535 has been verified by numerous intervention studies focusing on specific markers of CV
536 disease, which show that EVOO intake can prevent or reduce the inflammatory
537 processes associated with chronic-degenerative conditions such as CV-cerebral
538 diseases and cancer (Casas et al., 2017) and benefits plasma lipid levels and lipid
539 oxidative damage (Covas et al., 2006). EVOO supplementation also leads to an
540 improvement of post-prandial glucose and lipid profiles, an anti-atherosclerosis
541 mechanism that can reduce the risk of developing diabetes (Carnevale et al., 2014).
542 Diabetes prevention could be attributed to the antioxidant property of EVOO (Bullo,
543 Lamuela-Raventos, & Salas-Salvado, 2011), since oxidative stress appears to be
544 involved in β -cell dysfunction and down-regulates insulin secretion. Aside from
545 investigating whether EVOO had any effect on the lipid profile, the Carnevale research
546 group examined whether postprandial glycemic control occurred using an oxidative

547 stress-mediated mechanism, demonstrating that a Mediterranean-type meal
548 supplemented with EVOO is associated with reduced postprandial oxidative stress
549 generated by NOX2 (Violi et al., 2015). Thus, the consumption of EVOO represents a
550 simple but effective nutritional approach to modulating the deleterious effect of
551 different CV risk factors on the vascular system, chiefly oxidative stress, inflammation,
552 postprandial hyperglycemia, and hyperlipidemia (Nocella et al., 2018).

553 Moreover, EVOO intake is inversely associated with the prevalence of cancer
554 (Psaltopoulou, Kostis, Haidopoulos, Dimopoulos, & Panagiotakos, 2011), as reported in
555 a meta-analysis of nineteen observational studies involving approximately 35,000
556 individuals and carried out within ten years. More recently, a randomized trial found
557 that women who adhered to a Mediterranean diet supplemented with EVOO had a
558 62% lower incidence of invasive breast cancer than a control group advised to restrict
559 dietary fats (Toledo et al., 2015). Other health properties of EVOO are related to
560 neuroprotection. Pitt *et al.* (2009) reported that low doses of oleocanthal, one of the
561 main secoiridoids of EVOO, structurally altered amyloid- β oligomers, which play a role
562 in the development of Alzheimer's disease. Moreover, Batarseh *et al.* (2018) reported
563 that high-oleocanthal EVOO reduced the amyloid- β load and related toxicity in a
564 mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. Additionally, Li *et al.* (2009) al found that
565 oleocanthal inhibited tau fibrillization. Other phenolic compounds present in EVOO,
566 hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein, also showed neuroprotective effects in the prevention
567 of Parkinson's disease, as they can interfere in the pathophysiology of the disease by
568 reducing the accumulation of neurotoxins, oxidative stress, and impair autophagy
569 (Achour et al., 2016; Goldstein et al., 2016). **Finally, EVOO has shown gut-modulating**

570 activity, by increasing the growth of beneficial bacteria and diminishing pathogenic
571 bacteria (Millman et al., 2021).

572 The health-enhancing properties of olive oil are lost when its composition is altered by
573 industrial practices focused on maximizing profits as is shown in Figure 3. Adulteration
574 with other vegetable oils can result in a product of poor nutritional quality that
575 oxidizes more readily and instead of offering health benefits can even be harmful.
576 Consumption of rancid oil, due to the prooxidant substances present can induce
577 oxidative stress and dysfunction of the vascular endothelium, which plays an essential
578 role in the pathophysiology of several diseases (Carnevale et al., 2014; Casas et al.,
579 2017; Nocella et al., 2018). Additionally, the sustained consumption of *trans* or
580 saturated fats, which include many refined oils (Astrup et al., 2020; Liu & Lu, 2018), is
581 also a health risk. When coupled with a sedentary lifestyle and other bad habits, it
582 increases the likelihood of suffering arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarctions or
583 embolisms (Carnevale et al., 2014; Casas et al., 2016, 2017).

584 During the refining process of olive oil (the deodorisation step), the content of 3-
585 monochloropropane-1,2-diol (3-MCPD), 2-monochloropropane-1,3-diol esters (2-
586 MCPDE) and GE was found to increase (Hung et al., 2017; Kamikata et al., 2019). As the
587 processing of EVOO does not require the use of high temperatures, it is not expected
588 to contain these substances at quantifiable levels. Therefore, 3-MCPDE, 2-MCPDE and
589 GE have been proposed as complementary indicators of EVOO adulteration (Kamikata
590 et al., 2019; Weesepeel, Alewijn, Wijtten, & Müller-Maatsch, 2021). The mixing of
591 EVOO with refined oils can pose a threat to consumer health if it results in an increase
592 in these compounds, GE and 3-MCPD are classified respectively as “probable human
593 carcinogen” (category 2A) and “possible human carcinogen” (category 2B) by the

594 [International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC, 2000\)](#). The European Food Safety
595 Authority (EFSA) CONTAM Panel established a tolerable daily intake of 0.8 µg/kg body
596 weight per day for 3-MCPD (CONTAM, 2016).

