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Stepwise strategy based on <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting in combination with chemometrics to determine the content of vegetable oils in olive oil mixtures

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# Food Chemistry

## Stepwise strategy based on <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting in combination with chemometrics to determine the content of vegetable oils in olive oil mixtures --Manuscript Draft--

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<b>Abstract:</b>	<p><sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting of edible oils and a set of multivariate classification and regression models organised in a decision tree is proposed as a stepwise strategy to assure the authenticity and traceability of olive oils and their declared blends with other vegetable oils (VOs). Oils of the 'virgin olive oil' and 'olive oil' categories and their mixtures with the most common VOs, i.e. sunflower, high oleic sunflower, hazelnut, avocado, soybean, corn, refined palm olein and desterolized high oleic sunflower oils, were studied. Partial least squares (PLS) discriminant analysis provided stable and robust binary classification models to identify the olive oil type and the VO in the blend. PLS regression afforded models with excellent precisions and acceptable accuracies to determine the percentage of VO in the mixture. The satisfactory performance of this approach, tested with blind samples, confirm its potential to support regulations and control bodies.</p>

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## **Highlights**

- NMR fingerprinting & chemometrics to authenticate pure & legal blends of olive oil
- $^1\text{H}$ -NMR & pattern recognition to detect adulteration olive oil with vegetable oils
- Stepwise strategy based on NMR spectral data and classification & regression models
- Olive oil traceability using decision trees with classification & regression models
- Determination of the botanical nature and the percentage of each oil in a mixture

1 **Stepwise strategy based on <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting in combination with**  
2 **chemometrics to determine the content of vegetable oils in olive oil mixtures**

3  
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34

35 **Abstract**

36 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting of edible oils and a set of multivariate classification and regression models  
37 organised in a decision tree is proposed as a stepwise strategy to assure the authenticity and  
38 traceability of olive oils and their declared blends with other vegetable oils (VOs). Oils of the  
39 ‘virgin olive oil’ and ‘olive oil’ categories and their mixtures with the most common VOs, i.e.  
40 sunflower, high oleic sunflower, hazelnut, avocado, soybean, corn, refined palm olein and  
41 desterolized high oleic sunflower oils, were studied. Partial least squares (PLS) discriminant  
42 analysis provided stable and robust binary classification models to identify the olive oil type and the  
43 VO in the blend. PLS regression afforded models with excellent precisions and acceptable  
44 accuracies to determine the percentage of VO in the mixture. The satisfactory performance of this  
45 approach, tested with blind samples, confirm its potential to support regulations and control bodies.

46

47 Keywords: olive oil, nuclear magnetic resonance, multivariate data analysis, decision tree,  
48 adulteration, authentication

49

## 50 **1. Introduction**

51 The high price of olive oil, the distinctive sensory profile, and its reputation as a healthy source of  
52 dietary fats make olive oil a target for fraud. The most common types of olive oil fraud are illegal  
53 blending with other vegetable oils (VOs) or low-quality olive oils, deliberate mislabelling of less  
54 expensive classes of olive oils, other vegetable oils or their blends with olive oils, and mislabelling  
55 of the geographical origin or Protected Designation of Origin declaration. Indeed, the European  
56 Parliament pointed out that olive oil adulteration has become one of the biggest financial fraud in  
57 the agricultural sector, and evidenced the need to update and harmonize analytical methods for  
58 quality and authenticity control of olive oil (EC, 2020; European Parliament, 2014). In this context,  
59 the so-called OLEUM Project was supported by the European Commission with the overall  
60 objective of improving existing analytical methods and developing new strategies of analysis for  
61 assuring the quality and authenticity of olive oil (OLEUM Project, 2016).

62 The EU Regulation 29/2012 standardises the labelling of all olive oil categories and their mixtures  
63 with other VOs, allowing to highlight the presence of olive oil on the label outside the ingredient  
64 list, only if it accounts for at least 50% of the blend (EC, 2012). However, this regulation and its  
65 amendments do not refer to any analytical parameter or method to control the percentage of olive  
66 oil in the admixture or the botanical origin of oil. The need of analytical methods to confirm the  
67 presence of olive oil in the blend, to distinguish pure and adulterated olive oils, to identify the  
68 adulterant oils in the mixture, as well as to determine the percentage of olive oil and the adulterants  
69 in the blend, is evidenced and is an issue of major concern in order to implement the established  
70 regulations (Conte, Bendini, Valli, Lucci, Moret, Maquet, et al., 2020). In literature, few works deal  
71 with the verification of the percentage of olive oil in fraudulent blends with VOs with regard to the  
72 labelling compliance of Reg. (EU) 29/2012 (De la Mata, Dominguez-Vidal, Bosque-Sendra, Ruiz-  
73 Medina, Cuadros-Rodríguez, & Ayora-Cañada, 2012; Gómez-Coca, Pérez-Camino, Martínez-  
74 Rivas, Bendini, Gallina Toschi, & Moreda, 2020; Monfreda, Gobbi, & Grippa, 2012; Santos, Kock,  
75 Santos, Lobo, Carvalho, & Colnago, 2017).

76 The chemical methods traditionally used in food analysis are laborious, time-consuming, non-eco-  
77 friendly and require sample preparation and skilled operators. In contrast, metabolomic approaches  
78 based on advanced instrumental techniques, such as MS and NMR, coupled to chemometrics  
79 overcome some of these operational drawbacks and provide useful tools for food quality control and  
80 traceability (Lioupi, Nenadis, & Theodoridis, 2020). Most of the NMR approaches developed for  
81 olive oil authentication, detection of olive oil adulteration and to determine the composition of olive  
82 oil blends with VOs, were based on measuring NMR signals that give quantitative information of  
83 certain compounds or are used to calculate some parameters and ratios (i.e. profiling)  
84 (Agiomyrgianaki, Petrakis, & Dais, 2010; García-González, Mannina, D'Imperio, Segre, &  
85 Aparicio, 2004; Jiang, Li, Chen, & Weng, 2018; Mannina, D'Imperio, Capitani, Rezzi, Guillou,  
86 Mavromoustakos, et al., 2009; Popescu, Costinel, Dinca, Marinescu, Stefanescu, & Ionete, 2015;  
87 Vigli, Philippidis, Spyros, & Dais, 2003; Zamora, Alba, & Hidalgo, 2001). Instead, NMR  
88 fingerprinting was only reported in few studies using low-field NMR spectroscopy (Parker, Limer,  
89 Watson, Defernez, Williamson, & Kemsley, 2014; Santos et al., 2017; Wang, Wang, Hou, & Nie,  
90 2020). To the authors' knowledge, high-field NMR fingerprinting has been used to study mixtures  
91 of olive oil with other VOs for the first time in the present work. This study aimed to develop an  
92 analytical strategy based on <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting together with multivariate classification and  
93 regression models organised in a decision tree to determine the composition of an oil blend from  
94 both points of view, the botanical nature of the oils and the percentage of each oil in the blend. The  
95 performance of the complete stepwise analytical strategy is evaluated by the prediction results  
96 obtained for an external set of blind oil samples and commercial oils. It is worth noting that this  
97 analytical approach addresses some issues not considered in previous studies: (i) the discrimination  
98 between oil samples containing oil of the 'virgin olive oil' category (VOO) and the 'olive oil'  
99 category (OO); (ii) the distinction of pure and blended oils; and (iii) the study of a large sample set  
100 with pure oils and blends of the most common VOs used for olive oil adulteration, and a wide range



101 of % VO in the blend (including the percentages for the labelling verification in compliance with  
102 Reg. (EU) 29/2012).

## 103 **2. Material and methods**

### 104 **2.1. Samples**

105 Genuine samples of virgin (VOO) and extra virgin olive (EVOO) oils (n=176), olive oils (OO,  
106 n=3), refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil, NTSO, n=17), refined high  
107 oleic sunflower oil (HOSO, n=16), desterolized and deodorized high oleic sunflower oil (DOSO,  
108 n=1), refined hazelnut oil (HR, n=11), virgin hazelnut oil (HV, n=6), refined soybean oil (S, n=10),  
109 virgin avocado oil (EVAO, n=1), refined avocado oil (RAO, n=1), refined palm olein oil (RPOO,  
110 n=1) and refined corn oil (CO, n=1) were used to prepare binary mixtures at different percentages  
111 (2–90%) of VOs in VOOs or OOs (1007 blends). Samples were obtained in the framework of the  
112 AUTENFOOD and OLEUM projects. Oils from the sample banks of both projects were produced  
113 during two consecutive harvest years (2016/17 and 2017/18). Besides, eight commercial oil samples  
114 collected in the Swedish market were analysed. According to their labels, the commercial oils were  
115 described as mixtures of VOO and other VO such as rapeseed oil, sunflower oil, or non-identified  
116 vegetable oil.

117 Blends were prepared and preserved under controlled temperature conditions. All pure and blended  
118 oil samples were bottled with nitrogen headspace or minimal air headspace, kept at -20 °C and  
119 protected from light. Before analysis, oil samples were taken from the cold storage, left to  
120 equilibrate at room temperature at least for 12 h, and shaken vigorously before sampling the oil  
121 aliquot for analysis.

### 122 **2.2. Chemicals**

123 Deuterated chloroform for NMR analysis (99.8 atom % D) was provided by Sigma-Aldrich Chemie  
124 (Steinheim, Germany).

### 125 **2.3. NMR analysis**

126 Aliquots of 150  $\mu\text{L}$  of each oil sample were dissolved in 750  $\mu\text{L}$  of deuterated chloroform, shaken  
127 in a vortex, and placed in a 5 mm NMR capillary. The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR experiments were performed at  
128 300K on a Bruker (Rheinstetten, Germany) Avance 500 (nominal frequency 500.13 MHz) equipped  
129 with a 5 mm broadband inverse probe with Z-gradients. The spectra were recorded using a 6.1  $\mu\text{s}$   
130 pulse ( $90^\circ$ ), an acquisition time of 3.5 s (50k data points) and a total recycling time of 7.0 s, a  
131 spectral width of 7100 Hz (14 ppm), 32 scans (+ 4 dummy scans), with no sample rotation. Prior to  
132 Fourier transformation, the free induction decays (FIDs) were zero-filled to 64k and a 0.3 Hz line-  
133 broadening factor was applied. The chemical shifts were expressed in  $\delta$  scale (ppm), referenced to  
134 the residual signal of chloroform (7.26 ppm). The spectra were phase- and baseline-corrected  
135 manually, binned with 0.02 ppm-wide buckets, and normalized to total intensity over the region  
136 4.10–4.26 ppm (glycerol signal). The region of the NMR spectra studied comprised from 0 ppm to  
137 11 ppm. TopSpin 2.1 (2013) and Amix-Viewer 3.7.7 (2006) from Bruker BioSpin GMBH  
138 (Rheinstetten, Germany) were used to perform the processing of the spectra. The data table  
139 generated with the spectra of all samples, excluding the eight buckets in the reference region  
140 4.10–4.26 ppm, was then submitted to multivariate data analysis.

### 141 **2.4. Data analysis**

142 Datasets were made up of the 542 buckets of the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra (variables in columns) measured  
143 on the oil samples (samples in rows). A total number of 1239 pure and blended oil samples were  
144 analysed by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR. Depending on the aim of the multivariate model to be developed, the dataset  
145 contained the NMR spectral data of the corresponding studied samples. Datasets were analysed by  
146 univariate procedures (ANOVA, Fisher index and Box & Whisker plots); and by multivariate  
147 techniques, unsupervised such as principal component analysis (PCA), and supervised as partial  
148 least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) and partial least squares regression (PLS-R)  
149 (Berrueta, Alonso-Salces, & Héberger, 2007). Data analysis was performed by means of the

150 statistical software package Statistica 7.0 (StatSoft Inc., Tulsa, OK, USA, 1984–2004) and The  
151 Unscrambler v9.7 (Camo Software AS, 1986–2007).

152 PCA, PLS-DA and PLS-R were applied to the autoscaled or centered data matrix of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR  
153 spectra of the oil samples. The presence of outliers in the dataset was analysed by PCA. In PLS-DA  
154 and PLS-R, the optimal number of PLS-components is estimated by cross-validation by plotting the  
155 root mean square error in the prediction (RMSEP) against the number of PLS-components. The  
156 model with the smallest number of features should be accepted from among equivalent models on  
157 the training set in order to avoid overfitting (according to the principle of parsimony). In PLS-DA,  
158 once the number of PLS-components is optimised, the predictions in the training-test set are  
159 represented in a box and whisker plot in order to define the half of the distance between the  
160 quartiles as the boundary. The regression coefficients (B) of the optimal number of PLS-  
161 components denote the importance of the NMR variables on the model: the larger the B-coefficient,  
162 the higher the influence of the variable on the PLS-DA or PLS-R model. A large B-coefficient may  
163 also indicate a variable with small absolute values but large relative differences (Esbensen, Guyot,  
164 Westad, & Houmøller, 2002). PLS-DA and PLS-R models were validated by 3-fold or leave-one  
165 out cross-validation for parameter optimization, and by external validation when an external set of  
166 samples was available. Binary classification models can lead to artefacts if they are not used and  
167 validated properly (Kjeldahl & Bro, 2010). The reliability of the classification models developed  
168 was studied in terms of recognition and prediction abilities in the cross-validation, and prediction  
169 ability in the external validation (Berrueta et al., 2007). The goodness of the regression model fit  
170 was evaluated by means of the prediction error, the correlation coefficient between predicted and  
171 measured values in calibration and validation (R-cal, R-val), the determination coefficient in  
172 calibration and validation (R<sup>2</sup>-cal, R<sup>2</sup>-val), and the evaluation of the residuals. The RMSEP is the  
173 practical average prediction error estimated by the validation set (empirical error estimate expressed  
174 in the original measurement units). The result is expressed as the predicted Y-value ± 2 RMSEP.

175 The R-RMSEP is the relative prediction error in % (comparable to the analytical accuracy)  
176 (Esbensen et al., 2002).

### 177 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 178 **3.1. Mixtures of olive oil with vegetable oils**

179 Oils of the VOO and OO categories and their mixtures with the most common VOs used for the  
180 adulteration of olive oil or making 'legal' blends, i.e. NTSO, HOSO, DOSO, HR, HV, S, EVAO,  
181 RAO, RPOO and CO, were studied. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the oil samples, both pure and blended  
182 (binary mixtures of VO with VOO or OO) oils, were recorded. The chemical shifts of the <sup>1</sup>H-signals  
183 and their assignments to protons of the different functional groups are shown in Table S1  
184 (supplementary material). The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR profiles of the oil samples presented characteristic patterns  
185 of triglycerides, diglycerides and some minor constituents of the unsaponifiable fraction, which are  
186 useful for the determination of the botanical origin of oils and the composition of blended oils  
187 (Agiomyrgianaki et al., 2010; Alonso-Salces, Segebarth, Garmón-Lobato, Holland, Moreno-Rojas,  
188 Fernández-Pierna, et al., 2015; García-González et al., 2004; Guillén & Ruiz, 2003; Mannina et al.,  
189 2009; Parker et al., 2014; Popescu et al., 2015; Vigli et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2020).

190 The proposed approach to detect blends of olive oils (VOOs or OOs) with other VO and quantify  
191 the % VO in the blend is based on the use of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprint of the oil and a set of  
192 multivariate classification and regression models organized in a decision tree (Figures 1 and S1 in  
193 supplementary material). The PLS-DA and PLS-R models achieved and their chemical  
194 interpretation are described in the next sections. The most influential variables on the models were  
195 not completely discriminant unless otherwise specified.

#### 196 **3.2. PLS-DA model to confirm the presence of VOO or OO**

197 The first stage of the decision tree (Figure 1) consists in identifying whether the oil sample contains  
198 VOO or OO using PLS-DA model-1 with recognition and prediction abilities of 97% and 98% for

199 the VOO and OO classes respectively (Table 1). The most influential NMR variables on the model  
200 were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic acid (#7b, #9b), linolenic acid (#10c, #13d) and saturated fatty acids  
201 (#9a), exhibiting higher intensities in VOO and their blends than in samples containing OO. In  
202 contrast, the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linoleic acid (#12b) and *sn*-1,3-diacylglycerides (#17) presented lower  
203 intensities in the VOO class. These observations are consistent with previous studies reporting the  
204 differences in the composition of oleic, linolenic and saturated fatty acids and *sn*-1,3-  
205 diacylglycerides between VOOs and OOs (Guillén et al., 2003; Jiang et al., 2018).

206 Once the oil sample is classified as containing VOO or OO, further predictions are made using the  
207 binary classification models built separately for each type of olive oil to elucidate whether the olive  
208 oil sample is mixed with a VO, in which proportion (low or high) and with which particular VO  
209 (Figure 1).

### 210 **3.3. PLS-DA models to discriminate blends of VOO with VO**

211 For blends containing VOO, PLS-DA model-2 classifies the oil sample according to the proportion  
212 of VO in the mixture, i.e. low (0–20% VO in VOO) and high (25–90% VO in VOO), with correct  
213 prediction abilities of 98% and 97% respectively (Table 1). The most important variables on this  
214 model were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic acid (#9b) and squalene (#11), whose signal intensities were  
215 higher in the low class. Indeed, VOO is known to be one of the vegetable oils that presents the  
216 highest contents of oleic acid and squalene (Jiang et al., 2018; Popescu et al., 2015; Vigli et al.,  
217 2003).