597 The presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, besides being related with EVOO
598 fraud, is also a substance with potentially health risk. These genotoxic and carcinogenic
599 compounds (EFSA, 2008; Cancer, 2006; World Health Organization, 2005) are formed
600 during incomplete combustion or pyrolysis of organic matter, and their presence in oils
601 is attributed to the drying process to which seeds, grains and olive pomace are
602 subjected during processing (Tfouni et al., 2017).

603 Finally,. Arlorio *et al.* (2010) demonstrated that the adulteration of EVOO with hazelnut
604 oil introduces a potential risk for consumers with hazelnut allergies, after analyzing the
605 allergen and protein content of EVOO deliberately spiked with raw cold-pressed
606 hazelnut oil or solvent-extracted hazelnut oil. Sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide
607 gel electrophoresis (SDS–PAGE) analysis confirmed the presence of hazelnut proteins
608 in solvent-extracted hazelnut oil, which were still detectable at a 1% contamination
609 level in solvent-extracted hazelnut oil spiked EVOO, and therefore showing the
610 potential health risk for sensitized people.

611

612 **3 Traceability**

613 Product traceability refers to the ability to monitor a product through all the stages of
614 the production chain from its origin to the final destination. This process allows the
615 product to be registered and identified, thereby guaranteeing its quality and protecting
616 the consumer (Melucci et al., 2016). Due to the growing demand for high quality

617 EVOO, its characteristics and composition need to be specified, including the
618 geographic origin and variety of the olives (Melucci et al., 2016; Violino et al., 2019).

619 Monovarietal olive oils are distinguished by a recognizable taste associated with a
620 particular cultivar. In contrast, coupage olive oils are produced from a blend of olive
621 varieties, with the main objective of obtaining an exotic and singular aroma and flavor
622 (Campestre, Angelini, Gasbarri, & Angerosa, 2017).

623 The EU Regulation 2081/92, which was established to protect and promote quality
624 food products, specifies that EVOO must be labeled according to its origin. Accordingly,
625 oils can be registered within different schemes, as shown in **Table 3**: protected
626 designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) and traditional
627 specialty guaranteed (TSG) (Violino et al., 2019).

628 To qualify for a PDO, the olive oil must comply with specific requirements regarding
629 the geographic origin, cultivar, organoleptic characteristics, production methods and
630 agronomic practice (Giménez, Pistón, Martín, & Atienza, 2010). Certification and
631 denomination require EVOO traceability to be established, focusing on the region of
632 the olive tree (geographic traceability) and the cultivar (botanical traceability).

633 3.1 *Geographic and botanical traceability*

634 Olive oil from different geographic sources can vary considerably in its components,
635 reflecting variable factors such as the growth environment, climate, soil, and water
636 quality. The Commission Implementing Regulation 2013 EU No. 1335/13 stipulates that
637 the location of the olive harvest must be stated on EVOO labels (COMMUNITY, 2013a),
638 as well as olive oil labels, for example “blend of olive oils (not) of EU origin” or “blend
639 of olive oils of EU origin and not of EU origin” (Melucci et al., 2016).

640 Different strategies have been developed to characterize EVOO from several origins to
641 detect fraudulent practices. Instead of analyzing one or a group of marker compounds,
642 researchers have focused in analyzing whole spectra of techniques such as infrared or
643 mass spectroscopy. These techniques usually require few or non pretreatments steps,
644 however, chemometrics is needed to process all the data.

645 Although few studies on NIR and FTIR spectroscopies as a non-invasive techniques for
646 food authentication have been published to date, the results indicate they are robust
647 and reliable methods (Galtier et al., 2007; Garrido-Varo, Sánchez, De la Haba, Torres, &
648 Pérez-Marín, 2017; Tapp, Defernez, & Kemsley, 2003). For example, NIR spectroscopy
649 categorized 125 olive oils into five geographically close designations of origin in France
650 (Galtier et al., 2007). This study demonstrated that the origin of olive oil can be traced
651 by analyzing NIR spectra, which is related to the FA and TAG profiles, without the need
652 for time-consuming physical and chemical procedures to analyze those compounds. In
653 the same line, two models (spinning and static sample presentation) were developed
654 to predict and classify olive oil quality parameters (Garrido-Varo et al., 2017). In
655 another study, FTIR spectroscopy in combination with multivariate analysis was also
656 carried out to distinguish EVOOs from different geographic origin (Tapp et al., 2003).