218 Pure VOOs are distinguished from blends with 2–20% VO in VOO, being identified even 92% of  
219 the pure VOOs and 90% of the VO-VOO blends (PLS-DA models 3 and 4 in Table 1). The main  
220 <sup>1</sup>H-signals involved in the distinction of both classes were due to saturated fatty acids (#7a, #9a),  
221 which exhibited lower intensities in the VO-VOO class. In fact, saturated fatty acids are the second  
222 major class of fatty acids in VOO, being present in higher or similar concentrations than in the VOs  
223 studied, i.e. NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR and S (Contiñas, Martínez, Carballo, & Franco, 2008;

224 Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur, Zribi, Makni, Rebai, Abdelhedi, & Bouaziz, 2014; Jiang et al., 2018;  
225 Jović, Smolić, Primožič, & Hrenar, 2016; Monfreda et al., 2012; Ranade & Thiagarajan, 2015;  
226 Yang, Ferro, Cavaco, & Liang, 2013). Concerning the discrimination of blends of 2% VO in VOO  
227 for a certain VO, a satisfactory classification model was only achieved for soybean oil; thus, all  
228 blends with 2% S in VOO were detected, and 97% of the blends with 2% of other VO in VOO were  
229 correctly predicted (PLS-DA model-5 in Table 1).

230 The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprint of an oil sample classified in the low class (0–20% VO in VOO) is then  
231 submitted to classification models developed for each VO (PLS-DA models 6–24) to identify which  
232 particular VO is contained in the oil sample (Tables 2 and S2–S3 in supplementary material). The  
233 classification abilities of the PLS-DA models were better when the dataset contained only the data  
234 of blended oils with 5–20% VO in VOO than when data of pure VOO and/or 2% VO in VOO was  
235 also included. The prediction abilities ranged between 83% and 98% of hits depending on the VO  
236 blended with VOO. Similarly, when an oil sample is classified in the high class (25–90% VO in  
237 VOO), its <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprint is submitted to PLS-DA models developed for mixtures of 20–90%  
238 VO in VOO (PLS-DA models 25–28 in Table 3) to identify the VO contained in the blend. In the  
239 present study, only binary mixtures of NTSO, HOSO, EVAO or HV with VOO were available in  
240 the range of 20–90% VO. The recognition and prediction abilities of the classification models built  
241 to determine whether the VOO blend contained NTSO, HV or EVAO were 99–100% for both  
242 classes, and 100% for the non-HOSO class and 92% for the HOSO class.

243 Regarding the most influential variables on the models, the <sup>1</sup>H-signal of oleic acid (#9b) was  
244 completely discriminant between VOO mixtures with high % NTSO and those with other VOs. The  
245 blends of 20–90% NTSO in VOO contained significantly lower amounts of oleic acid than VOO  
246 blends with 20–90% HOSO, EVAO or HV. It is well-documented that virgin hazelnut oil, high  
247 oleic sunflower oil and virgin avocado oil present significantly higher contents of oleic acid than  
248 sunflower oil (Contiñas et al., 2008; Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016;

249 Ranade et al., 2015; Vigli et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2013). Other important variables to discriminate  
250 the presence of NTSO in VOO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals due to linoleic acid (#13c, #12b, #7c) and  
251 unsaturated fatty acids (#24), which presented higher intensities in NTSO-VOO mixtures than in  
252 most of the other VO-VOO blends (Contiñas et al., 2008; Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016;  
253 Ranade et al., 2015; Vigli et al., 2003). Concerning the most important <sup>1</sup>H-signals on HOSO  
254 models, the signal intensities of linolenic acid (#13d, #12c) and unsaturated fatty acids (#24 at  
255 5.30–5.32 ppm) were lower in the HOSO-VOO mixtures; whereas those of linoleic acid (#13c,  
256 #12b, #9c), unsaturated fatty acids (#24 at 5.32–5.34 ppm) and terpenic alcohols or sterols (#2)  
257 were higher in HOSO-VOO mixtures. These observations agreed with the fact that HOSO presents  
258 higher concentrations of linoleic acid than VOO, HV and EVAO and lower than NTSO; and HOSO  
259 contains lower amounts of linolenic acid than NTSO, VOO and EVAO, and similar to HV (Guillén  
260 et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Ranade et al., 2015). Moreover, the mixture of HOSO with VOO  
261 leads to an increase in the sterol content compared to pure olive oil (Al-Ismail, Alsaed, Ahmad, &  
262 Al-Dabbas, 2010). Evaluating the main variables on the EVAO models, it was observed that the <sup>1</sup>H  
263 NMR spectra of the mixtures of EVAO in VOO showed higher intensities for the signals of  
264 saturated fatty acids (#10a, #7a, #9a), oleic acid (#7b, #12a, #9b), linoleic acid (#12b, #13c, #10c),  
265 squalene (#11) and β-sitosterol (#4) than the spectra of the other VO-VOO blends. Meanwhile, the  
266 <sup>1</sup>H-signals of unsaturated fatty acids (#24, #9 at 1.32–1.36 ppm) and linolenic acid (#13d, #12c,  
267 #9c) presented lower intensities in the EVAO-VOO blends. Indeed, EVAO presents the highest  
268 contents of the saturated fatty acids, mainly palmitic acid, of all the VOs blended with VOO in this  
269 study; similar intermediate amounts of oleic and linoleic acids as HOSO; and low concentrations of  
270 linolenic acid as VOO, HV and HR (Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016;  
271 Ranade et al., 2015). To distinguish blends with high % HV in VOO, the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic acid  
272 (#7b, #9b, #12a), whose intensities were significantly higher in the HV class, were among the most  
273 important variables on the HV models. HV presents similar or slightly higher contents of oleic acid  
274 than VOO, and considerably higher amounts compared to the other VOs studied (Guillén et al.,

275 2003). The opposite trend was shown by the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linoleic (#7c) and linolenic (#12c) acids,  
276 which displayed lower intensity values in the HV class than in the non-HV class. Certainly, the  
277 concentrations of linoleic acid in HV are lower than in the other VOs and slightly higher than in  
278 VOO; and linolenic acid is present in similar amounts in HV and HOSO but lower amounts in HV  
279 than in NTSO, VOO and EVAO (Christopoulou, Lazaraki, Komaitis, & Kaselimis, 2004; Jović et  
280 al., 2016; Vigli et al., 2003). For the distinction of mixtures of low % HR in VOO from other VO-  
281 VOO mixtures, the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic (#12a) and linolenic (#12c, #7d) acids, saturated fatty acids  
282 (#7a) and terpenic alcohols or sterols (#2) exhibited lower intensities in the HR class (Guillén et al.,  
283 2003; Vigli et al., 2003). The most discriminant variables in the models to detect low % S in VOO  
284 were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linolenic acid (#15b, #7d, #12c) and unsaturated fatty acids (#24), which  
285 presented significantly higher intensities in S-VOO blends than in the other VO-VOO blends.  
286 Soybean oil is the oil with the highest contents of linolenic acid among the studied VOs (Contiñas  
287 et al., 2008; Christopoulou et al., 2004; Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Vigli et al., 2003).  
288 Furthermore, the lower signal intensities of oleic (#7b) and linoleic (#13c) acids in the S class also  
289 contributed to the discrimination of both classes, being consistent with the literature reporting that  
290 soybean oil presents significantly lower contents of oleic acid than VOO, and similar contents of  
291 linoleic acid as other VOs, such as sunflower oil (Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Vigli et al.,  
292 2003).

### 293 **3.4. PLS-DA models to discriminate blends of OO with VO**

294 Satisfactory binary classification models for all the studied VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO,  
295 DOSO, RAO and HR) were obtained using the data of the full % range of VO in the OO mixture,  
296 i.e. 0–80% VO in OO (PLS-DA models 30–36 in Table S4 (supplementary material). Prediction  
297 abilities were 95–100% for both classes in the models developed to discriminate between OO  
298 blends with and without RPOO, CO or HOSO; 84–87% for the OO mixtures with NTSO, DOSO or  
299 RAO, and 91–97% for the OO blends that did not contain the corresponding specific VO; and 97%



300 for the HR class and 89% for the non-HR class. These classification results were improved for each  
301 VO by further PLS-DA models developed separately for blends with low or high % VO in OO.  
302 Hence, the oil sample containing OO is first classified according to its level of VO, i.e. low (0–20%  
303 VO in OO) or high (30–80% VO in OO), by PLS-DA model-29 with prediction abilities of 96%  
304 and 94% respectively (Table 1). The most influential variables on this model were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of  
305 saturated fatty acids (#7a), β-sitosterol (#4), linoleic acid (#12b, #15a, #13c) and unsaturated fatty  
306 acids (#24, #7 at 1.00–1.02 ppm, #9 at 1.32–1.33 ppm), which exhibited lower intensities in the low  
307 class; and those of linolenic (#7d, #15b) and oleic (#12a) acids, which displayed higher intensities  
308 in the low class. The chemical composition of the blends that constituted each class justified these  
309 observations; thus, the low class contained the samples with the highest % of OO, which is the oil  
310 that contains the highest concentrations of oleic acid, together with HR; whereas the high class  
311 included the samples with high % of VO characterised by high linoleic and β-sitosterol contents  
312 (Al-Ismail et al., 2010; Aparicio & Harwood, 2013; Green & Wang, 2020; Guillén et al., 2003;  
313 Jović et al., 2016; Parcerisa, Casals, Boatella, Codony, & Rafecas, 2000; Vigli et al., 2003).

314 An oil sample containing low % VO in OO is then subjected to various classification models (PLS-  
315 DA models 37–50) to identify the specific VO contained in the OO blend (Tables 2 and S5 in  
316 supplementary material). The recognition and prediction abilities of these models were higher than  
317 95% of hits for detecting RPOO, CO and HOSO in OO; c.a. 90% for NTSO, DOSO and HR in OO;  
318 and c.a. 80–85% for RAO in OO. Taking into account that all CO-OO blends, 95% of the RPOO-  
319 OO blends, and at least 95% of the OO blends not containing CO or RPOO were identified with the  
320 corresponding models for low % VO in OO, further classification models were developed using  
321 datasets without the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral data of RPOO-OO and CO-OO mixtures. The PLS-DA  
322 models achieved (PLS-DA models 51–55) afforded better classification abilities to detect NTSO  
323 and RAO in OO, and similar results to resolve the presence of HOSO, DOSO or HR in OO (Table  
324 S6 in supplementary material).

325 For oil samples with high % VO in OO, the classification models developed for blends with  
326 20–80% VO in OO (PLS-DA models 56–62) presented recognition and prediction abilities of  
327 98–100% for both classes in RPOO, CO, DOSO and HR models;  $\geq 91\%$  for both classes in NTSO  
328 and RAO models; and 86% for the HOSO class and 99% for the non-HOSO class (Table 3). Since  
329 all blends were correctly classified by the RPOO and CO models, further PLS-DA models to detect  
330 20–80% VO in OO were built using a dataset without the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectral data of RPOO-OO and  
331 CO-OO blends (PLS-DA models 63–67 in Table S7 in supplementary material). These models  
332 provided the same or better classification abilities than the previous ones, except for HR-OO blends.  
333 Indeed, the NTSO and HOSO models allowed the correct classification of all samples of both  
334 classes; and the RAO model identified all samples containing RAO and 92% of the samples in the  
335 non-RAO class. The main  $^1\text{H}$ -signals responsible for the identification of OO blends containing  
336 RPOO were those of saturated fatty acids (#9a), which presented significantly higher intensities in  
337 the RPOO-OO blends; and those of linoleic acid (#9c, #12b), which showed lower intensities in the  
338 RPOO class. The  $^1\text{H}$ -signals #9a and #9c were completely discriminants between OO blends  
339 containing  $\geq 20\%$  RPOO and the other VO-OO blends with high % VO. As a result, the  
340 measurement of just one of these two variables would be enough to confirm whether an OO is  
341 mixed with RPOO in percentages  $\geq 20\%$ . Palm oil is the oil that contains the highest amounts of  
342 saturated fatty acids among the VOs studied (Vigli et al., 2003). Palmitic acid is the major saturated  
343 fatty acid in palm oil and is contained in similar amounts as oleic acid. Meanwhile, linoleic acid is a  
344 minor compound in palm oil, present in similar concentrations as in OO, and in lower amounts than  
345 in the rest of VOs (Montoya, Cochard, Flori, Cros, Lopes, Cuellar, et al., 2014). The CO-OO blends  
346 were distinguished from the other VO-OO mixtures due to the  $^1\text{H}$ -signals of linoleic (#7c) and  
347 linolenic (#15b, #7d) acids, saturated fatty acids (#7a) and  $\beta$ -sitosterol (#4), which presented higher  
348 intensities in the blends containing CO; and to the signal of oleic acid (#9b) with lower intensities in  
349 the CO class. Actually, corn oil presents linoleic acid in amounts similar to sunflower oil and  
350 significantly higher than refined avocado, refined hazelnut, palm and olive oils; linolenic acid and

351  $\beta$ -sitosterol in slightly higher concentrations than the other oils studied; saturated fatty acids in  
352 lower contents than palm oil but similar or slightly higher than the rest of the oils considered in the  
353 model; and the lowest content of oleic acid, together with sunflower oil. (Aparicio et al., 2013;  
354 Guillén et al., 2003; Monfreda et al., 2012; Vigli et al., 2003). The major contributors to the  
355 discrimination of HOSO from other VOs in OO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic (#9b, #12a) and  
356 linoleic (#12b, #9c) acids and saturated (#9a) and unsaturated (#24, #9 at 1.30–1.34 ppm) fatty  
357 acids, which exhibited higher intensities in the OO blends with HOSO. Indeed, HOSO contains  
358 higher amounts of oleic acid than sunflower, corn and palm oils; similar to avocado oil; and lower  
359 than hazelnut and olive oils. Linoleic acid is present in larger concentrations in HOSO than in palm,  
360 olive, hazelnut and avocado oils, and smaller than in sunflower and corn oils. The content of  
361 saturated fatty acids (#9a) in HOSO is intermediate-high with respect to other VOs but far from  
362 those of RPOO, which exhibit the largest contents (Green et al., 2020; Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et  
363 al., 2016; Vigli et al., 2003). As in NTSO-VOO models, the most influential variables on the  
364 classification models achieved for the detection of NTSO in OO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linoleic acid  
365 (#7c, #15a, #12b) and unsaturated fatty acids (#24, #7 at 1.00–1.02 ppm, #9 at 1.32–1.36 ppm),  
366 displaying higher intensities in the OO blends with NTSO; and oleic acid (#12a, #7b, #9b), showing  
367 the opposite trend. For OO blends with 20–80% NTSO, once the presence of RPOO and CO in the  
368 OO blend was discarded by the PLS-DA models 56 and 57 respectively (Table 3), not only the  
369 signal of oleic acid (#9b) but also several other signals (#15a, #12b, #9 at 1.34–1.36 ppm, #24) were  
370 completely discriminant between both classes; therefore any of them can be used as markers to  
371 determine whether an OO blend contains NTSO at concentrations  $\geq 20\%$ . Sunflower oil is  
372 characterised by the largest contents of linoleic and unsaturated fatty acids, and the lowest contents  
373 of oleic acid with regard to the other VOs studied (Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et  
374 al., 2016; Monfreda et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2013). The DOSO models disclosed that the intensities  
375 of the <sup>1</sup>H-signals due to oleic acid (#12a, #9b) were significantly higher in DOSO-OO blends, in  
376 contrast with linoleic acid (#12b, #7c, #24) signals exhibiting higher intensities in the non-DOSO

377 class. During the desterolization process, it takes place the dehydration of sterols and the  
378 elimination of the acid group of sterol esters by bleaching, producing olefinic degradation products  
379 and di-steryl ethers; meanwhile the profiles of triacylglycerides and fatty acids are practically  
380 unaltered (Grob, Biedermann, Bronz, & Giuffré, 1994). Therefore, it would be expected that DOSO  
381 presents relatively high contents of oleic and linoleic acids as HOSO. However, the deodorization  
382 process may affect the composition of triglycerides, diglycerides, fatty acids and minor components  
383 of the unsaponifiable fraction, depending mainly on the temperature and time of the process  
384 (Aparicio et al., 2013), which could be responsible for the lower content of linoleic acid observed in  
385 DOSO blends in relation to the other VOs, including HOSO. The main <sup>1</sup>H-signals on the RAO  
386 models were linoleic (#7c, #12b, #13c, #10c) and oleic (#9b) acids and β-sitosterol (#4), exhibiting  
387 similar or higher intensities in RAO-OO blends; linolenic acid (#13d, #9c) and unsaturated fatty  
388 acids (#9 at 1.32–1.34 ppm, #24), displaying similar or lower intensities in the RAO class; and  
389 saturated fatty acids (#9 at 1.20–1.22 ppm) with intermediate intensities. In fact, refined avocado  
390 oil, compared to the other VOs studied, presents intermediate compositions of fatty acids (Guillén et  
391 al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016; Vigli et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2013) and sterol  
392 contents, in particular, β-sitosterol (Al-Ismail et al., 2010; Green et al., 2020; Parcerisa et al., 2000).  
393 The most contributing variables to the identification of HR in OO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic (#7b,  
394 #12a, #9b) and linoleic (#12b) acids, presenting higher intensities in the HR class; and the signals of  
395 linolenic acid (#7d, #15b, #12c, #13d), unsaturated (#24) and saturated (#10a, #7a) fatty acids and  
396 terpenic alcohols or sterols (#2), showing lower intensities in the HR-OO mixtures. The trend of  
397 oleic and linoleic signals observed in HR-OO is opposite to that in HR-VOO. Refined hazelnut oil  
398 contains the highest amounts of oleic acid among the VOs studied, comparable to those in OO but  
399 lower than VOO; the lowest linolenic contents, similar to those found in HOSO (Green et al., 2020;  
400 Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Parcerisa et al., 2000; Vigli et al., 2003); and characteristic  
401 profiles of sterols and terpenic alcohols (Al-Ismail et al., 2010; Aparicio et al., 2013; Parcerisa et  
402 al., 2000).