657 The traceability of the geographic origin of EVOOs by PCA and DA of the headspace
658 volatile profile as a fingerprint has also been reported (Melucci et al., 2016). In this
659 preliminary study, an FGC E-nose accurately determined the geographic origin of EVOO
660 (100% Italian versus non-100% Italian), and the results indicate it is suitable for the
661 rapid screening of commercial EVOO to verify if the information declared on the label
662 is correct. Similarly, Quintanilla-Casas *et al.* (2020) analyzed EVOO samples from seven
663 countries by headspace solid phase microextraction-GC-MS (HS-SPME-GC-MS)

664 combined with chemometrics. Sesquiterpene hydrocarbons proved to be accurate
665 geographic markers and fingerprinting was established as a more efficient approach
666 than profiling to classify EVOO according to its origin. Further experiments of the same
667 group showed that the sesquiterpene hydrocarbon fingerprints permitted the proper
668 characterization of origin of EVOOs from and not from the European Union
669 (Quintanilla-Casas et al., 2022).

670 Apart from geographical traceability, botanical traceability is important to assess EVOO
671 trueness. Botanical traceability of EVOO is the ability to identify the olive variety,
672 whose characteristics depend on the type of soil, growing conditions, and climate
673 adaptability (Montealegre, Marina Alegre, & García-Ruiz, 2010). Although PDO
674 verification is useful for EVOO classification and certification, its accomplishment is not
675 always straightforward. Olive cultivars used to be distinguished by morphological and
676 pomological traits, an approach limited by the influence of external uncontrolled
677 factors (Sanz-Cortés et al., 2003). More efficient methods involve compositional
678 analysis and genetic markers (Montealegre et al., 2010). The most relevant
679 compositional markers for establishing the botanical traceability of olive oils are
680 summarized in **Table 4**. As the chemical composition of EVOO is strongly affected by
681 environmental conditions, fruit ripening, and the extraction technology, the botanical
682 origin cannot be identified by a single compositional marker (ie. FA, phenolic
683 compounds, volatile compounds, pigments, etc.), and instead several parameters are
684 analyzed together using chemometric tools.

685 Aranda et al. 2004 classified 4 Spanish cultivars (*Cornicabra*, *Arbequina*, *Hojiblanca* and
686 *Picual*) according to their distinct FA and triglyceride profiles and according to their
687 distinct FA in the 2-position in the triglycerides profiles. For analyzing the FA in the 2-

688 position several sample preparation steps are needed, while the FA acid profile is
689 quicker to obtain. The differences in the total FA profile permitted a successful
690 discrimination with easier analysis methodology than the FA in the 2-position. Sterol
691 composition together with chemometrics allowed the discrimination between 3
692 Portuguese cultivars (*Cobrançosa*, *Madural* and *Verdeal*) (Alves et al., 2005). Although
693 sterol composition alone was not enough to distinguish EVOOs from *Manzanilla*
694 *Cacereña* cultivar from EVOOs from other cultivars (Diaz, Merás, Casas, & Franco,
695 2005).

696 Different varieties will present different enzymatic activities, which result in different
697 volatile and phenolic profiles, those have also been used to discriminate between
698 varieties (Gómez-Alonso, Salvador, & Fregapane, 2002; Haddada et al., 2007). In
699 addition, tocopherols, pigments and hydrocarbons are also affected by the olive
700 enzymes, which depend on the cultivar, hence those markers have been used
701 successfully as well as discriminants between different olive cultivars (Baccouri et al.,
702 2007; Bueno, Casas, García, & González, 2005; Giuffrida et al., 2007).

703 In spite of all that, the environmental and technical factors have such a high impact on
704 EVOO composition (Olmo-Cunillera et al., 2021) that the best approach for assessing
705 EVOO botanical origin are the genetic markers. Although olive oils have a low protein
706 content, peptide separation by capillary electrophoresis has proved to be an effective
707 method for the differentiation of monovarietal olive oils. However, UV detection of the
708 protein profiles, as well as protein isolation and solubilization, needs to be performed
709 first (Monasterio, Fernández, & Silva, 2013; Montealegre et al., 2010). This approach
710 has been further developed by coupling capillary electrophoresis with MS, which

711 constitutes a reliable and rapid method to assess EVOO authenticity and quality
712 (Monasterio et al., 2013; Sánchez-Hernández, Marina, & Crego, 2011).

713

714 **4 Conclusions**

715 In conclusion, analyzing the whole EVOO fingerprint seems to be the best approach to
716 detect EVOO adulteration, however expensive equipment (HRMS) is needed. Then,
717 both stigmastadienes and sterolic profile are proposed as markers for detecting EVOO
718 blended with refined oils and solvent extracted oils.