### 403 3.5. PLS-R models to determine the percentage of VO in a blend with VOO or OO

404 PLS regression models to determine the % VO contained in a binary mixture with VOO or OO  
405 (PLS-R models 1–27) were successfully built for all VOs studied (Table 4). The PLS-R models  
406 developed for different sub-ranges of % VO in VOO or OO provided more accurate predictions  
407 than those constructed for the full % VO range. The most influential variables on the regression  
408 models coincided with those on the classification ones. Therefore, the regression results were  
409 explained by the characteristic composition in fatty acids, triacylglycerides and squalene of the oils  
410 present in the blend. In VO-VOO models, diacylglycerides, terpenic alcohols and sterols were also  
411 decisive.

412 All regression models presented excellent precisions; yielding  $R^2$  values 0.93–0.990, except for the  
413 low % range models of VOO mixtures with NTSO, HOSO, HR and S. The PLS-R models for low  
414 % NTSO, HOSO and S in VOO presented  $R^2$  values  $<0.70$ , indicating that the equation can only be  
415 used for screening purposes, which enables to distinguish between low, medium and high values of  
416 % VO. The PLS-R model for low % HR in VOO showed  $R^2$  values  $<0.50$ , so the equation only  
417 discriminates between high and low values (Priego Capote, Ruiz Jiménez, & Luque De Castro,  
418 2007), in the same way as PLS-DA model-73 distinguishes 2–5% HR and 10% HR in VOO (Table  
419 5).

420 The regression models achieved allow to determine the % VO in a VOO blend with uncertainties  
421 under 5% R-RMSEP for contents of  $\geq 10\%$  NTSO,  $\geq 34\%$  EVAO,  $\geq 39\%$  HOSO and  $\geq 45\%$  HV;  
422 5–10% R-RMSEP for contents of 13–45% HV; 5–15% R-RMSEP for contents of 8–10% NTSO,  
423 7–34% EVAO, 20–39% HOSO and 10–26% HV; 15–20% R-RMSEP for contents of 6–8% NTSO,  
424 5–7% EVAO, 17–20% HOSO and 5% S; and with uncertainty of 28% R-RMSEP for contents of  
425 10% HR. Considering VO-OO blends, the % VO in OO was quantified with uncertainties under 5%  
426 R-RMSEP for contents of  $\geq 5\%$  RPOO,  $\geq 6\%$  CO,  $\geq 10\%$  HR,  $\geq 16\%$  DOSO,  $\geq 16\%$  HOSO,  $\geq 9\%$   
427 NTSO and  $\geq 31\%$  RAO; 5–15% R-RMSEP for contents of 2–5% RPOO, 2–6% CO, 3–10% HR,

428 5–16% DOSO, 7–16% HOSO, 3–9% NTSO and 5–31% RAO; and 15–20% R-RMSEP for  
429 contents of 2–3% HR, 4–5% DOSO, 5–7% HOSO, 2–3% NTSO and 4–5% RAO.

430 The classification abilities of the PLS-DA models to identify blends with low % HV, HR, HOSO  
431 and NTSO in VOO and low % RAO in OO were considerably improved when the samples of 2%  
432 VO in VOO and/or pure olive oil (VOO or OO) were removed from the dataset used to develop the  
433 models (Table 2), indicating that these samples were close to the boundary and therefore could be  
434 misclassified. Regarding this fact and the precisions and accuracies of the regression models built,  
435 the experimental detection limits were established in the ranges between 2–5% VO for blends of  
436 HV, HR, HOSO or NTSO in VOO; between 2–4% VO for blends of RAO in OO; and under 2%  
437 VO for blends of EVAO or S in VOO and RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR in OO. The  
438 present results are similar or outperform those reported in the literature using NMR (Parker et al.,  
439 2014; Wang et al., 2020) or other analytical techniques (De La Mata-Espinosa et al., 2011; Grob et  
440 al., 1994; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016; Monfreda et al., 2012). In previous high-field NMR  
441 studies, the adulteration of refined hazelnut oil in olive oil was detected at a proportion of 10%  
442 using  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR and linear discriminant analysis (Mannina et al., 2009), 8% using  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR  
443 and artificial neural networks (García-González et al., 2004), 1% using  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR and  
444 canonical discriminant analysis or classification trees (Agiomyrgianaki et al., 2010), and 5% of  
445 hazelnut oil in VOO using  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and discriminant data analysis (Zamora et al., 2001).  $^1\text{H}$  and  
446  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR together with discriminant analysis allowed the detection of adulterations as low as 5% of  
447 hazelnut, corn, sunflower and soybean oils in VOO (Vigli et al., 2003).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and discriminant  
448 data analysis distinguished palm oil at 5% in OO (Guyader, Thomas, Portaluri, Jamin, Akoka,  
449 Silvestre, et al., 2018). The determination of the contents of oleic, linoleic, linolenic and saturated  
450 fatty acids and squalene by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR enabled the detection of 4.5% soybean oil in VOO (Jiang et  
451 al., 2018). Nevertheless, chromatographic techniques afforded the lowest limits of detection for  
452 sunflower, soybean, corn and palm oils in VOO, detecting even 0.1% adulteration (Jabeur, Zribi, &  
453 Bouaziz, 2016).

454 **3.6. PLS-DA models to discriminate between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends of VOO or OO**  
455 **with VO**

456 The potential of the present multivariate approach to implement Reg. (EU) 29/2012 and its  
457 amendments is demonstrated with a case study. The most common vegetable oil used to be blended  
458 with olive oil is sunflower oil. Therefore NTSO and HOSO were considered as model VOs in  
459 ‘legal’ blends with VOO or OO, as done in previous studies (Gómez-Coca et al., 2020; Monfreda et  
460 al., 2012). The olive oil blends with the other VOs studied were regarded as ‘illegal’ blends. Binary  
461 classification models were developed to first distinguish between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends, and  
462 then differentiate which of the two types of sunflower oils, i.e. NTSO or HOSO, is in the ‘legal’  
463 blend with VOO or OO (Figure S1 in supplementary material). The percentage of NTSO or HOSO  
464 in the mixture is determined by the regression models that are reported in the previous section  
465 (Table 4).

466 The PLS-DA model discriminating between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends provided prediction abilities  
467 of 77% for both classes concerning blends with VOO (PLS-DA model-68), and 86% and 98%  
468 respectively for blends with OO (PLS-DA model-70 in Table 5). The most discriminant variables  
469 on these models are shown in Table S8 (supplementary material). The trends observed for the <sup>1</sup>H-  
470 signals involved were consistent with the known differences in the chemical composition of NTSO  
471 and HOSO with respect to the VOs in the ‘illegal’ class and both categories of olive oils, already  
472 mentioned above.

473 In addition, classification models were constructed to distinguish ‘legal’ blends containing NTSO  
474 from those with HOSO, affording prediction abilities of 83–85% for blends with VOO (PLS-DA  
475 model-69), and 97% for blends with OO (PLS-DA model-71 in Table 5). HOSO contains higher  
476 amounts of oleic acid and lower concentrations of linoleic and linolenic acids (polyunsaturated fatty  
477 acids) than NTSO (Jović et al., 2016), which is reflected on the most influential <sup>1</sup>H-signals on these  
478 models (Table S8 in supplementary material).

### 479 **3.7. PLS-DA models to discriminate between blends of VOO or OO with different** 480 **compositions**

481 Further binary classification models can be built using datasets containing only the information  
482 related to specific VOs or % VO in the blends. These complementary models are useful whenever  
483 an oil sample is predicted to contain a certain VO by more than one of the classification models  
484 described above. Likewise, in the case that the determination of the % VO is not enough accurate  
485 by the corresponding regression model for low percentages, it is interesting to be able to  
486 discriminate between mixtures with different % VO. As a proof of concept, binary classification  
487 models were developed to distinguish blends of different % S or HR in VOO (PLS-DA models 72  
488 and 73); and OO mixtures containing DOSO or HR (PLS-DA model-74), RAO or HR (PLS-DA  
489 model-75), RAO or DOSO (PLS-DA model-76) and DOSO or HOSO (PLS-DA model-77), with  
490 satisfactory classification abilities (Table 5). The most influential <sup>1</sup>H-signals on these models are  
491 gathered in Table S8 (supplementary material). Depending on the class and model considered,  
492 different trends were observed in the signal intensities, which are in accordance with the relative  
493 chemical composition of each kind of oil in the blend previously reported. The major fatty acids in  
494 S and VOO are linoleic acid and oleic acid respectively (Vigli et al., 2003). VOO contains higher  
495 amounts of squalene and linolenic acid than HR, and the opposite occurs for linoleic acid (Guillén  
496 et al., 2003; Vigli et al., 2003). HR presents higher contents of oleic acid, similar concentrations of  
497 linoleic acid and lower amounts of saturated fatty acids than RAO (Green et al., 2020; Parcerisa et  
498 al., 2000). In respect of the main variables on the models obtained for the discrimination of DOSO-  
499 OO blends from other VO-OO mixtures, DOSO-OO blends contained higher concentrations of  
500 oleic acid than OO blends of HR, RAO and HOSO, which are the VOs that present the highest  
501 contents of oleic acid (Green et al., 2020; Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Parcerisa et al.,  
502 2000); and lower amounts of linoleic acid than OO blends of HR, RAO and HOSO. Taking into  
503 account that DOSO is obtained from the desterolization and deodorization of HOSO, these results  
504 evidenced that during the deodorization and/or desterolization processes the fatty acid profile of the



505 oil was altered, resulting in lower linoleic and higher oleic contents. In this sense, it has been  
506 already reported that the drastic conditions used during raffination processes lead to olefinic  
507 degradation of sterols, the isomerization of squalene and linoleic and linolenic acids, among other  
508 changes in the chemical composition of the oil (Aparicio et al., 2013; Grob et al., 1994).

### 509 **3.8. Prediction of blends of olive oil with other vegetable oils**

510 The composition of thirty-six blind oil samples provided within the OLEUM Project and eight  
511 commercial oils was predicted by the classification and regression models developed for blends of  
512 olive oil with other vegetable oils following the decision trees shown in Figures 1 and S1  
513 (supplementary material). For each blind sample, Table S9 (supplementary material) gathers *i*) the  
514 PLS-DA and PLS-R models applied; *ii*) the PLS-DA predictions related to the category of the olive  
515 oil (VOO or OO), the VO contained, and the low/high level of VO in the blend (Tables 1–3, S2–S7  
516 in supplementary material); *iii*) the % VO in the blend determined by the corresponding PLS-R  
517 model (Table 4); and *iv*) the predictions of the complementary PLS-DA models (Table 5). Most of  
518 the blind samples were predicted satisfactorily according to the description provided (Table S9 in  
519 supplementary material); thus, the category of olive oil, i.e. VOO or OO, the particular VO and the  
520 % VO in the oil sample were accurately determined. All mixtures of VOO or OO with 40–60%  
521 NTSO or HOSO (**1–12**), all the blends (containing 5–30% VO) of RPOO-OO (**29–32**) and HV-  
522 VOO (**17–20**), and the blends of EVAO-VOO (**14–16**) and HR-OO (**26–28**) with  $\geq 10\%$  VO were  
523 correctly identified and the % VO properly figured out. Only blind samples **16**, **17** and **19** were  
524 predicted to present slightly higher % VO in VOO, and sample **26** scarcely lower % HR in OO, than  
525 those percentages given in the description. The DOSO-OO blends (**33–36**) were satisfactorily  
526 determined by the corresponding classification and regression models; the % DOSO in OO in  
527 sample **36** was barely lower than predicted. The blend of 10% DOSO in OO (**34**) was confused with  
528 mixtures of 2–11% of HOSO in OO. For the blend of 5% EVAO in VOO (**13**), the contained VO  
529 was not recognised by any of the classification models, but the calculated % VO was within the

530 calibration range of the regression model developed for EVAO-VOO blends; and this model  
531 predicted correctly the % EVAO in the mixture, even with better precisions than the other models  
532 built for HOSO-VOO and HR-VOO blends. The VO in the blend of 5% HR in OO (25) was not  
533 identified by any of the HR-OO classification models. Indeed, the detection of the adulteration of  
534 OO with HR is still one of the main challenges in fraud detection due to the close composition of  
535 both refined oils (Agiomyrgianaki et al., 2010; García-González et al., 2004; Mannina et al., 2009).  
536 Even blends with  $\leq 10\%$  HR in OO can be confused with RAO-OO blends. The composition of  
537 blind samples 21–24 were determined by the classification and regression models built for both  
538 RAO-OO and DOSO-OO blends; however, the PLS-DA model-76 (Table 5), which distinguishes  
539 these two OO mixtures, predicted satisfactorily that these blind samples contained RAO, except for  
540 the mixture of 10% RAO in OO (22).

541 Regarding the commercial oils analysed, samples 37, 38 and 44 were declared to be mixtures of  
542 vegetable oils or NTSO with EVOO or VOO. Samples 37 and 38 were confirmed to contain VOO,  
543 whereas sample 44 was classified as an OO blend. Furthermore, the three samples were predicted to  
544 contain NTSO, in accordance with their label specifications. All the other commercial oil samples  
545 (39–43) were labelled as mixtures of VOO or EVOO with rapeseed oil; however, all of them were  
546 classified as blends of OO. These results are not conclusive since no blends of rapeseed oil with  
547 VOO or OO were available to be included in the modelling step of the present study.

#### 548 **4. Conclusion**

549 A stepwise strategy based on  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  fingerprinting of an oil sample in combination with  
550 chemometrics is proposed to determine the content of mixtures of oils of the ‘virgin olive oil’ or  
551 ‘olive oil’ categories and vegetable oils, providing a chemical tool to (i) confirm the presence of  
552 VOO or OO in an oil sample; (ii) discriminate between pure olive oils and their blends with VOs to  
553 a certain extent, given by the detection limit disclosed for each VO; (iii) identify the VO in the  
554 blend with VOO or OO; (iv) differentiate between blends made with different VOs in VOO or OO;

555 (v) distinguish blends made with the same VO in different proportions; and (vi) determine the %  
556 VO blended with VOO or OO.

557 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral data of olive oils and their mixtures with the VOs most commonly used to make  
558 blends, i.e. sunflower oil, high oleic sunflower oil, desterolized high oleic sunflower oil, virgin and  
559 refined avocado oil, virgin and refined hazelnut oil, refined palm olein oil, corn oil and soybean oil,  
560 was used to optimize and validate classification and regression models built by PLS-DA and PLS-R  
561 respectively. The classification models achieved were satisfactory, robust and stable. Excellent  
562 precisions and acceptable accuracies were afforded by the regression models developed for the  
563 determination of the % VO in VOO or OO. The reliability of the classification and regression  
564 models was supported by the chemical interpretation of the most influential variables on the  
565 validated models. The % VO in the blend is determined with uncertainties under the 20% of R-  
566 RMSEP for contents as low as 5% EVAO or S, 6% NTSO, 10% HV and 17% HOSO in VOO; and  
567 2% RPOO, CO, NTSO or HR, 4% DOSO or RAO and 5% HOSO in OO. The detection limits are  
568 under 2% EVAO or S and between 2–5% NTSO, HOSO, HV or HR in VOO; and under 2% RPOO,  
569 CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR and 2–4% RAO in OO. The performance and effectiveness of the  
570 proposed strategy were validated by a set of blind samples, which confirmed its feasibility to  
571 support Reg. (EU) 29/2012. Further studies should be carried out with larger balanced sample sets  
572 covering the variability of olive oils of both categories (VOO and OO) and the vegetable oils of  
573 interest. The different possible sources of variability, such as the varieties of each botanical oil  
574 species, the agronomical and climatic conditions, the geographical origins and harvests, should be  
575 considered. The implementation of this approach requires a databank of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprints of  
576 oils. The databank has to include pure oils comprising olive oils of the different categories,  
577 vegetable oils used to make legal blends and adulterant oils, and their mixtures; because it has to be  
578 representative of oil variability in order to guarantee robust models for both authentication and  
579 fraud detection. It is worth noting that this requirement is feasible in practice since the creation of  
580 the OLEUM Databank and the OLEUM Network are among the objectives of the OLEUM Project

581 that are being accomplished. The OLEUM Databank is an online integrated quality assurance  
582 database of olive oil analytical methods and chemical data, which is currently being developed. The  
583 OLEUM Network is a worldwide community of proficient analytical laboratories involved in olive  
584 oil analysis, and it is expected to expand and may also contribute to the feeding and updating of the  
585 databank over time.

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727

728 **Figure captions**

729 **Figure 1.** Decision tree constituted of PLS-DA classification and PLS-R regression models to  
730 determine the composition of binary mixtures of oils of the ‘virgin olive oil’ or ‘olive oil’ categories  
731 and other vegetable oils. Abbreviations: VOO, virgin olive oil; OO, olive oil; VO, vegetable oil;  
732 NTSO, refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil); HOSO, refined high oleic  
733 sunflower oil; DOSO, desterolized and deodorized high oleic sunflower oil; HR, refined hazelnut  
734 oil; HV, virgin hazelnut oil; S, refined soybean oil; EVAO, virgin avocado oil; RAO, refined  
735 avocado oil; RPOO, refined palm olein oil; CO, refined corn oil.

736

737 **Supplementary material**

738 **Figure S1.** Decision tree constituted of PLS-DA classification and PLS-R regression models for  
739 a case-study: Discrimination between ‘legal’ (containing NTSO or HOSO) and ‘illegal’ (not  
740 containing NTSO or HOSO) blends, and determination of % NTSO or HOSO in binary mixtures  
741 with oils of the ‘virgin olive oil’ or ‘olive oil’ categories. Abbreviations: VOO, virgin olive oil; OO,  
742 olive oil; VO, vegetable oil; NTSO, refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil);  
743 HOSO, refined high oleic sunflower oil.