719 Nowadays, international consumer demand for EVOO is growing, and fraudulent
720 practices to maximize profits by reducing oil quality, are also on the rise. These
721 deceitful practices not only reduce the quality of the oil and consequently its beneficial
722 effects on health, but also may pose a significant risk to the ingestion of toxic,
723 carcinogenic or allergic substances. In the fight against fraud, the EU, IOC, and Codex
724 Alimentarius have established several standardized regulations that EVOO producers
725 need to comply with. These endeavors are supported by scientific research focused on
726 developing and improving strategies and novel analytical technologies that can identify
727 possible adulterations, such as mixing EVOO with refined olive oil or other edible oils.

728 In addition, analytical methods such as FTIR or GC-MS can also authenticate the
729 product by determining either the geographic or botanical origin of the oil, and tracing
730 all the stages in the production chain.

731

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741 **Conflicts of Interest**

742 Rosa María Lamuela-Raventós declare to receive lecture fees from Cerveceros de
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1439 **Table 1.** Summary of the trending or novel analytical techniques, biomarker
 1440 compounds, and data processing methods for the detection of EVOO adulterants.

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Methods	Determination	Data processing	Adulterants	Ref
GC-FID	FA composition	PCA	Geographical varieties	(Mikrou et al., 2020)
GC-FID	FA composition	Direct comparison	Corn, sunflower, soybean, and canola oils	(Aykas et al., 2020)
GC-MS	FA composition	CARS-PLS-LDA and MCTree	Corn, peanut, rapeseed, and sunflower oils	(Yang et al., 2013)
SPE-GC-FID	DAG and FFA	Direct comparison	Soft deodorized oil	(Gómez-Coca et al., 2020)
GC-FID	FA composition	Direct comparison	Refined soybean oil	(da Silveira et al., 2017)
MALDI-TOF MS	Complete lipidomic profile	UHC, PCA and Pearson's correlation	Corn oil	(Di Girolamo et al., 2015)
FIA-HESI-HRMS	TAG profile	PLS-DA	High linoleic and high oleic vegetable oils	(Quintanilla-Casas et al., 2021)
FIA-MRMS	TAG, DAG and FFA	PCA and OPLS-DA	Geographical varieties	(Nikou et al., 2020)
FT-NIR	FA composition	PLS	Oils high in linoleic or oleic acid, palm olein, and refined olive oil	(Azizian et al., 2016)
FT-NIR	Volatile compounds and FA	PCA and SIMCA, PLS	Soybean, sunflower, corn, canola, hazelnut, high oleic acid safflower, peanut and refined olive oils, and palm olein	(Azizian et al., 2015)
FT-NIR	1,2-DAG, 1,3-DAG and FFA	PLS	Oils high in linoleic or oleic acid, palm olein, and refined olive oil	(Azizian et al., 2018)
FT-Raman	FA composition	PLS	Geographic location, olive variety, harvest year and PDO	(Sánchez-López et al., 2016)
FT-Raman	FA composition	iPLS and SiPLS	Waste cooking oil	(Li et al., 2018)
MALDI-TOF-MS	Phospholipids	Direct comparison	Hazelnut oil	(Calvano et al., 2012)
FL	Tocopherols, phenolic compounds and chlorophylls	PLSR and ANN, PCA	Corn, soybean, linseed, or sunflower oils	(Lia et al., 2018)
FL	Tocopherols, phenolic compounds and pigments	LDA-PARAFAC and UPLS-DA	ROO, RPOO	(Merás et al., 2018)
EEM-FL	Tocopherols, tocotrienols, phenolic compounds and oxidation products	SVM and PLSR	EVOO vs VOO	(Omwange et al., 2021)