1 **Stepwise strategy based on  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  fingerprinting in combination with**  
2 **chemometrics to determine the content of vegetable oils in olive oil mixtures**

3  
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34

35 **Abstract**

36 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting of edible oils and a set of multivariate classification and regression models  
37 organised in a decision tree is proposed as a stepwise strategy to assure the authenticity and  
38 traceability of olive oils and their declared blends with other vegetable oils (VOs). Oils of the  
39 ‘virgin olive oil’ and ‘olive oil’ categories and their mixtures with the most common VOs, i.e.  
40 sunflower, high oleic sunflower, hazelnut, avocado, soybean, corn, refined palm olein and  
41 desterolized high oleic sunflower oils, were studied. Partial least squares (PLS) discriminant  
42 analysis provided stable and robust binary classification models to identify the olive oil type and the  
43 VO in the blend. PLS regression afforded models with excellent precisions and acceptable  
44 accuracies to determine the percentage of VO in the mixture. The satisfactory performance of this  
45 approach, tested with blind samples, confirm its potential to support regulations and control bodies.

46

47 Keywords: olive oil, nuclear magnetic resonance, multivariate data analysis, decision tree,  
48 adulteration, authentication

49

## 50 **1. Introduction**

51 The high price of olive oil, the distinctive sensory profile, and its reputation as a healthy source of  
52 dietary fats make olive oil a target for fraud. The most common types of olive oil fraud are illegal  
53 blending with other vegetable oils (VOs) or low-quality olive oils, deliberate mislabelling of less  
54 expensive classes of olive oils, other vegetable oils or their blends with olive oils, and mislabelling  
55 of the geographical origin or Protected Designation of Origin declaration. Indeed, the European  
56 Parliament pointed out that olive oil adulteration has become one of the biggest financial fraud in  
57 the agricultural sector, and evidenced the need to update and harmonize analytical methods for  
58 quality and authenticity control of olive oil (EC, 2020; European Parliament, 2014). In this context,  
59 the so-called OLEUM Project was supported by the European Commission with the overall  
60 objective of improving existing analytical methods and developing new strategies of analysis for  
61 assuring the quality and authenticity of olive oil (OLEUM Project, 2016).

62 The EU Regulation 29/2012 standardises the labelling of all olive oil categories and their mixtures  
63 with other VOs, allowing to highlight the presence of olive oil on the label outside the ingredient  
64 list, only if it accounts for at least 50% of the blend (EC, 2012). However, this regulation and its  
65 amendments do not refer to any analytical parameter or method to control the percentage of olive  
66 oil in the admixture or the botanical origin of oil. The need of analytical methods to confirm the  
67 presence of olive oil in the blend, to distinguish pure and adulterated olive oils, to identify the  
68 adulterant oils in the mixture, as well as to determine the percentage of olive oil and the adulterants  
69 in the blend, is evidenced and is an issue of major concern in order to implement the established  
70 regulations (Conte, Bendini, Valli, Lucci, Moret, Maquet, et al., 2020). In literature, few works deal  
71 with the verification of the percentage of olive oil in fraudulent blends with VOs with regard to the  
72 labelling compliance of Reg. (EU) 29/2012 (De la Mata, Dominguez-Vidal, Bosque-Sendra, Ruiz-  
73 Medina, Cuadros-Rodríguez, & Ayora-Cañada, 2012; Gómez-Coca, Pérez-Camino, Martínez-  
74 Rivas, Bendini, Gallina Toschi, & Moreda, 2020; Monfreda, Gobbi, & Grippa, 2012; Santos, Kock,  
75 Santos, Lobo, Carvalho, & Colnago, 2017).

76 The chemical methods traditionally used in food analysis are laborious, time-consuming, non-eco-  
77 friendly and require sample preparation and skilled operators. In contrast, metabolomic approaches  
78 based on advanced instrumental techniques, such as MS and NMR, coupled to chemometrics  
79 overcome some of these operational drawbacks and provide useful tools for food quality control and  
80 traceability (Lioupi, Nenadis, & Theodoridis, 2020). Most of the NMR approaches developed for  
81 olive oil authentication, detection of olive oil adulteration and to determine the composition of olive  
82 oil blends with VOs, were based on measuring NMR signals that give quantitative information of  
83 certain compounds or are used to calculate some parameters and ratios (i.e. profiling)  
84 (Agiomyrgianaki, Petrakis, & Dais, 2010; García-González, Mannina, D'Imperio, Segre, &  
85 Aparicio, 2004; Jiang, Li, Chen, & Weng, 2018; Mannina, D'Imperio, Capitani, Rezzi, Guillou,  
86 Mavromoustakos, et al., 2009; Popescu, Costinel, Dinca, Marinescu, Stefanescu, & Ionete, 2015;  
87 Vigli, Philippidis, Spyros, & Dais, 2003; Zamora, Alba, & Hidalgo, 2001). Instead, NMR  
88 fingerprinting was only reported in few studies using low-field NMR spectroscopy (Parker, Limer,  
89 Watson, Defernez, Williamson, & Kemsley, 2014; Santos et al., 2017; Wang, Wang, Hou, & Nie,  
90 2020). To the authors' knowledge, high-field NMR fingerprinting has been used to study mixtures  
91 of olive oil with other VOs for the first time in the present work. This study aimed to develop an  
92 analytical strategy based on <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprinting together with multivariate classification and  
93 regression models organised in a decision tree to determine the composition of an oil blend from  
94 both points of view, the botanical nature of the oils and the percentage of each oil in the blend. The  
95 performance of the complete stepwise analytical strategy is evaluated by the prediction results  
96 obtained for an external set of blind oil samples and commercial oils. It is worth noting that this  
97 analytical approach addresses some issues not considered in previous studies: (i) the discrimination  
98 between oil samples containing oil of the 'virgin olive oil' category (VOO) and the 'olive oil'  
99 category (OO); (ii) the distinction of pure and blended oils; and (iii) the study of a large sample set  
100 with pure oils and blends of the most common VOs used for olive oil adulteration, and a wide range

101 of % VO in the blend (including the percentages for the labelling verification in compliance with  
102 Reg. (EU) 29/2012).

## 103 **2. Material and methods**

### 104 **2.1. Samples**

105 Genuine samples of virgin (VOO) and extra virgin olive (EVOO) oils (n=176), olive oils (OO,  
106 n=3), refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil, NTSO, n=17), refined high  
107 oleic sunflower oil (HOSO, n=16), desterolized and deodorized high oleic sunflower oil (DOSO,  
108 n=1), refined hazelnut oil (HR, n=11), virgin hazelnut oil (HV, n=6), refined soybean oil (S, n=10),  
109 virgin avocado oil (EVAO, n=1), refined avocado oil (RAO, n=1), refined palm olein oil (RPOO,  
110 n=1) and refined corn oil (CO, n=1) were used to prepare binary mixtures at different percentages  
111 (2–90%) of VOs in VOOs or OOs (1007 blends). Samples were obtained in the framework of the  
112 AUTENFOOD and OLEUM projects. Oils from the sample banks of both projects were produced  
113 during two consecutive harvest years (2016/17 and 2017/18). Besides, eight commercial oil samples  
114 collected in the Swedish market were analysed. According to their labels, the commercial oils were  
115 described as mixtures of VOO and other VO such as rapeseed oil, sunflower oil, or non-identified  
116 vegetable oil.

117 Blends were prepared and preserved under controlled temperature conditions. All pure and blended  
118 oil samples were bottled with nitrogen headspace or minimal air headspace, kept at -20 °C and  
119 protected from light. Before analysis, oil samples were taken from the cold storage, left to  
120 equilibrate at room temperature at least for 12 h, and shaken vigorously before sampling the oil  
121 aliquot for analysis.

### 122 **2.2. Chemicals**

123 Deuterated chloroform for NMR analysis (99.8 atom % D) was provided by Sigma-Aldrich Chemie  
124 (Steinheim, Germany).



### 125 **2.3. NMR analysis**

126 Aliquots of 150  $\mu\text{L}$  of each oil sample were dissolved in 750  $\mu\text{L}$  of deuterated chloroform, shaken  
127 in a vortex, and placed in a 5 mm NMR capillary. The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR experiments were performed at  
128 300K on a Bruker (Rheinstetten, Germany) Avance 500 (nominal frequency 500.13 MHz) equipped  
129 with a 5 mm broadband inverse probe with Z-gradients. The spectra were recorded using a 6.1  $\mu\text{s}$   
130 pulse ( $90^\circ$ ), an acquisition time of 3.5 s (50k data points) and a total recycling time of 7.0 s, a  
131 spectral width of 7100 Hz (14 ppm), 32 scans (+ 4 dummy scans), with no sample rotation. Prior to  
132 Fourier transformation, the free induction decays (FIDs) were zero-filled to 64k and a 0.3 Hz line-  
133 broadening factor was applied. The chemical shifts were expressed in  $\delta$  scale (ppm), referenced to  
134 the residual signal of chloroform (7.26 ppm). The spectra were phase- and baseline-corrected  
135 manually, binned with 0.02 ppm-wide buckets, and normalized to total intensity over the region  
136 4.10–4.26 ppm (glycerol signal). The region of the NMR spectra studied comprised from 0 ppm to  
137 11 ppm. TopSpin 2.1 (2013) and Amix-Viewer 3.7.7 (2006) from Bruker BioSpin GMBH  
138 (Rheinstetten, Germany) were used to perform the processing of the spectra. The data table  
139 generated with the spectra of all samples, excluding the eight buckets in the reference region  
140 4.10–4.26 ppm, was then submitted to multivariate data analysis.

### 141 **2.4. Data analysis**

142 Datasets were made up of the 542 buckets of the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra (variables in columns) measured  
143 on the oil samples (samples in rows). A total number of 1239 pure and blended oil samples were  
144 analysed by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR. Depending on the aim of the multivariate model to be developed, the dataset  
145 contained the NMR spectral data of the corresponding studied samples. Datasets were analysed by  
146 univariate procedures (ANOVA, Fisher index and Box & Whisker plots); and by multivariate  
147 techniques, unsupervised such as principal component analysis (PCA), and supervised as partial  
148 least squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) and partial least squares regression (PLS-R)  
149 (Berrueta, Alonso-Salces, & Héberger, 2007). Data analysis was performed by means of the

150 statistical software package Statistica 7.0 (StatSoft Inc., Tulsa, OK, USA, 1984–2004) and The  
151 Unscrambler v9.7 (Camo Software AS, 1986–2007).

152 PCA, PLS-DA and PLS-R were applied to the autoscaled or centered data matrix of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR  
153 spectra of the oil samples. The presence of outliers in the dataset was analysed by PCA. In PLS-DA  
154 and PLS-R, the optimal number of PLS-components is estimated by cross-validation by plotting the  
155 root mean square error in the prediction (RMSEP) against the number of PLS-components. The  
156 model with the smallest number of features should be accepted from among equivalent models on  
157 the training set in order to avoid overfitting (according to the principle of parsimony). In PLS-DA,  
158 once the number of PLS-components is optimised, the predictions in the training-test set are  
159 represented in a box and whisker plot in order to define the half of the distance between the  
160 quartiles as the boundary. The regression coefficients (B) of the optimal number of PLS-  
161 components denote the importance of the NMR variables on the model: the larger the B-coefficient,  
162 the higher the influence of the variable on the PLS-DA or PLS-R model. A large B-coefficient may  
163 also indicate a variable with small absolute values but large relative differences (Esbensen, Guyot,  
164 Westad, & Houmøller, 2002). PLS-DA and PLS-R models were validated by 3-fold or leave-one  
165 out cross-validation for parameter optimization, and by external validation when an external set of  
166 samples was available. Binary classification models can lead to artefacts if they are not used and  
167 validated properly (Kjeldahl & Bro, 2010). The reliability of the classification models developed  
168 was studied in terms of recognition and prediction abilities in the cross-validation, and prediction  
169 ability in the external validation (Berrueta et al., 2007). The goodness of the regression model fit  
170 was evaluated by means of the prediction error, the correlation coefficient between predicted and  
171 measured values in calibration and validation (R-cal, R-val), the determination coefficient in  
172 calibration and validation (R<sup>2</sup>-cal, R<sup>2</sup>-val), and the evaluation of the residuals. The RMSEP is the  
173 practical average prediction error estimated by the validation set (empirical error estimate expressed  
174 in the original measurement units). The result is expressed as the predicted Y-value ± 2 RMSEP.

175 The R-RMSEP is the relative prediction error in % (comparable to the analytical accuracy)  
176 (Esbensen et al., 2002).

### 177 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 178 **3.1. Mixtures of olive oil with vegetable oils**

179 Oils of the VOO and OO categories and their mixtures with the most common VOs used for the  
180 adulteration of olive oil or making 'legal' blends, i.e. NTSO, HOSO, DOSO, HR, HV, S, EVAO,  
181 RAO, RPOO and CO, were studied. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the oil samples, both pure and blended  
182 (binary mixtures of VO with VOO or OO) oils, were recorded. The chemical shifts of the <sup>1</sup>H-signals  
183 and their assignments to protons of the different functional groups are shown in Table S1  
184 (supplementary material). The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR profiles of the oil samples presented characteristic patterns  
185 of triglycerides, diglycerides and some minor constituents of the unsaponifiable fraction, which are  
186 useful for the determination of the botanical origin of oils and the composition of blended oils  
187 (Agiomyrgianaki et al., 2010; Alonso-Salces, Segebarth, Garmón-Lobato, Holland, Moreno-Rojas,  
188 Fernández-Pierna, et al., 2015; García-González et al., 2004; Guillén & Ruiz, 2003; Mannina et al.,  
189 2009; Parker et al., 2014; Popescu et al., 2015; Vigli et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2020).

190 **The proposed approach to detect blends of olive oils (VOOs or OOs) with other VO and quantify**  
191 **the % VO in the blend is based on the use of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprint of the oil and a set of**  
192 **multivariate classification and regression models organized in a decision tree (Figures 1 and S1 in**  
193 **supplementary material). The PLS-DA and PLS-R models achieved and their chemical**  
194 **interpretation are described in the next sections. The most influential variables on the models were**  
195 **not completely discriminant unless otherwise specified.**

#### 196 **3.2. PLS-DA model to confirm the presence of VOO or OO**

197 **The first stage of the decision tree (Figure 1) consists in identifying whether the oil sample contains**  
198 **VOO or OO using PLS-DA model-1 with recognition and prediction abilities of 97% and 98% for**

199 the VOO and OO classes respectively (Table 1). The most influential NMR variables on the model  
200 were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic acid (#7b, #9b), linolenic acid (#10c, #13d) and saturated fatty acids  
201 (#9a), exhibiting higher intensities in VOO and their blends than in samples containing OO. In  
202 contrast, the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linoleic acid (#12b) and *sn*-1,3-diacylglycerides (#17) presented lower  
203 intensities in the VOO class. These observations are consistent with previous studies reporting the  
204 differences in the composition of oleic, linolenic and saturated fatty acids and *sn*-1,3-  
205 diacylglycerides between VOOs and OOs (Guillén et al., 2003; Jiang et al., 2018).

206 Once the oil sample is classified as containing VOO or OO, further predictions are made using the  
207 binary classification models built separately for each type of olive oil to elucidate whether the olive  
208 oil sample is mixed with a VO, in which proportion (low or high) and with which particular VO  
209 (Figure 1).

### 210 **3.3. PLS-DA models to discriminate blends of VOO with VO**

211 For blends containing VOO, PLS-DA model-2 classifies the oil sample according to the proportion  
212 of VO in the mixture, i.e. low (0–20% VO in VOO) and high (25–90% VO in VOO), with correct  
213 prediction abilities of 98% and 97% respectively (Table 1). The most important variables on this  
214 model were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic acid (#9b) and squalene (#11), whose signal intensities were  
215 higher in the low class. Indeed, VOO is known to be one of the vegetable oils that presents the  
216 highest contents of oleic acid and squalene (Jiang et al., 2018; Popescu et al., 2015; Vigli et al.,  
217 2003).

218 Pure VOOs are distinguished from blends with 2–20% VO in VOO, being identified even 92% of  
219 the pure VOOs and 90% of the VO-VOO blends (PLS-DA models 3 and 4 in Table 1). The main  
220 <sup>1</sup>H-signals involved in the distinction of both classes were due to saturated fatty acids (#7a, #9a),  
221 which exhibited lower intensities in the VO-VOO class. In fact, saturated fatty acids are the second  
222 major class of fatty acids in VOO, being present in higher or similar concentrations than in the VOs  
223 studied, i.e. NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR and S (Contiñas, Martínez, Carballo, & Franco, 2008;

224 Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur, Zribi, Makni, Rebai, Abdelhedi, & Bouaziz, 2014; Jiang et al., 2018;  
225 Jović, Smolić, Primožič, & Hrenar, 2016; Monfreda et al., 2012; Ranade & Thiagarajan, 2015;  
226 Yang, Ferro, Cavaco, & Liang, 2013). Concerning the discrimination of blends of 2% VO in VOO  
227 for a certain VO, a satisfactory classification model was only achieved for soybean oil; thus, all  
228 blends with 2% S in VOO were detected, and 97% of the blends with 2% of other VO in VOO were  
229 correctly predicted (PLS-DA model-5 in Table 1).

230 The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprint of an oil sample classified in the low class (0–20% VO in VOO) is then  
231 submitted to classification models developed for each VO (PLS-DA models 6–24) to identify which  
232 particular VO is contained in the oil sample (Tables 2 and S2–S3 in supplementary material). The  
233 classification abilities of the PLS-DA models were better when the dataset contained only the data  
234 of blended oils with 5–20% VO in VOO than when data of pure VOO and/or 2% VO in VOO was  
235 also included. The prediction abilities ranged between 83% and 98% of hits depending on the VO  
236 blended with VOO. Similarly, when an oil sample is classified in the high class (25–90% VO in  
237 VOO), its <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprint is submitted to PLS-DA models developed for mixtures of 20–90%  
238 VO in VOO (PLS-DA models 25–28 in Table 3) to identify the VO contained in the blend. In the  
239 present study, only binary mixtures of NTSO, HOSO, EVAO or HV with VOO were available in  
240 the range of 20–90% VO. The recognition and prediction abilities of the classification models built  
241 to determine whether the VOO blend contained NTSO, HV or EVAO were 99–100% for both  
242 classes, and 100% for the non-HOSO class and 92% for the HOSO class.