HPLC-FL	Tocopherols (α/β -tocopherol ratio)	Direct comparison	Sunflower, hazelnut and peanut oils	(Chen et al., 2011)
Voltametric analysis	Phenolic compounds and tocopherols	PCA, PLS-DA, SIMCA, PLSR	Sunflower, soybean, and corn oils	(Tsopelas et al., 2018)
e-tongue	Phenolic compounds and tocopherols	PLS-DA and PLSR	Sunflower, soybean and corn oils	(Apetrei & Apetrei, 2014)
HPLC-DAD	Phenolic compounds	PLSR	Different cultivars, sunflower oil and ROO	(Carranco et al., 2018)
GC-FID, HPLC-FL, HPLC-DAD-ESI/MS, UV	Volatile substances, polar phenolic substances, antioxidant activity, FA composition, and α -tocopherol	PCA	Low price vs high price EVOO	(Fiorini et al., 2018)
LC-DAD/ESI-MS/MS, GC-FID	Phenolic compounds and sterol profile	PCA and UHC	RPOO	(Dira et al., 2020)
HPLC-DAD	Squalene and tyrosol	Scatter diagram of standard scores (z)	Sunflower and grapeseed oils	(Hayakawa et al., 2020)
SIFT-MS	Volatile compounds	SIMCA, PLSR	Corn, sunflower, high oleic sunflower, and olive oils	(Ozcan-Sinir, 2020)
GC-MS, GC-FID, GC-OMS, ADEA	Volatile compounds and FA	PCA	RPOO	(Dira et al., 2021)
HS-SPME-GC-MS	Volatile compounds	PCA and SIMCA	Sunflower oil	(Van Durme & Vandamme, 2016)
vis-NIR	Volatile compounds and pigments	Artificial intelligence model	Corn, sunflower, rice, peanut, hazelnut, virgin wheat germ and virgin cornstarch oils	(Violino et al., 2021)
GC-IMS, FGC E-nose	Volatile compounds	SIMCA	ROO	(Damiani et al., 2020)
UV-vis	Pigments, phenolic compounds and tocopherols	PLS-JK, SW-MLR, GA-MLR	Soybean oil	(Milanez et al., 2017)
SBS-vis	Pigments	Linear and surface regressions	Rapeseed, soybean, peanut, and sunflower oils	(Shi et al., 2019)
FL spectroscopy	Pigments and oxidation compounds	PCA, PLSR	Sunflower oil	(Ali et al., 2018)
Frontface-FL and vis	Pigments, phenolic compounds and tocopherols	PLSR	Corn, soybean and sunflower oils	(Tan et al., 2018)
vis	Pigments, phenolic compounds and tocopherols	ANN, MLP	ROO	(Aroca-Santos et al., 2016)
vis	Pigments, phenolic compounds and tocopherols	ANN	ROO, PO, sunflower and corn oils	(Aroca-Santos et al., 2015)
vis	Chlorophylls and carotenoids	CR, PCA and LDA	OO, PO	(Ferreiro-González et

MidIR, UV-vis, FL	Pigments, phenolic compounds, tocopherols, FA and oxidation products	OPLS-DA and PLSR	Aged EVOOs	(Uncu & Ozen, 2019)
GC-FID	Campesterol and stigmaterol	Direct comparison	Corn, soybean, sunflower, and cotton oils	(Al-Ismael et al., 2010)
SPE-GC-FID	Uvaol, sterol and erythrodiol	Direct comparison	Pomace olive oil	(Mathison & Holstege, 2013)
HPLC-DRI, GC-FID	FA and sterol profile	LDA	Soybean, sunflower and corn oils	(Jabeur et al., 2014)
TLC-GC-FID	Desmethylsterols	Direct comparison	Sunflower and soybean oils	(Youseff et al., 2014)
GC-FID	Desmethylsterols and triterpene dialcohols	Direct comparison	Canola, corn, peanut, safflower, soybean, and sunflower oils	(Srigley et al., 2016)
¹ H NMR	Acyl groups, squalene, sterols, triterpene acids/esters, fatty alcohols, wax esters and phenols (lignans, tyrosol, hydroxytyrosol, oleocanthal, oleacein, oleokoronal, oleomissional, ligstrodials and oleuropeindials)	Direct comparison	Different cultivars	(Ruiz-Aracama et al., 2017)
HPLC-DRI, GC-FID	FA and sterol profiles and Δ ECN42	PCA	Cotton and sunflower oils	(Kesen, 2019)
GC-FID	Sterol profile	PCA, UHC	Different cultivars and EVOO from oleasters	(Manai-Djebali et al., 2021)
SPE-GC-FID	Free and esterified sterols and free and esterified triterpenic alcohols	Linear regression	Sunflower oil	(Valli et al., 2021)

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1443 GC-FID: gas chromatography flame ionization detector; FA: fatty acid; PCA: principal component analysis; GC-MS:
1444 gas chromatography mass spectrometry; CARS-PLS-LDA: competitive adaptive reweighted sampling partial least
1445 square linear discriminant analysis; MCTree: Monte Carlo tree; SPE: solid phase extraction; DAG: diacylglycerides;
1446 FFA: free fatty acids; MALDI-TOF-MS: matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry; UHC:
1447 unsupervised hierarchical cluster; FIA-HESI-HRMS: flow injection analysis-heated electrospray ionization high
1448 resolution mass spectrometry; TAG: triacylglycerides; PLS-DA: partial least square discriminant analysis; FIA-MRMS:
1449 flow injection analysis magnetic resonance mass spectrometry; OPLS-DA: orthogonal projection to latent structures
1450 discriminant analysis; FT-NIR: Fourier transform near infrared spectroscopy; PLS: partial least square; SIMCA: soft
1451 independent modeling of class analogy; 1,2-DAG: diacylglycerides in position 1 and 2; 1,3-DAG: diacylglycerides in
1452 position 1 and 3; PDO: protected designation of origin; iPLS: interval partial least square; SiPLS: synergy interval
1453 partial least square; FL: fluorescence spectroscopy; PLSR: partial least squares regression; ANN: artificial neural
1454 network; ROO: refined olive oil; RPOO: refined pomace olive oil; LDA-PARAFAC: linear discriminant analysis parallel
1455 factor analysis; UPLS-DA: unfolded partial least squares discriminant analysis; EEM-FL: excitation emission matrix
1456 fluorescence spectroscopy; EVOO: extra virgin olive oil; VOO: virgin olive oil; SVM: support-vector machine model;
1457 HPLC-FL: high-performance liquid chromatography-fluorescence spectroscopy; e-tongue: electronic tongue; HPLC-
1458 DAD: high-performance liquid chromatography diode array detector; HPLC-DAD-ESI/MS: high-performance liquid
1459 chromatography diode array detector electrospray ionization mass spectrometry; UV: Ultraviolet spectroscopy; LC
1460 DAD/ESI-MS/MS: liquid chromatography diode array detector electrospray ionization mass spectrometry in