243 Regarding the most influential variables on the models, the <sup>1</sup>H-signal of oleic acid (#9b) was  
244 completely discriminant between VOO mixtures with high % NTSO and those with other VOs. The  
245 blends of 20–90% NTSO in VOO contained significantly lower amounts of oleic acid than VOO  
246 blends with 20–90% HOSO, EVAO or HV. It is well-documented that virgin hazelnut oil, high  
247 oleic sunflower oil and virgin avocado oil present significantly higher contents of oleic acid than  
248 sunflower oil (Contiñas et al., 2008; Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016;

249 Ranade et al., 2015; Vigli et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2013). Other important variables to discriminate  
250 the presence of NTSO in VOO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals due to linoleic acid (#13c, #12b, #7c) and  
251 unsaturated fatty acids (#24), which presented higher intensities in NTSO-VOO mixtures than in  
252 most of the other VO-VOO blends (Contiñas et al., 2008; Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016;  
253 Ranade et al., 2015; Vigli et al., 2003). Concerning the most important <sup>1</sup>H-signals on HOSO  
254 models, the signal intensities of linolenic acid (#13d, #12c) and unsaturated fatty acids (#24 at  
255 5.30–5.32 ppm) were lower in the HOSO-VOO mixtures; whereas those of linoleic acid (#13c,  
256 #12b, #9c), unsaturated fatty acids (#24 at 5.32–5.34 ppm) and terpenic alcohols or sterols (#2)  
257 were higher in HOSO-VOO mixtures. These observations agreed with the fact that HOSO presents  
258 higher concentrations of linoleic acid than VOO, HV and EVAO and lower than NTSO; and HOSO  
259 contains lower amounts of linolenic acid than NTSO, VOO and EVAO, and similar to HV (Guillén  
260 et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Ranade et al., 2015). Moreover, the mixture of HOSO with VOO  
261 leads to an increase in the sterol content compared to pure olive oil (Al-Ismail, Alsaed, Ahmad, &  
262 Al-Dabbas, 2010). Evaluating the main variables on the EVAO models, it was observed that the <sup>1</sup>H  
263 NMR spectra of the mixtures of EVAO in VOO showed higher intensities for the signals of  
264 saturated fatty acids (#10a, #7a, #9a), oleic acid (#7b, #12a, #9b), linoleic acid (#12b, #13c, #10c),  
265 squalene (#11) and β-sitosterol (#4) than the spectra of the other VO-VOO blends. Meanwhile, the  
266 <sup>1</sup>H-signals of unsaturated fatty acids (#24, #9 at 1.32–1.36 ppm) and linolenic acid (#13d, #12c,  
267 #9c) presented lower intensities in the EVAO-VOO blends. Indeed, EVAO presents the highest  
268 contents of the saturated fatty acids, mainly palmitic acid, of all the VOs blended with VOO in this  
269 study; similar intermediate amounts of oleic and linoleic acids as HOSO; and low concentrations of  
270 linolenic acid as VOO, HV and HR (Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016;  
271 Ranade et al., 2015). To distinguish blends with high % HV in VOO, the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic acid  
272 (#7b, #9b, #12a), whose intensities were significantly higher in the HV class, were among the most  
273 important variables on the HV models. HV presents similar or slightly higher contents of oleic acid  
274 than VOO, and considerably higher amounts compared to the other VOs studied (Guillén et al.,

275 2003). The opposite trend was shown by the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linoleic (#7c) and linolenic (#12c) acids,  
276 which displayed lower intensity values in the HV class than in the non-HV class. Certainly, the  
277 concentrations of linoleic acid in HV are lower than in the other VO<sub>s</sub> and slightly higher than in  
278 VOO; and linolenic acid is present in similar amounts in HV and HOSO but lower amounts in HV  
279 than in NTSO, VOO and EVAO (Christopoulou, Lazaraki, Komaitis, & Kaselimis, 2004; Jović et  
280 al., 2016; Vigli et al., 2003). For the distinction of mixtures of low % HR in VOO from other VO-  
281 VOO mixtures, the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic (#12a) and linolenic (#12c, #7d) acids, saturated fatty acids  
282 (#7a) and terpenic alcohols or sterols (#2) exhibited lower intensities in the HR class (Guillén et al.,  
283 2003; Vigli et al., 2003). The most discriminant variables in the models to detect low % S in VOO  
284 were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linolenic acid (#15b, #7d, #12c) and unsaturated fatty acids (#24), which  
285 presented significantly higher intensities in S-VOO blends than in the other VO-VOO blends.  
286 Soybean oil is the oil with the highest contents of linolenic acid among the studied VO<sub>s</sub> (Contiñas  
287 et al., 2008; Christopoulou et al., 2004; Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Vigli et al., 2003).  
288 Furthermore, the lower signal intensities of oleic (#7b) and linoleic (#13c) acids in the S class also  
289 contributed to the discrimination of both classes, being consistent with the literature reporting that  
290 soybean oil presents significantly lower contents of oleic acid than VOO, and similar contents of  
291 linoleic acid as other VO<sub>s</sub>, such as sunflower oil (Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Vigli et al.,  
292 2003).

### 293 **3.4. PLS-DA models to discriminate blends of OO with VO**

294 Satisfactory binary classification models for all the studied VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO,  
295 DOSO, RAO and HR) were obtained using the data of the full % range of VO in the OO mixture,  
296 i.e. 0–80% VO in OO (PLS-DA models 30–36 in Table S4 (supplementary material). Prediction  
297 abilities were 95–100% for both classes in the models developed to discriminate between OO  
298 blends with and without RPOO, CO or HOSO; 84–87% for the OO mixtures with NTSO, DOSO or  
299 RAO, and 91–97% for the OO blends that did not contain the corresponding specific VO; and 97%

300 for the HR class and 89% for the non-HR class. These classification results were improved for each  
301 VO by further PLS-DA models developed separately for blends with low or high % VO in OO.  
302 Hence, the oil sample containing OO is first classified according to its level of VO, i.e. low (0–20%  
303 VO in OO) or high (30–80% VO in OO), by PLS-DA model-29 with prediction abilities of 96%  
304 and 94% respectively (Table 1). The most influential variables on this model were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of  
305 saturated fatty acids (#7a), β-sitosterol (#4), linoleic acid (#12b, #15a, #13c) and unsaturated fatty  
306 acids (#24, #7 at 1.00–1.02 ppm, #9 at 1.32–1.33 ppm), which exhibited lower intensities in the low  
307 class; and those of linolenic (#7d, #15b) and oleic (#12a) acids, which displayed higher intensities  
308 in the low class. The chemical composition of the blends that constituted each class justified these  
309 observations; thus, the low class contained the samples with the highest % of OO, which is the oil  
310 that contains the highest concentrations of oleic acid, together with HR; whereas the high class  
311 included the samples with high % of VO characterised by high linoleic and β-sitosterol contents  
312 (Al-Ismail et al., 2010; Aparicio & Harwood, 2013; Green & Wang, 2020; Guillén et al., 2003;  
313 Jović et al., 2016; Parcerisa, Casals, Boatella, Codony, & Rafecas, 2000; Vigli et al., 2003).

314 An oil sample containing low % VO in OO is then subjected to various classification models (PLS-  
315 DA models 37–50) to identify the specific VO contained in the OO blend (Tables 2 and S5 in  
316 supplementary material). The recognition and prediction abilities of these models were higher than  
317 95% of hits for detecting RPOO, CO and HOSO in OO; c.a. 90% for NTSO, DOSO and HR in OO;  
318 and c.a. 80–85% for RAO in OO. Taking into account that all CO-OO blends, 95% of the RPOO-  
319 OO blends, and at least 95% of the OO blends not containing CO or RPOO were identified with the  
320 corresponding models for low % VO in OO, further classification models were developed using  
321 datasets without the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral data of RPOO-OO and CO-OO mixtures. The PLS-DA  
322 models achieved (PLS-DA models 51–55) afforded better classification abilities to detect NTSO  
323 and RAO in OO, and similar results to resolve the presence of HOSO, DOSO or HR in OO (Table  
324 S6 in supplementary material).



325 For oil samples with high % VO in OO, the classification models developed for blends with  
326 20–80% VO in OO (PLS-DA models 56–62) presented recognition and prediction abilities of  
327 98–100% for both classes in RPOO, CO, DOSO and HR models;  $\geq 91\%$  for both classes in NTSO  
328 and RAO models; and 86% for the HOSO class and 99% for the non-HOSO class (Table 3). Since  
329 all blends were correctly classified by the RPOO and CO models, further PLS-DA models to detect  
330 20–80% VO in OO were built using a dataset without the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectral data of RPOO-OO and  
331 CO-OO blends (PLS-DA models 63–67 in Table S7 in supplementary material). These models  
332 provided the same or better classification abilities than the previous ones, except for HR-OO blends.  
333 Indeed, the NTSO and HOSO models allowed the correct classification of all samples of both  
334 classes; and the RAO model identified all samples containing RAO and 92% of the samples in the  
335 non-RAO class. The main  $^1\text{H}$ -signals responsible for the identification of OO blends containing  
336 RPOO were those of saturated fatty acids (#9a), which presented significantly higher intensities in  
337 the RPOO-OO blends; and those of linoleic acid (#9c, #12b), which showed lower intensities in the  
338 RPOO class. The  $^1\text{H}$ -signals #9a and #9c were completely discriminants between OO blends  
339 containing  $\geq 20\%$  RPOO and the other VO-OO blends with high % VO. As a result, the  
340 measurement of just one of these two variables would be enough to confirm whether an OO is  
341 mixed with RPOO in percentages  $\geq 20\%$ . Palm oil is the oil that contains the highest amounts of  
342 saturated fatty acids among the VOs studied (Vigli et al., 2003). Palmitic acid is the major saturated  
343 fatty acid in palm oil and is contained in similar amounts as oleic acid. Meanwhile, linoleic acid is a  
344 minor compound in palm oil, present in similar concentrations as in OO, and in lower amounts than  
345 in the rest of VOs (Montoya, Cochard, Flori, Cros, Lopes, Cuellar, et al., 2014). The CO-OO blends  
346 were distinguished from the other VO-OO mixtures due to the  $^1\text{H}$ -signals of linoleic (#7c) and  
347 linolenic (#15b, #7d) acids, saturated fatty acids (#7a) and  $\beta$ -sitosterol (#4), which presented higher  
348 intensities in the blends containing CO; and to the signal of oleic acid (#9b) with lower intensities in  
349 the CO class. Actually, corn oil presents linoleic acid in amounts similar to sunflower oil and  
350 significantly higher than refined avocado, refined hazelnut, palm and olive oils; linolenic acid and

351  $\beta$ -sitosterol in slightly higher concentrations than the other oils studied; saturated fatty acids in  
352 lower contents than palm oil but similar or slightly higher than the rest of the oils considered in the  
353 model; and the lowest content of oleic acid, together with sunflower oil. (Aparicio et al., 2013;  
354 Guillén et al., 2003; Monfreda et al., 2012; Vigli et al., 2003). The major contributors to the  
355 discrimination of HOSO from other VOs in OO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic (#9b, #12a) and  
356 linoleic (#12b, #9c) acids and saturated (#9a) and unsaturated (#24, #9 at 1.30–1.34 ppm) fatty  
357 acids, which exhibited higher intensities in the OO blends with HOSO. Indeed, HOSO contains  
358 higher amounts of oleic acid than sunflower, corn and palm oils; similar to avocado oil; and lower  
359 than hazelnut and olive oils. Linoleic acid is present in larger concentrations in HOSO than in palm,  
360 olive, hazelnut and avocado oils, and smaller than in sunflower and corn oils. The content of  
361 saturated fatty acids (#9a) in HOSO is intermediate-high with respect to other VOs but far from  
362 those of RPOO, which exhibit the largest contents (Green et al., 2020; Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et  
363 al., 2016; Vigli et al., 2003). As in NTSO-VOO models, the most influential variables on the  
364 classification models achieved for the detection of NTSO in OO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of linoleic acid  
365 (#7c, #15a, #12b) and unsaturated fatty acids (#24, #7 at 1.00–1.02 ppm, #9 at 1.32–1.36 ppm),  
366 displaying higher intensities in the OO blends with NTSO; and oleic acid (#12a, #7b, #9b), showing  
367 the opposite trend. For OO blends with 20–80% NTSO, once the presence of RPOO and CO in the  
368 OO blend was discarded by the PLS-DA models 56 and 57 respectively (Table 3), not only the  
369 signal of oleic acid (#9b) but also several other signals (#15a, #12b, #9 at 1.34–1.36 ppm, #24) were  
370 completely discriminant between both classes; therefore any of them can be used as markers to  
371 determine whether an OO blend contains NTSO at concentrations  $\geq 20\%$ . Sunflower oil is  
372 characterised by the largest contents of linoleic and unsaturated fatty acids, and the lowest contents  
373 of oleic acid with regard to the other VOs studied (Guillén et al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et  
374 al., 2016; Monfreda et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2013). The DOSO models disclosed that the intensities  
375 of the <sup>1</sup>H-signals due to oleic acid (#12a, #9b) were significantly higher in DOSO-OO blends, in  
376 contrast with linoleic acid (#12b, #7c, #24) signals exhibiting higher intensities in the non-DOSO

377 class. During the desterolization process, it takes place the dehydration of sterols and the  
378 elimination of the acid group of sterol esters by bleaching, producing olefinic degradation products  
379 and di-steryl ethers; meanwhile the profiles of triacylglycerides and fatty acids are practically  
380 unaltered (Grob, Biedermann, Bronz, & Giuffré, 1994). Therefore, it would be expected that DOSO  
381 presents relatively high contents of oleic and linoleic acids as HOSO. However, the deodorization  
382 process may affect the composition of triglycerides, diglycerides, fatty acids and minor components  
383 of the unsaponifiable fraction, depending mainly on the temperature and time of the process  
384 (Aparicio et al., 2013), which could be responsible for the lower content of linoleic acid observed in  
385 DOSO blends in relation to the other VOs, including HOSO. The main <sup>1</sup>H-signals on the RAO  
386 models were linoleic (#7c, #12b, #13c, #10c) and oleic (#9b) acids and β-sitosterol (#4), exhibiting  
387 similar or higher intensities in RAO-OO blends; linolenic acid (#13d, #9c) and unsaturated fatty  
388 acids (#9 at 1.32–1.34 ppm, #24), displaying similar or lower intensities in the RAO class; and  
389 saturated fatty acids (#9 at 1.20–1.22 ppm) with intermediate intensities. In fact, refined avocado  
390 oil, compared to the other VOs studied, presents intermediate compositions of fatty acids (Guillén et  
391 al., 2003; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016; Vigli et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2013) and sterol  
392 contents, in particular, β-sitosterol (Al-Ismail et al., 2010; Green et al., 2020; Parcerisa et al., 2000).  
393 The most contributing variables to the identification of HR in OO were the <sup>1</sup>H-signals of oleic (#7b,  
394 #12a, #9b) and linoleic (#12b) acids, presenting higher intensities in the HR class; and the signals of  
395 linolenic acid (#7d, #15b, #12c, #13d), unsaturated (#24) and saturated (#10a, #7a) fatty acids and  
396 terpenic alcohols or sterols (#2), showing lower intensities in the HR-OO mixtures. The trend of  
397 oleic and linoleic signals observed in HR-OO is opposite to that in HR-VOO. Refined hazelnut oil  
398 contains the highest amounts of oleic acid among the VOs studied, comparable to those in OO but  
399 lower than VOO; the lowest linolenic contents, similar to those found in HOSO (Green et al., 2020;  
400 Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Parcerisa et al., 2000; Vigli et al., 2003); and characteristic  
401 profiles of sterols and terpenic alcohols (Al-Ismail et al., 2010; Aparicio et al., 2013; Parcerisa et  
402 al., 2000).

### 403 3.5. PLS-R models to determine the percentage of VO in a blend with VOO or OO

404 PLS regression models to determine the % VO contained in a binary mixture with VOO or OO  
405 (PLS-R models 1–27) were successfully built for all VOs studied (Table 4). The PLS-R models  
406 developed for different sub-ranges of % VO in VOO or OO provided more accurate predictions  
407 than those constructed for the full % VO range. The most influential variables on the regression  
408 models coincided with those on the classification ones. Therefore, the regression results were  
409 explained by the characteristic composition in fatty acids, triacylglycerides and squalene of the oils  
410 present in the blend. In VO-VOO models, diacylglycerides, terpenic alcohols and sterols were also  
411 decisive.

412 All regression models presented excellent precisions; yielding  $R^2$  values 0.93–0.990, except for the  
413 low % range models of VOO mixtures with NTSO, HOSO, HR and S. The PLS-R models for low  
414 % NTSO, HOSO and S in VOO presented  $R^2$  values  $<0.70$ , indicating that the equation can only be  
415 used for screening purposes, which enables to distinguish between low, medium and high values of  
416 % VO. The PLS-R model for low % HR in VOO showed  $R^2$  values  $<0.50$ , so the equation only  
417 discriminates between high and low values (Priego Capote, Ruiz Jiménez, & Luque De Castro,  
418 2007), in the same way as PLS-DA model-73 distinguishes 2–5% HR and 10% HR in VOO (Table  
419 5).