1461 tandem; SIFT-MS: selected ion flow tube mass spectrometry; GC-O-MS: gas chromatography olfactometry mass
1462 spectrometry; ADEA: aroma dilution extraction assay; HS-SPME-GC-MS: headspace solid phase microextraction gas
1463 chromatography mass spectrometry; vis: visible spectroscopy; GC-IMS: gas chromatography ionic mobility
1464 spectrometry; FGC E-nose: flash gas chromatography electronic nose; PLS-JK: partial least squares Jack-Knife; SW-
1465 MLR stepwise multiple linear regression; GA-MLR: genetic algorithm multiple linear regression; SBS- vis: stimulated
1466 Brillouin scattering visible spectroscopy; MLP: multilayer perception model; PO: pomace olive oil; CR: multivariate
1467 curve resolution method; LDA: linear discriminant analysis; MidIR: Mid infra-red spectroscopy; HPLC-DRI: high-
1468 performance liquid chromatography differential refractometer detector; TLC-GC-FID: thin layer chromatography gas
1469 chromatography flame ionization detector; ¹H NMR: proton nuclear magnetic resonance.

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1473 **Table 2** Identification of EVOO adulteration by assessing VOCs.

Samples	Analysis	Findings	Ref
EVOO and adulterated EVOO (1, 2.5, 5, 10, and 20% of corn oil, sunflower oil, high oleic sunflower oil, and olive oil)	- SIFT-MS, SIMCA algorithm, PLSR model. - The excellence of the final model was calculated based on the number of latent variables, loading vectors, SECV, the coefficient of determination (R-value), SEP, and outlier diagnostics.	1-Octanol, 1-penten-3-one, 2-phenylethanol, dodecane, anisole, ethyl nonanoate, isobutanoic acid, ocimene, phenol, and toluene were the compounds that most successfully classified adulteration.	(Ozcan-Sinir, 2020)
EVOO adulterated with RPOO (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 and 20%)	- GC-MS, GC-FID, GC-O-MS and AEDA	Thirty-four relevant aroma compounds and twenty-one key odorants were quantified in EVOO, RPOO, and EVOO adulterated with 1–20% of RPOO.	(Drira et al., 2021)
EVOO and EVOO adulterated with sunflower oil (1%)	- NTP, PCA and SIMCA	NTP treatments of 60 min (Ar/O ₂ 0.1%) resulted in the formation of a unique set of secondary volatile lipid oxidation products enabling classification of adulterated oil samples.	(Van Durme & Vandamme, 2016)
EVOO and EVOO adulterated with RPOO	- FT-NIR, PLS1 and FT-NIR	FT-NIR cannot distinguish between naturally occurring volatile carbonyl-type compounds in edible oils and those derived from subsequent oxidation.	(Azizian et al., 2015)
EVOO, olive oil, pure seed oils and olive oil samples adulterated with 7 different seed oils in different ratios	- vis-NIR and artificial intelligence model	Analyzing the data produced by the instruments using artificial intelligence methods accurately distinguished between EVOO adulterated with sophisticated techniques and pure EVOO	(Violino et al., 2021)
EVOO blended with soft-refined olive oils	- GC-IMS, FGC E-nose and SIMCA	Volatile fraction analysis might be the right strategy to overcome the lack of clear and specific process-related markers formed in soft-refinement processes.	(Damiani et al., 2020)

1474 FGC E-nose: flash gas chromatography electronic nose; FT-NIR: Fourier transform near infrared; GC-IMS: gas-chromatography ion mobility spectrometry; NTP: non-thermal plasma; PCA:
 1475 principal component analysis; PLS1: partial least squares; GC-O-MS: gas chromatography–olfactometry-mass spectrometry; PLSR: partial least squares regression; SECV: standard error of
 1476 cross-validation; RPOO: refined pomace olive oil; SEP: standard error of prediction; SIFT-MS: selected ion flow tube mass spectrometry; SIMCA: soft independent modeling of class analogy;
 1477 VOCs: volatile organic compounds.

1478 **Table 3.** General regimen for food and other agricultural products based on Regulation
 1479 510/2006

General regimen	Origin	Characteristics	Restriction
Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)	Region, specific place, or country	Quality essentially or exclusively due to a particular geographical area.	Produced, processed, and prepared in a given geographical area.
Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)	Region, specific place, or country	Slightly less strict; food reputation of a product from a given region is sufficient.	One of the stages of production, processing or preparation takes place in the area.

1480 Data take from (COMMUNITY, 2006)

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Table 4. Relevant compositional markers for establishing the botanical traceability of olive oils.

Compositional marker	Relevant chemical marker analysed	Olive/VOO variety example	Ref
FA	C18:0, C18:1	Cornicabra	(Aranda et al., 2004)
	C16:0, C17:1	Arbequina	
	C17:1 and C18:0	Hojiblanca	
	C16:0, C18:0, C18:1	Picual	
TAG	OOO and SLO + POO	Manzanilla Cacereña	(Diaz et al., 2005)
	SOO, LOO and PLO	Non manzanilla Cacereña	
Sterols	Stigmasterol	Cobrançosa	(Alves et al., 2005)
	β -sitoesterol/ Δ^5 -avenasterol	Madural	
	Campesterol	Verdeal	
Phenolic compounds	p-HPEA-EDA and ligstroside aglycon	Cornicabra	(Gómez-Alonso et al., 2002)
	1-Acetoxy-pinoreinol + trans-cinnamic acid and 3,4-DHPEA-AC	Arbequina	
	3,4-DHPEA-AC	Hojiblanca	
	ligstroside aglycon	Picual	
Volatile compounds	(E)-Hex-2-enal	Bidh Hman, Rekhmi, Jarboui 1, Regregui	(Haddada et al., 2007)
	Ethanol, 2-Methylpentane, (E)-Hex-2-enol and Hexanol	Jarboui 2	
	(Z)-pent-2-enol and two isomers of 3,4-diethylhexa-1,5-diene	Ain Jarboua, Chétoui 1 and 2, Neb Jmel	
Pigments	Lutein/ β -carotene ratio=0.27	Cerasuola	(Giuffrida et al., 2007)
	Lutein/ β -carotene ratio=0.4	Nocellara	
	Lutein/ β -carotene ratio=0.17	Biancolilla	
Hydrocarbons	C29:0 to C34:0	Cacereña	(Bueno et al., 2005)
	C13:1	Carrasqueña	
	C24:0 to C29:0, C13:1	Corniche	
	C13:1	Picual	

1485 FA: Fatty Acid; TAG: Triacylglycerol; L, O, P, and S: linoleoyl, oleoyl, palmitoyl, and stearoyl fat acid radicals,
1486 respectively; VOO: virgin olive oil; 3,4-DHPEA-AC: hydroxytyrosol acetate.
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1489 **Figures**

1490 **Figure 1:**

	EVOO	Sunflower oil	Rapeseed oil	Peanut oil	Palm oil	Hazelnut oil
Oleic acid 	 66.4 - 80.3	 25.8 - 34.0	 59.6 - 63.7	 41.1 - 71.1	 36 - 49.8	 78 - 82
Linoleic acid 	4.4 - 16.4	51.0 - 62.5	16.8 - 21.7	18.2 - 40.0	6.7 - 9.3	10.5 - 12.7
Palmitic acid 	5.0 - 16.5	5.6 - 11.0	4.0 - 5.5	7.5 - 11.6	34.2 - 45	4.6 - 7