420 The regression models achieved allow to determine the % VO in a VOO blend with uncertainties  
421 under 5% R-RMSEP for contents of  $\geq 10\%$  NTSO,  $\geq 34\%$  EVAO,  $\geq 39\%$  HOSO and  $\geq 45\%$  HV;  
422 5–10% R-RMSEP for contents of 13–45% HV; 5–15% R-RMSEP for contents of 8–10% NTSO,  
423 7–34% EVAO, 20–39% HOSO and 10–26% HV; 15–20% R-RMSEP for contents of 6–8% NTSO,  
424 5–7% EVAO, 17–20% HOSO and 5% S; and with uncertainty of 28% R-RMSEP for contents of  
425 10% HR. Considering VO-OO blends, the % VO in OO was quantified with uncertainties under 5%  
426 R-RMSEP for contents of  $\geq 5\%$  RPOO,  $\geq 6\%$  CO,  $\geq 10\%$  HR,  $\geq 16\%$  DOSO,  $\geq 16\%$  HOSO,  $\geq 9\%$   
427 NTSO and  $\geq 31\%$  RAO; 5–15% R-RMSEP for contents of 2–5% RPOO, 2–6% CO, 3–10% HR,

428 5–16% DOSO, 7–16% HOSO, 3–9% NTSO and 5–31% RAO; and 15–20% R-RMSEP for  
429 contents of 2–3% HR, 4–5% DOSO, 5–7% HOSO, 2–3% NTSO and 4–5% RAO.

430 The classification abilities of the PLS-DA models to identify blends with low % HV, HR, HOSO  
431 and NTSO in VOO and low % RAO in OO were considerably improved when the samples of 2%  
432 VO in VOO and/or pure olive oil (VOO or OO) were removed from the dataset used to develop the  
433 models (Table 2), indicating that these samples were close to the boundary and therefore could be  
434 misclassified. Regarding this fact and the precisions and accuracies of the regression models built,  
435 the experimental detection limits were established in the ranges between 2–5% VO for blends of  
436 HV, HR, HOSO or NTSO in VOO; between 2–4% VO for blends of RAO in OO; and under 2%  
437 VO for blends of EVAO or S in VOO and RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR in OO. The  
438 present results are similar or outperform those reported in the literature using NMR (Parker et al.,  
439 2014; Wang et al., 2020) or other analytical techniques (De La Mata-Espinosa et al., 2011; Grob et  
440 al., 1994; Jabeur et al., 2014; Jović et al., 2016; Monfreda et al., 2012). In previous high-field NMR  
441 studies, the adulteration of refined hazelnut oil in olive oil was detected at a proportion of 10%  
442 using  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR and linear discriminant analysis (Mannina et al., 2009), 8% using  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR  
443 and artificial neural networks (García-González et al., 2004), 1% using  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR and  
444 canonical discriminant analysis or classification trees (Agiomyrgianaki et al., 2010), and 5% of  
445 hazelnut oil in VOO using  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and discriminant data analysis (Zamora et al., 2001).  $^1\text{H}$  and  
446  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR together with discriminant analysis allowed the detection of adulterations as low as 5% of  
447 hazelnut, corn, sunflower and soybean oils in VOO (Vigli et al., 2003).  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR and discriminant  
448 data analysis distinguished palm oil at 5% in OO (Guyader, Thomas, Portaluri, Jamin, Akoka,  
449 Silvestre, et al., 2018). The determination of the contents of oleic, linoleic, linolenic and saturated  
450 fatty acids and squalene by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR enabled the detection of 4.5% soybean oil in VOO (Jiang et  
451 al., 2018). Nevertheless, chromatographic techniques afforded the lowest limits of detection for  
452 sunflower, soybean, corn and palm oils in VOO, detecting even 0.1% adulteration (Jabeur, Zribi, &  
453 Bouaziz, 2016).

454 **3.6. PLS-DA models to discriminate between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends of VOO or OO**  
455 **with VO**

456 The potential of the present multivariate approach to implement Reg. (EU) 29/2012 and its  
457 amendments is demonstrated with a case study. The most common vegetable oil used to be blended  
458 with olive oil is sunflower oil. Therefore NTSO and HOSO were considered as model VOs in  
459 ‘legal’ blends with VOO or OO, as done in previous studies (Gómez-Coca et al., 2020; Monfreda et  
460 al., 2012). The olive oil blends with the other VOs studied were regarded as ‘illegal’ blends. Binary  
461 classification models were developed to first distinguish between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends, and  
462 then differentiate which of the two types of sunflower oils, i.e. NTSO or HOSO, is in the ‘legal’  
463 blend with VOO or OO (Figure S1 in supplementary material). The percentage of NTSO or HOSO  
464 in the mixture is determined by the regression models that are reported in the previous section  
465 (Table 4).

466 The PLS-DA model discriminating between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends provided prediction abilities  
467 of 77% for both classes concerning blends with VOO (PLS-DA model-68), and 86% and 98%  
468 respectively for blends with OO (PLS-DA model-70 in Table 5). The most discriminant variables  
469 on these models are shown in Table S8 (supplementary material). The trends observed for the <sup>1</sup>H-  
470 signals involved were consistent with the known differences in the chemical composition of NTSO  
471 and HOSO with respect to the VOs in the ‘illegal’ class and both categories of olive oils, already  
472 mentioned above.

473 In addition, classification models were constructed to distinguish ‘legal’ blends containing NTSO  
474 from those with HOSO, affording prediction abilities of 83–85% for blends with VOO (PLS-DA  
475 model-69), and 97% for blends with OO (PLS-DA model-71 in Table 5). HOSO contains higher  
476 amounts of oleic acid and lower concentrations of linoleic and linolenic acids (polyunsaturated fatty  
477 acids) than NTSO (Jović et al., 2016), which is reflected on the most influential <sup>1</sup>H-signals on these  
478 models (Table S8 in supplementary material).

479 **3.7. PLS-DA models to discriminate between blends of VOO or OO with different**  
480 **compositions**

481 Further binary classification models can be built using datasets containing only the information  
482 related to specific VOs or % VO in the blends. These complementary models are useful whenever  
483 an oil sample is predicted to contain a certain VO by more than one of the classification models  
484 described above. Likewise, in the case that the determination of the % VO is not enough accurate  
485 by the corresponding regression model for low percentages, it is interesting to be able to  
486 discriminate between mixtures with different % VO. As a proof of concept, binary classification  
487 models were developed to distinguish blends of different % S or HR in VOO (PLS-DA models 72  
488 and 73); and OO mixtures containing DOSO or HR (PLS-DA model-74), RAO or HR (PLS-DA  
489 model-75), RAO or DOSO (PLS-DA model-76) and DOSO or HOSO (PLS-DA model-77), with  
490 satisfactory classification abilities (Table 5). The most influential <sup>1</sup>H-signals on these models are  
491 gathered in Table S8 (supplementary material). Depending on the class and model considered,  
492 different trends were observed in the signal intensities, which are in accordance with the relative  
493 chemical composition of each kind of oil in the blend previously reported. The major fatty acids in  
494 S and VOO are linoleic acid and oleic acid respectively (Vigli et al., 2003). VOO contains higher  
495 amounts of squalene and linolenic acid than HR, and the opposite occurs for linoleic acid (Guillén  
496 et al., 2003; Vigli et al., 2003). HR presents higher contents of oleic acid, similar concentrations of  
497 linoleic acid and lower amounts of saturated fatty acids than RAO (Green et al., 2020; Parcerisa et  
498 al., 2000). In respect of the main variables on the models obtained for the discrimination of DOSO-  
499 OO blends from other VO-OO mixtures, DOSO-OO blends contained higher concentrations of  
500 oleic acid than OO blends of HR, RAO and HOSO, which are the VOs that present the highest  
501 contents of oleic acid (Green et al., 2020; Guillén et al., 2003; Jović et al., 2016; Parcerisa et al.,  
502 2000); and lower amounts of linoleic acid than OO blends of HR, RAO and HOSO. Taking into  
503 account that DOSO is obtained from the desterolization and deodorization of HOSO, these results  
504 evidenced that during the deodorization and/or desterolization processes the fatty acid profile of the

505 oil was altered, resulting in lower linoleic and higher oleic contents. In this sense, it has been  
506 already reported that the drastic conditions used during raffination processes lead to olefinic  
507 degradation of sterols, the isomerization of squalene and linoleic and linolenic acids, among other  
508 changes in the chemical composition of the oil (Aparicio et al., 2013; Grob et al., 1994).

### 509 **3.8. Prediction of blends of olive oil with other vegetable oils**

510 The composition of thirty-six blind oil samples provided within the OLEUM Project and eight  
511 commercial oils was predicted by the classification and regression models developed for blends of  
512 olive oil with other vegetable oils following the decision trees shown in Figures 1 and S1  
513 (supplementary material). For each blind sample, Table S9 (supplementary material) gathers *i*) the  
514 PLS-DA and PLS-R models applied; *ii*) the PLS-DA predictions related to the category of the olive  
515 oil (VOO or OO), the VO contained, and the low/high level of VO in the blend (Tables 1–3, S2–S7  
516 in supplementary material); *iii*) the % VO in the blend determined by the corresponding PLS-R  
517 model (Table 4); and *iv*) the predictions of the complementary PLS-DA models (Table 5). Most of  
518 the blind samples were predicted satisfactorily according to the description provided (Table S9 in  
519 supplementary material); thus, the category of olive oil, i.e. VOO or OO, the particular VO and the  
520 % VO in the oil sample were accurately determined. All mixtures of VOO or OO with 40–60%  
521 NTSO or HOSO (**1–12**), all the blends (containing 5–30% VO) of RPOO-OO (**29–32**) and HV-  
522 VOO (**17–20**), and the blends of EVAO-VOO (**14–16**) and HR-OO (**26–28**) with  $\geq 10\%$  VO were  
523 correctly identified and the % VO properly figured out. Only blind samples **16**, **17** and **19** were  
524 predicted to present slightly higher % VO in VOO, and sample **26** scarcely lower % HR in OO, than  
525 those percentages given in the description. The DOSO-OO blends (**33–36**) were satisfactorily  
526 determined by the corresponding classification and regression models; the % DOSO in OO in  
527 sample **36** was barely lower than predicted. The blend of 10% DOSO in OO (**34**) was confused with  
528 mixtures of 2–11% of HOSO in OO. For the blend of 5% EVAO in VOO (**13**), the contained VO  
529 was not recognised by any of the classification models, but the calculated % VO was within the



530 calibration range of the regression model developed for EVAO-VOO blends; and this model  
531 predicted correctly the % EVAO in the mixture, even with better precisions than the other models  
532 built for HOSO-VOO and HR-VOO blends. The VO in the blend of 5% HR in OO (25) was not  
533 identified by any of the HR-OO classification models. Indeed, the detection of the adulteration of  
534 OO with HR is still one of the main challenges in fraud detection due to the close composition of  
535 both refined oils (Agiomyrgianaki et al., 2010; García-González et al., 2004; Mannina et al., 2009).  
536 Even blends with  $\leq 10\%$  HR in OO can be confused with RAO-OO blends. The composition of  
537 blind samples 21–24 were determined by the classification and regression models built for both  
538 RAO-OO and DOSO-OO blends; however, the PLS-DA model-76 (Table 5), which distinguishes  
539 these two OO mixtures, predicted satisfactorily that these blind samples contained RAO, except for  
540 the mixture of 10% RAO in OO (22).

541 Regarding the commercial oils analysed, samples 37, 38 and 44 were declared to be mixtures of  
542 vegetable oils or NTSO with EVOO or VOO. Samples 37 and 38 were confirmed to contain VOO,  
543 whereas sample 44 was classified as an OO blend. Furthermore, the three samples were predicted to  
544 contain NTSO, in accordance with their label specifications. All the other commercial oil samples  
545 (39–43) were labelled as mixtures of VOO or EVOO with rapeseed oil; however, all of them were  
546 classified as blends of OO. These results are not conclusive since no blends of rapeseed oil with  
547 VOO or OO were available to be included in the modelling step of the present study.

#### 548 **4. Conclusion**

549 A stepwise strategy based on  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  fingerprinting of an oil sample in combination with  
550 chemometrics is proposed to determine the content of mixtures of oils of the ‘virgin olive oil’ or  
551 ‘olive oil’ categories and vegetable oils, providing a chemical tool to (i) confirm the presence of  
552 VOO or OO in an oil sample; (ii) discriminate between pure olive oils and their blends with VOs to  
553 a certain extent, given by the detection limit disclosed for each VO; (iii) identify the VO in the  
554 blend with VOO or OO; (iv) differentiate between blends made with different VOs in VOO or OO;

555 (v) distinguish blends made with the same VO in different proportions; and (vi) determine the %  
556 VO blended with VOO or OO.

557 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral data of olive oils and their mixtures with the VOs most commonly used to make  
558 blends, i.e. sunflower oil, high oleic sunflower oil, desterolized high oleic sunflower oil, virgin and  
559 refined avocado oil, virgin and refined hazelnut oil, refined palm olein oil, corn oil and soybean oil,  
560 was used to optimize and validate classification and regression models built by PLS-DA and PLS-R  
561 respectively. The classification models achieved were satisfactory, robust and stable. Excellent  
562 precisions and acceptable accuracies were afforded by the regression models developed for the  
563 determination of the % VO in VOO or OO. The reliability of the classification and regression  
564 models was supported by the chemical interpretation of the most influential variables on the  
565 validated models. The % VO in the blend is determined with uncertainties under the 20% of R-  
566 RMSEP for contents as low as 5% EVAO or S, 6% NTSO, 10% HV and 17% HOSO in VOO; and  
567 2% RPOO, CO, NTSO or HR, 4% DOSO or RAO and 5% HOSO in OO. The detection limits are  
568 under 2% EVAO or S and between 2–5% NTSO, HOSO, HV or HR in VOO; and under 2% RPOO,  
569 CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR and 2–4% RAO in OO. The performance and effectiveness of the  
570 proposed strategy were validated by a set of blind samples, which confirmed its feasibility to  
571 support Reg. (EU) 29/2012. Further studies should be carried out with larger balanced sample sets  
572 covering the variability of olive oils of both categories (VOO and OO) and the vegetable oils of  
573 interest. The different possible sources of variability, such as the varieties of each botanical oil  
574 species, the agronomical and climatic conditions, the geographical origins and harvests, should be  
575 considered. The implementation of this approach requires a databank of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR fingerprints of  
576 oils. The databank has to include pure oils comprising olive oils of the different categories,  
577 vegetable oils used to make legal blends and adulterant oils, and their mixtures; because it has to be  
578 representative of oil variability in order to guarantee robust models for both authentication and  
579 fraud detection. It is worth noting that this requirement is feasible in practice since the creation of  
580 the OLEUM Databank and the OLEUM Network are among the objectives of the OLEUM Project

581 that are being accomplished. The OLEUM Databank is an online integrated quality assurance  
582 database of olive oil analytical methods and chemical data, which is currently being developed. The  
583 OLEUM Network is a worldwide community of proficient analytical laboratories involved in olive  
584 oil analysis, and it is expected to expand and may also contribute to the feeding and updating of the  
585 databank over time.

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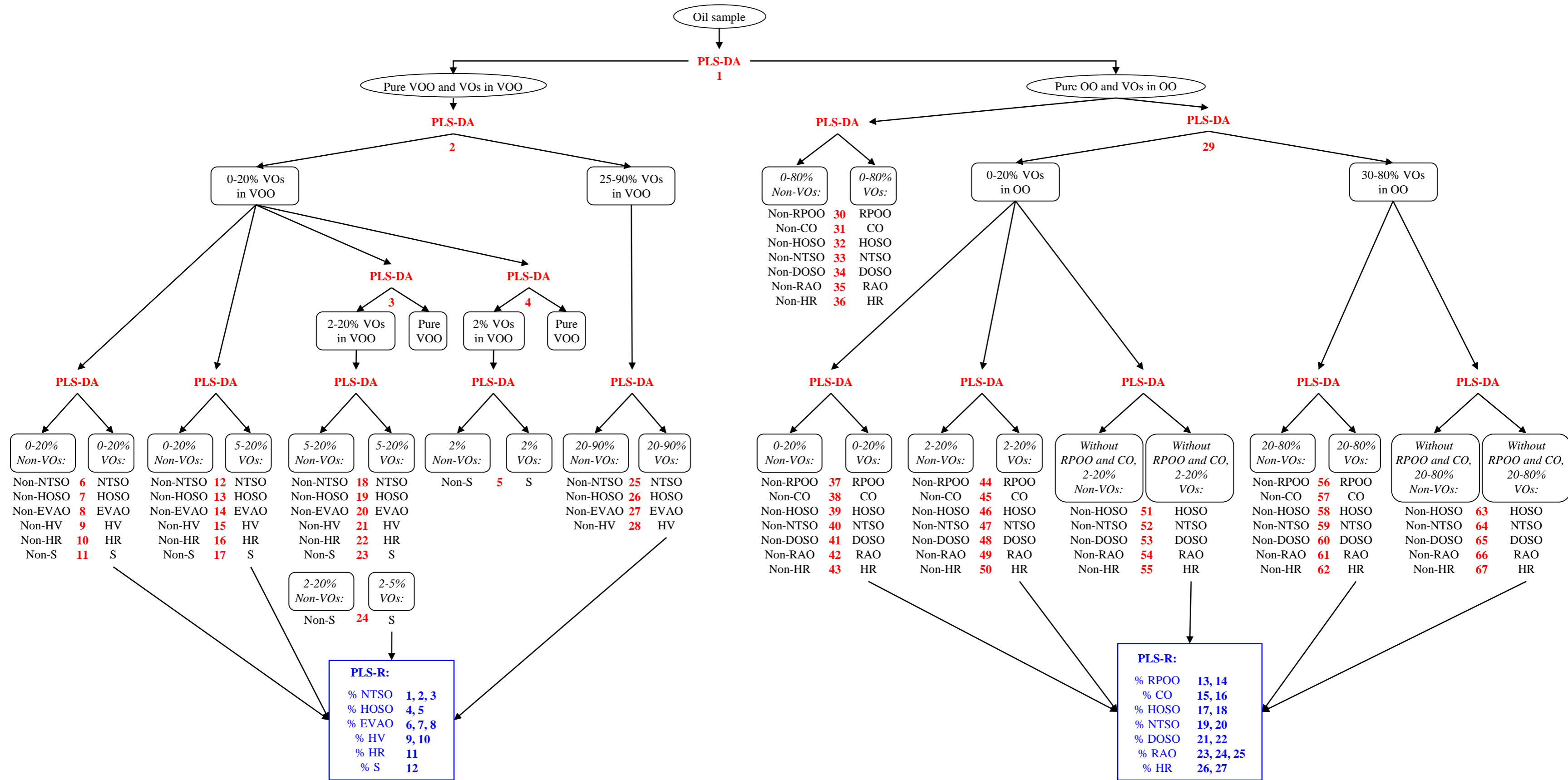
728 **Figure captions**

729 **Figure 1.** Decision tree constituted of PLS-DA classification and PLS-R regression models to  
730 determine the composition of binary mixtures of oils of the ‘virgin olive oil’ or ‘olive oil’ categories  
731 and other vegetable oils. Abbreviations: VOO, virgin olive oil; OO, olive oil; VO, vegetable oil;  
732 NTSO, refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil); HOSO, refined high oleic  
733 sunflower oil; DOSO, desterolized and deodorized high oleic sunflower oil; HR, refined hazelnut  
734 oil; HV, virgin hazelnut oil; S, refined soybean oil; EVAO, virgin avocado oil; RAO, refined  
735 avocado oil; RPOO, refined palm olein oil; CO, refined corn oil.

736

737 **Supplementary material**

738 **Figure S1.** Decision tree constituted of PLS-DA classification and PLS-R regression models for  
739 a case-study: Discrimination between ‘legal’ (containing NTSO or HOSO) and ‘illegal’ (not  
740 containing NTSO or HOSO) blends, and determination of % NTSO or HOSO in binary mixtures  
741 with oils of the ‘virgin olive oil’ or ‘olive oil’ categories. Abbreviations: VOO, virgin olive oil; OO,  
742 olive oil; VO, vegetable oil; NTSO, refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil);  
743 HOSO, refined high oleic sunflower oil.



1 **Tables**2 **Table 1**

3 PLS-DA models to discriminate between pure and blended oils containing oils of the ‘virgin olive oil’  
 4 or ‘olive oil’ categories and vegetable oils, and binary mixtures with different proportions of vegetable  
 5 oil in olive oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P
1	Pure & blend VOO/OO	4	0.4079	VOO	0	838	0.70	97	97
				OO	1	356	0.30	98	98
2	Pure & blend VOO	6	0.3283	0–20% VO in VOO (low)	0	704	0.84	98	98
				25–90% VO in VOO (high)	1	132	0.16	97	97
3	0–20% VO in VOO	5	0.2230	2–20% VO in VOO	0	549	0.78	90	89
				Pure VOO	1	155	0.22	86	86
4	0–2% VO in VOO	14	0.4264	2% VO in VOO	0	204	0.57	90	90
				Pure VOO	1	155	0.43	93	92
5	2% VO in VOO	19	0.4265	non-S	0	159	0.78	99	97
				S	1	45	0.22	100	100
29	Pure & blend OO	16	0.4388	0–20% VO in OO (low)	0	184	0.52	97	96
				30–80% VO in OO (high)	1	171	0.48	95	94

6

7 <sup>1</sup> Abbreviations: n, number of samples; centered data; PLS-comp, number of PLS components; p, prior probability; %R, % of recognition  
 8 ability; %P, % of prediction ability in cross-validation; VOO, virgin olive oil; OO, olive oil; VO, vegetable oil; NTSO, refined  
 9 conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil); HOSO, refined high oleic sunflower oil; DOSO, desterolized and deodorized  
 10 high oleic sunflower oil; HR, refined hazelnut oil; HV, virgin hazelnut oil; S, refined soybean oil; EVAO, virgin avocado oil; RAO,  
 11 refined avocado oil; RPOO, refined palm olein oil; CO, refined corn oil.

12 <sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class: VOO, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with VO (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); OO, pure  
 13 OOs and blends of OO with VO (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); 0–20% VO in VOO, pure VOOs and blends of  
 14 VOO with 2–20% VO (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); 25–90% VO in VOO, blends of VOO with 25–90% VO (NTSO,  
 15 HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); 2–20% VO in VOO, blends of VOO with 2–20% VO (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); Pure  
 16 VOO, pure VOOs; 2% VO in VOO, blends of VOO with 2% VO (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); non-S, blends of VOO with  
 17 2% VO (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or HR); S, blends of VOO with 2% S; 0–20% VO in OO, pure OOs and blends of OO with  
 18 2–20% VO (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); 30–80% VO in OO, blends of OO with 30–80% VO (RPOO, CO,  
 19 HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR).

20 **Table 2**

21 PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 2–20%  
 22 vegetable oil in olive oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2,3,4</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P
18	5–20% non-NTSO in VOO	7	0.3029	non-NTSO	0	267	0.77	93	91
	5–20% NTSO in VOO			NTSO	1	78	0.23	94	90
19	5–20% non-HOSO in VOO	16	0.4039	non-HOSO	0	243	0.70	88	85
	5–20% HOSO in VOO			HOSO	1	102	0.30	92	88
20	5–20% non-EVAO in VOO	11	0.3002	non-EVAO	0	330	0.96	98	98
	5–20% EVAO in VOO			EVAO	1	15	0.04	93	93
21	5–20% non-HV in VOO	13	0.2335	non-HV	0	300	0.87	91	83
	5–20% HV in VOO			HV	1	45	0.13	91	87
22	5–20% non-HR in VOO	20	0.3291	non-HR	0	285	0.83	90	83
	5–20% HR in VOO			HR	1	60	0.17	93	88
23	5–20% non-S in VOO	7	0.3715	non-S	0	300	0.87	98	97
	5% S in VOO			S	1	45	0.13	98	98
24	2–20% non-S in VOO	13	0.4514	non-S	0	166	0.65	99	97
	2–5% S in VOO			S	1	90	0.35	98	97
44	2–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	2	0.2604	non-RPOO	0	130	0.86	98	97
				RPOO	1	21	0.14	95	95
45	2–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	7	0.3987	non-CO	0	132	0.87	96	96
				CO	1	20	0.13	100	100
46	2–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	3	0.3359	non-HOSO	0	140	0.92	98	98
				HOSO	1	12	0.08	100	100
47	2–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	12	0.3176	non-NTSO	0	114	0.75	96	89
				NTSO	1	38	0.25	97	89
48	2–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	8	0.2189	non-DOSO	0	131	0.87	92	85
				DOSO	1	20	0.13	95	95
49	2–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	6	0.2633	non-RAO	0	131	0.86	83	82
				RAO	1	21	0.14	90	90
50	2–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	14	0.3408	non-HR	0	131	0.87	97	92
				HR	1	19	0.13	100	95

23

24 <sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table 1.

25 <sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 18–23: non-NTSO, blends of VOO with 5–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or  
 26 S); NTSO, blends of VOO with 5–20% NTSO; non-HOSO, blends of VOO with 5–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (NTSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); HOSO,  
 27 blends of VOO with 5–20% HOSO; non-EVAO, blends of VOO with 5–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (NTSO, HOSO, HV, HR or S); EVAO, blends of  
 28 VOO with 5–20% EVAO; non-HV, blends of VOO with 5–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HR or S); HV, blends of VOO with  
 29 5–20% HV; non-HR, blends of VOO with 5–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or S); HR, blends of VOO with 5–10% HR; non-S,  
 30 blends of VOO with 5–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or HR); S, blends of VOO with 5% S.

31 <sup>3</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 24: non-S, blends of VOO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or HR);  
 32 S, blends of VOO with 2–5% S.

33 <sup>4</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 44–50: non-RPOO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO,  
34 RAO or HR); RPOO, blends of OO with 2–20% RPOO; non-CO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (RPOO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO  
35 or HR); CO, blends of OO with 2–20% CO; non-HOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (RPOO, CO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR);  
36 HOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% HOSO; non-NTSO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, DOSO, RAO or HR);  
37 NTSO, blends of OO with 2–20% NTSO; non-DOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, RAO or HR);  
38 DOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% DOSO; non-RAO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR); RAO,  
39 blends of OO with 2–20% RAO; non-HR, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or RAO); HR, blends of  
40 OO with 2–20% HR.

41 **Table 3**

42 PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 20–90%  
 43 vegetable oil in olive oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS- comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2,3</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P
25	20–80% non-NTSO in VOO	4	0.4955	non-NTSO	0	73	0.47	100	100
	20–90% NTSO in VOO			NTSO	1	83	0.53	100	100
26	20–90% non-HOSO in VOO	4	0.4120	non-HOSO	0	130	0.83	100	100
	20–80% HOSO in VOO			HOSO	1	26	0.17	92	92
27	20–90% non-EVAO in VOO	4	0.3985	non-EVAO	0	131	0.84	100	99
	20–80% EVAO in VOO			EVAO	1	25	0.16	100	100
28	20–90% non-HV in VOO	3	0.3563	non-HV	0	134	0.86	100	100
	20–80% HV in VOO			HV	1	22	0.14	100	100
56	20–80% VOs in OO	1	0.3445	non-RPOO	0	185	0.88	100	100
				RPOO	1	25	0.12	100	100
57	20–80% VOs in OO	7	0.4410	non-CO	0	178	0.85	100	100
				CO	1	31	0.15	100	100
58	20–80% VOs in OO	5	0.4063	non-HOSO	0	182	0.87	99	99
				HOSO	1	28	0.13	86	86
59	20–80% VOs in OO	6	0.3650	non-NTSO	0	151	0.72	100	99
				NTSO	1	59	0.28	93	92
60	20–80% VOs in OO	4	0.3127	non-DOSO	0	188	0.90	100	99
				DOSO	1	20	0.10	100	100
61	20–80% VOs in OO	5	0.3195	non-RAO	0	187	0.89	95	94
				RAO	1	23	0.11	91	91
62	20–80% VOs in OO	9	0.3083	non-HR	0	187	0.91	99	98
				HR	1	19	0.09	100	100

44 <sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table 1.

45 <sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 25–28: non-NTSO, blends of VOO with 20–80% VOs (HOSO, EVAO or HV);  
 46 NTSO, blends of VOO with 20–90% NTSO; non-HOSO, blends of VOO with 20–90% VOs (NTSO, EVAO or HV); HOSO, blends of  
 47 VOO with 20–80% HOSO; non-EVAO, blends of VOO with 20–90% VOs (NTSO, HOSO or HV); EVAO, blends of VOO with  
 48 20–80% EVAO; non-HV, blends of VOO with 20–90% VOs (NTSO, HOSO or EVAO); HV, blends of VOO with 20–80% HV.

49 <sup>3</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 56–62: non-RPOO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO,  
 50 RAO or HR); RPOO, blends of OO with 20–80% RPOO; non-CO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (RPOO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO,  
 51 RAO or HR); CO, blends of OO with 20–80% CO; non-HOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (RPOO, CO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or  
 52 HR); HOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% HOSO; non-NTSO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, DOSO, RAO or  
 53 HR); NTSO, blends of OO with 20–80% NTSO; non-DOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, RAO or  
 54 HR); DOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% DOSO; non-RAO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or  
 55 HR); RAO, blends of OO with 20–80% RAO; non-HR, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or RAO);  
 56 HR, blends of OO with 20–80% HR.

57 **Table 4**

58 PLS-R models to determine the percentage of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture with olive  
 59 oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-R model	Data <sup>2</sup>	n	PLS-comp	R-cal	R-val	R <sup>2</sup> -val	RMSEP (% VO)
1	2–10% NTSO in VOO <sup>3</sup>	113	6	0.86	0.83	0.68	1.2
2	10–20% NTSO in VOO <sup>3</sup>	24	6	0.9995	0.9946	0.989	0.49
3	20–90% NTSO in VOO <sup>3</sup>	76	1	0.9990	0.9989	0.998	0.96
4	2–20% HOSO in VOO <sup>3</sup>	100	7	0.75	0.71	0.50	3.4
5	20–80% HOSO in VOO <sup>4</sup>	21	5	0.998	0.994	0.987	1.9
6	2–20% EVAO in VOO <sup>4</sup>	20	6	0.998	0.988	0.98	1.0
7	20–45% EVAO in VOO <sup>4</sup>	14	3	0.995	0.987	0.97	1.7
8	45–80% EVAO in VOO <sup>4</sup>	12	3	0.998	0.996	0.992	1.3
9	10–30% HV in VOO <sup>4</sup>	25	7	0.995	0.986	0.97	1.3
10	30–80% HV in VOO <sup>4</sup>	16	1	0.994	0.993	0.986	2.3
11	2–10% HR in VOO <sup>3</sup>	84	3	0.58	0.55	0.30	2.8
12	2–5% S in VOO <sup>3</sup>	86	9	0.87	0.78	0.61	0.95
13	2–20% RPOO in OO <sup>4</sup>	20	4	0.9997	0.9993	0.9986	0.25
14	20–80% RPOO in OO <sup>3</sup>	25	1	0.9993	0.9992	0.998	0.80
15	2–10% CO in OO <sup>4</sup>	12	1	0.997	0.996	0.992	0.32
16	10–80% CO in OO <sup>3</sup>	32	1	0.99992	0.99990	0.9998	0.32
17	2–20% HOSO in OO <sup>4</sup>	10	2	0.994	0.983	0.97	1.0
18	10–80% HOSO in OO <sup>3</sup>	25	3	0.9994	0.9992	0.998	0.80
19	2–20% NTSO in OO <sup>3</sup>	34	4	0.9989	0.9978	0.996	0.45
20	20–80% NTSO in OO <sup>3</sup>	54	1	0.997	0.994	0.989	1.4
21	2–20% DOSO in OO <sup>4</sup>	19	6	0.998	0.994	0.987	0.78
22	20–80% DOSO in OO <sup>4</sup>	18	2	0.997	0.996	0.991	2.0
23	2–10% RAO in OO <sup>4</sup>	11	5	0.997	0.963	0.93	0.76
24	2–20% RAO in OO <sup>4</sup>	17	9	0.9994	0.9812	0.963	1.3
25	20–80% RAO in OO <sup>4</sup>	17	4	0.9991	0.9974	0.995	1.5
26	2–20% HR in OO <sup>4</sup>	14	3	0.9988	0.9977	0.995	0.49
27	20–80% HR in OO <sup>3</sup>	21	3	0.9997	0.9995	0.9990	0.64

60

61 <sup>1</sup> Abbreviations: n, number of samples; centered data; PLS-comp, number of PLS components; R-cal, correlation coefficient in  
 62 calibration; R-val, correlation coefficient in validation; R<sup>2</sup>-val, coefficient of determination in validation; RMSEP, root mean square error  
 63 in the prediction (% VO).

64 <sup>2</sup> Samples used to build each model.

65 <sup>3</sup> 3-fold cross-validation.

66 <sup>4</sup> Leave-one-out cross-validation.

67 **Table 5**

68 PLS-DA models to discriminate between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends of olive oil and vegetable oils,  
 69 ‘legal’ blends of VOO or OO with NTSO and HOSO, VOO blends with 2% S and 5% S, VOO blends  
 70 with 2–5% HR and 10% HR, OO blends with DOSO and HR, OO blends with RAO and HR, OO  
 71 blends with RAO and DOSO, and OO blends of with DOSO and HOSO.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2,3,4,5</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P
68	2–90% VO in VOO	10	0.5290	‘Illegal’ blend	0	302	0.44	78	77
				‘Legal’ blend	1	381	0.56	81	77
69	2–90% NTSO in VOO	9	0.5543	NTSO	0	207	0.54	85	83
	2–80% HOSO in VOO			HOSO	1	174	0.46	88	85
70	2–80% VO in OO	13	0.3960	‘Illegal’ blend	0	199	0.61	99	98
				‘Legal’ blend	1	125	0.39	87	86
71	2–80% NTSO in OO	5	0.3979	NTSO	0	88	0.70	98	97
	2–80% HOSO in OO			HOSO	1	37	0.30	97	97
72	2–5% S in VOO	9	0.4643	2% S	0	44	0.50	95	93
				5% S	1	44	0.50	93	93
73	2–10% HR in VOO	6	0.4429	2–5% HR	0	59	0.66	83	80
				10% HR	1	30	0.34	80	77
74	2–80% DOSO in OO	3	0.4805	DOSO	0	37	0.50	86	84
	2–80% HR in OO			HR	1	37	0.50	97	95
75	2–80% RAO in OO	3	0.5011	RAO	0	38	0.51	79	82
	2–80% HR in OO			HR	1	37	0.49	86	84
76	2–80% RAO in OO	6	0.4723	RAO	0	38	0.51	95	95
	2–80% DOSO in OO			DOSO	1	37	0.49	100	97
77	2–80% DOSO in OO	3	0.4280	DOSO	0	37	0.50	95	95
	2–80% HOSO in OO			HOSO	1	37	0.50	100	100

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73 <sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table 1.

74 <sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 68–69: ‘Illegal’ blend, blends of VOO with 2–80% VO (EVAO, HV, HR or S);  
 75 ‘Legal’ blend, blends of VOO with 2–90% VO (NTSO or HOSO); NTSO, blends of VOO with 2–90% NTSO; HOSO, blends of VOO  
 76 with 2–80% HOSO.