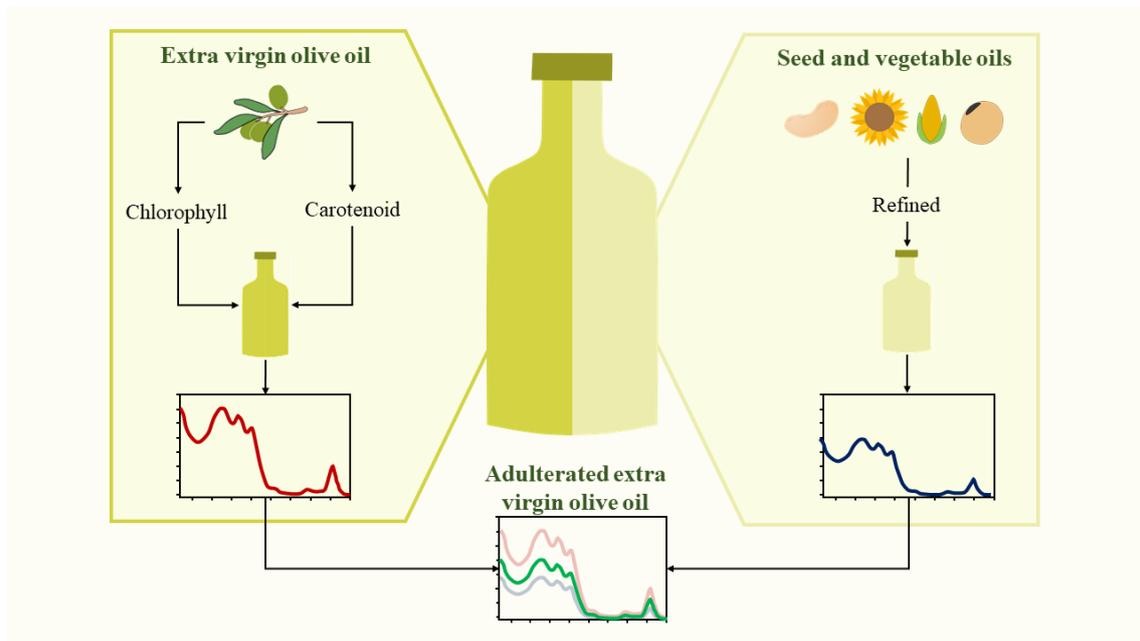
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1492 **Figure 1.** Main FA components of vegetable oils, ranges in % obtained from: (Alves et al., 2019; Chen et
1493 al., 2020; Feizabadi et al., 2021; Holey et al., 2021; Konuskan et al., 2019; Król, Gantner, & Piotrowska,
1494 2021; Rotondi, Morrone, Bertazza, & Neri, 2021b; Vávra, Hájek, & Kocián, 2021b; Wang et al., 2019;
1495 Yahay et al., 2021)

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1498 **Figure 2:**



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1500 **Figure 2.** Comparison of pigment profiles in EVOO and seed and vegetable oils, in red pure EVOO, in
1501 green EVOO adulterated with refined oils, in blue or grey refined seed and vegetable oils.

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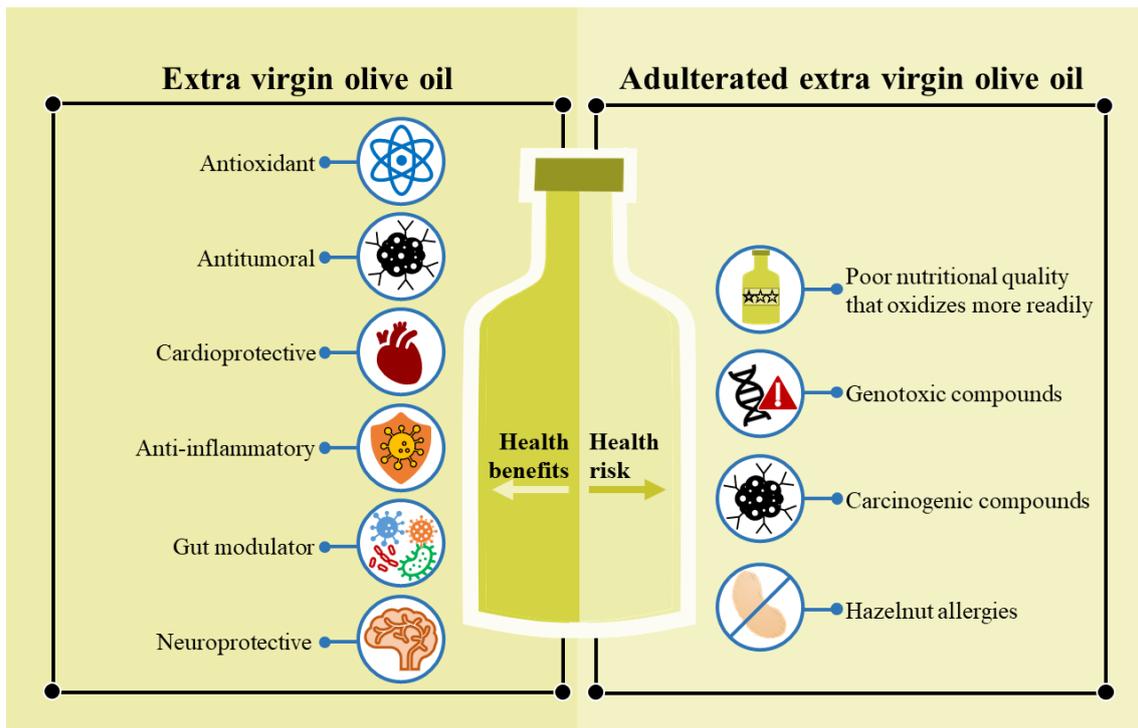
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1515 **Figure 3:**



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Figure 3. General description of health benefits of extra virgin olive oil and health risk derived from the consumption of adulterated extra virgin olive oil.