77 <sup>3</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 70–71: ‘Illegal’ blends, blends of OO with 2–80% VO (RPOO, CO, DOSO,  
 78 RAO or HR); ‘Legal’ blends, blends of OO with 2–80% VO (HOSO or NTSO); NTSO, blends of OO with 2–80% NTSO; HOSO,  
 79 blends of OO with 2–80% HOSO.

80 <sup>4</sup> Samples contained in each class PLS-DA models 72–73: 2% S in VOO, blends of VOO with 2% S; 5% S in VOO, blends of VOO with  
 81 5% S; 2–5% HR in VOO, blends of VOO with 2–5% HR; 10% HR in VOO, blends of VOO with 10% HR.

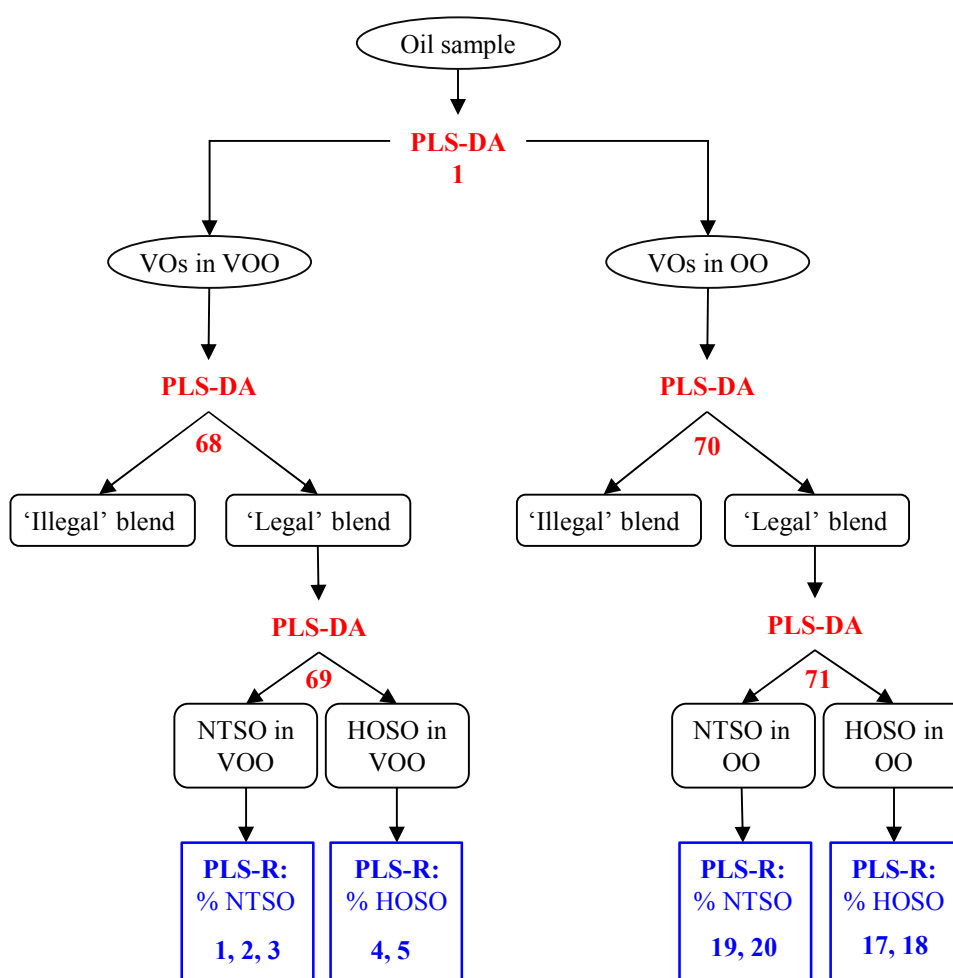
82 <sup>5</sup> Samples contained in each class PLS-DA models 74–77: DOSO, blends of OO with 2–80% DOSO; HR, blends of OO with 2–80%  
 83 HR; RAO, blends of OO with 2–80% RAO; HOSO, blends of OO with 2–80% HOSO.



## Stepwise strategy based on $^1\text{H-NMR}$ fingerprinting in combination with chemometrics to determine the content of vegetable oils in olive oil mixtures

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### Supplementary material: Figures



**Figure S1.** Decision tree constituted of PLS-DA classification and PLS-R regression models for a case-study: Discrimination between 'legal' (containing NTSO or HOSO) and 'illegal' (not containing NTSO or HOSO) blends, and determination of % NTSO or HOSO in binary mixtures with oils of the 'virgin olive oil' or 'olive oil' categories. Abbreviations: VOO, virgin olive oil; OO, olive oil; VO, vegetable oil; NTSO, refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil); HOSO, refined high oleic sunflower oil.

## Stepwise strategy based on $^1\text{H-NMR}$ fingerprinting in combination with chemometrics to determine the content of vegetable oils in olive oil mixtures

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### Supplementary material: Tables

**Table S1**

Chemical shift assignments of the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  signals of the main components in olive oil.

#	Chemical shift (ppm)	Multiplicity <sup>a</sup>	Functional group	Attribution
1	0.318	d	$-\text{CH}_2-$ (cyclopropanic ring)	cycloartenol
2	0.527	s	$-\text{CH}_2-$	alcohol, sterol
3	0.543	d	$-\text{CH}_2-$ (cyclopropanic ring)	cycloartenol
4	0.669	s	$-\text{CH}_3$ (C18-steroid group)	$\beta$ -sitosterol
5	0.687	s	$-\text{CH}_3$ (C18-steroid group)	stigmasterol
6	0.740	t	$-\text{CH}_3$ ( $^{13}\text{C}$ satellite of signal at 0.87 ppm, acyl group)	
7	0.80-1.04	t	$-\text{CH}_3$ (acyl group)	
7a	0.83	t	$-\text{CH}_3$ (acyl group)	saturated
7b	0.866	t	$-\text{CH}_3$ (acyl group)	oleic (or $\omega$ -9)
7c	0.89	t	$-\text{CH}_3$ (acyl group)	linoleic (or $\omega$ -6)
7d	0.960	t	$-\text{CH}_3$ (acyl group)	linolenic (or $\omega$ -3)
8	0.987	t	$-\text{CH}_3$ ( $^{13}\text{C}$ satellite of signal at 0.87 ppm, acyl group)	
9	1.19-1.44		$-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$ (acyl group)	
9a	1.243		$-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$ (acyl group)	saturated
9b	1.256		$-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$ (acyl group)	oleic (or $\omega$ -9)
9c	1.288		$-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$ (acyl group)	linoleic (or $\omega$ -6) and linolenic (or $\omega$ -3)
10	1.51-1.65		$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	
10a	1.57		$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	saturated
10b	1.58		$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	oleic (or $\omega$ -9)
10c	1.59		$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	linoleic (or $\omega$ -6) and linolenic (or $\omega$ -3)
11	1.662	s	$-\text{CH}_3$	squalene
12	1.96-2.07		$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ (acyl group)	
12a	1.97		$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ (acyl group)	oleic (or $\omega$ -9)
12b	2.01-2.03		$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ (acyl group)	linoleic (or $\omega$ -6) and linolenic (or $\omega$ -3)
12c	2.05-2.07		$-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ (acyl group)	linolenic (or $\omega$ -3)
13	2.22-2.32	m	$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	
13a	2.24	m	$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	saturated
13b	2.25	m	$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	oleic (or $\omega$ -9)
13c	2.27	m	$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	linoleic (or $\omega$ -6)
13d	2.31	m	$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-$ (acyl group)	linolenic (or $\omega$ -3)
14	2.40-2.45	m	$-\text{OCO-CH}_2-$ ( $^{13}\text{C}$ satellite of signal at 2.26-2.32 ppm, acyl group)	

#	Chemical shift (ppm)	Multiplicity <sup>a</sup>	Functional group	Attribution
15	2.72-2.82		=CH-CH <sub>2</sub> -CH= (acyl group)	
15a	2.754	t	=CH-CH <sub>2</sub> -CH= (acyl group)	linoleic (or ω-6)
15b	2.789	t	=CH-CH <sub>2</sub> -CH= (acyl group)	linolenic (or ω-3)
16	3.69-3.73	d	-CH <sub>2</sub> OH (glyceryl group)	<i>sn</i> -1,2-diacylglycerides
17	4.05-4.09	q	>CH-OH (glyceryl group)	<i>sn</i> -1,3-diacylglycerides
18	4.09-4.32		-CH <sub>2</sub> OCOR (glyceryl group)	triacylglycerides
19	4.571	d		terpene
20	4.648	s		terpene
21	4.699	s		terpene
22	5.05-5.15	m	>CHOCOR (glyceryl group)	<i>sn</i> -1,2-diacylglycerides
23	5.22-5.28	m	>CHOCOR (glyceryl group)	triacylglycerides
24	5.28-5.38	m	-CH=CH- (acyl group)	
25	5.52-5.43	m	-CH=CH- ( <sup>13</sup> C satellite of signal at 5.28-5.38 ppm, acyl group)	
26	5.72-5.76	dt	=CH- (phenolic ring)	phenolic compounds
27	5.986		=CH- (phenolic ring)	phenolic compounds
28	6.551	dt	=CH- (phenolic ring)	phenolic compounds
29	6.607	dd	=CH- (C8'; phenolic ring)	dialdehyde of oleuropein lacking a carboxymethyl group aldehydic form of oleuropein
30	6.79-6.73	d	=CH- (C5', C7'; phenolic ring)	dialdehyde of secoiridoids (oleuropein, ligstroside) lacking a carboxymethyl group aldehydic form of secoiridoid (oleuropein, ligstroside)
31	7.05-7.00	dt	=CH- (C4', C8'; phenolic ring)	dialdehyde of ligstroside lacking a carboxymethyl group aldehydic form of ligstroside
32	7.562	s	=CH-O- (C3)	aldehydic form of secoiridoid (oleuropein, ligstroside)
33	8.14-8.06		>C(OH)OR	volatile compounds
34	9.215	d	-CHO (C1)	dialdehyde of secoiridoids (oleuropein, ligstroside) lacking a carboxymethyl group
35	9.51	d	-CHO	<i>E</i> -2-alkenals ( <i>E</i> -2-hexenal)
36	9.626	dd	-CHO (C3)	dialdehyde of secoiridoids (oleuropein, ligstroside) lacking a carboxymethyl group
		dd	-CHO (C1)	aldehydic form of secoiridoids (oleuropein, ligstroside)

**Table S2**

PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 2–20% vegetable oil in virgin olive oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P	%P-EV
6	0–20% non-NTSO in VOO	12	0.3623	non-NTSO	0	238	0.64	86	85	79
	2–20% NTSO in VOO			NTSO	1	132	0.36	90	86	-
7	0–20% non-HOSO in VOO	14	0.4713	non-HOSO	0	245	0.62	83	79	82
	2–20% HOSO in VOO			HOSO	1	152	0.38	83	79	-
8	0–20% non-EVAO in VOO	6	0.3791	non-EVAO	0	81	0.80	94	93	97
	2–20% EVAO in VOO			EVAO	1	20	0.20	90	90	-
9	0–20% non-HV in VOO	6	0.3815	non-HV	0	137	0.68	78	75	73
	2–20% HV in VOO			HV	1	65	0.32	82	75	-
10	0–20% non-HR in VOO	5	0.4011	non-HR	0	195	0.68	77	75	58
	2–20% HR in VOO			HR	1	90	0.32	78	76	-
11	0–20% non-S in VOO	11	0.4248	non-S	0	208	0.70	98	96	95
	2–20% S in VOO			S	1	90	0.30	97	96	-

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations: n, number of samples; centered data; PLS-comp, number of PLS components; p, prior probability; %R, % of recognition ability; %P, % of prediction ability in cross-validation; %P-EV, % of prediction ability in external validation; VOO, virgin olive oil; VO, vegetable oil; NTSO, refined conventional sunflower oil (normal type sunflower oil); HOSO, refined high oleic sunflower oil; HR, refined hazelnut oil; HV, virgin hazelnut oil; S, refined soybean oil; EVAO, virgin avocado oil.

<sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class: non-NTSO, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); NTSO, blends of VOO with 2–20% NTSO; non-HOSO, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); HOSO, blends of VOO with 2–20% HOSO; non-EVAO, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, HV, HR or S); EVAO, blends of VOO with 2–20% EVAO; non-HV, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HR or S); HV, blends of VOO with 2–20% HV; non-HR, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or S); HR, blends of VOO with 2–10% HR; non-S, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or HR); S, blends of VOO with 2–5% S.

**Table S3**

PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 5–20% vegetable oil in virgin olive oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P	%P-EV
12	0–20% non-NTSO in VOO	11	0.3508	non-NTSO	0	238	0.73	96	95	92
	5–20% NTSO in VOO			NTSO	1	87	0.27	94	90	-
13	0–20% non-HOSO in VOO	17	0.4098	non-HOSO	0	245	0.71	87	85	85
	5–20% HOSO in VOO			HOSO	1	102	0.29	90	86	-
14	0–20% non-EVAO in VOO	10	0.3805	non-EVAO	0	80	0.84	94	93	97
	5–20% EVAO in VOO			EVAO	1	15	0.16	100	93	-
15	0–20% non-HV in VOO	10	0.3675	non-HV	0	137	0.75	85	82	81
	5–20% HV in VOO			HV	1	45	0.25	80	78	-
16	0–20% non-HR in VOO	14	0.3808	non-HR	0	195	0.76	85	79	72
	5–20% HR in VOO			HR	1	60	0.24	85	85	-
17	0–20% non-S in VOO	7	0.4156	non-S	0	208	0.82	98	98	97
	5–20% S in VOO			S	1	45	0.18	98	98	-

<sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table S2.

<sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class: non-NTSO, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (HOSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); NTSO, blends of VOO with 5–20% NTSO; non-HOSO, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, EVAO, HV, HR or S); HOSO, blends of VOO with 5–20% HOSO; non-EVAO, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, HV, HR or S); EVAO, blends of VOO with 5–20% EVAO; non-HV, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HR or S); HV, blends of VOO with 5–20%HV; non-HR, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or S); HR, blends of VOO with 5–10% HR; non-S, pure VOOs and blends of VOO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, HOSO, EVAO, HV or HR); S, blends of VOO with 5% S.

**Table S4**

PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 2–80% vegetable oil in olive oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS- comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2</sup>	Class					
					code	n	p	%R	%P	
30	0–80% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	2	0.1815	non-RPOO	0	315	0.88	100	100	
				RPOO	1	41	0.12	95	95	
31	0–80% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	7	0.3545	non-CO	0	310	0.87	96	95	
				CO	1	46	0.13	100	100	
32	0–80% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	7	0.3662	non-HOSO	0	319	0.90	98	97	
				HOSO	1	37	0.10	95	95	
33	0–80% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	12	0.2809	non-NTSO	0	268	0.75	98	97	
				NTSO	1	88	0.25	85	85	
34	0–80% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	5	0.1652	non-DOSO	0	319	0.90	91	91	
				DOSO	1	37	0.10	84	84	
35	0–80% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	11	0.2354	non-RAO	0	318	0.89	96	92	
				RAO	1	38	0.11	95	87	
36	0–80% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	15	0.2270	non-HR	0	319	0.90	93	89	
				HR	1	37	0.10	100	97	

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations: See abbreviations in Table S2; OO, olive oil; DOSO, deesterolized and deodorized high oleic sunflower oil; RAO, refined avocado oil; RPOO, refined palm olein oil; CO, refined corn oil.

<sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class: non-RPOO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–80% VO<sub>s</sub> (CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); RPOO, blends of OO with 2–80% RPOO; non-CO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–80% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); CO, blends of OO with 2–80% CO; non-HOSO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–80% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); HOSO, blends of OO with 2–80% HOSO; non-NTSO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–80% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); NTSO, blends of OO with 2–80% NTSO; non-DOSO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–80% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, RAO or HR); DOSO, blends of OO with 2–80% DOSO; non-RAO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–80% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR); RAO, blends of OO with 2–80% RAO; non-HR, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–80% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or RAO); HR, blends of OO with 2–80% HR.

**Table S5**

PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 2–20% vegetable oil in olive oil.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P
37	0–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	2	0.2399	non-RPOO	0	162	0.89	98	98
				RPOO	1	21	0.11	95	95
38	0–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	12	0.3522	non-CO	0	164	0.89	97	95
				CO	1	20	0.11	100	100
39	0–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	4	0.3039	non-HOSO	0	172	0.93	96	96
				HOSO	1	12	0.07	100	100
40	0–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	11	0.2770	non-NTSO	0	143	0.79	93	90
				NTSO	1	38	0.21	97	89
41	0–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	8	0.1904	non-DOSO	0	164	0.89	88	89
				DOSO	1	20	0.11	95	90
42	0–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	7	0.2110	non-RAO	0	163	0.89	82	80
				RAO	1	21	0.11	90	81
43	0–20% VO <sub>s</sub> in OO	14	0.2809	non-HR	0	162	0.90	94	90
				HR	1	19	0.10	95	95

<sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table S2 and S4.

<sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class: non-RPOO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); RPOO, blends of OO with 2–20% RPOO; non-CO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); CO, blends of OO with 2–20% CO; non-HOSO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); HOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% HOSO; non-NTSO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); NTSO, blends of OO with 2–20% NTSO; non-DOSO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, RAO or HR); DOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% DOSO; non-RAO, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR); RAO, blends of OO with 2–20% RAO; non-HR, pure OOs and blends of OO with 2–20% VO<sub>s</sub> (RPOO, CO, HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or RAO); HR, blends of OO with 2–20% HR.

**Table S6**

PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 2–20% vegetable oil in olive oil, once the presence of RPOO or CO is discarded.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P
51	2–20% VOs in OO	2	0.3689	non-HOSO	0	98	0.89	98	97
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			HOSO	1	12	0.11	100	100
52	2–20% VOs in OO	7	0.3706	non-NTSO	0	72	0.65	100	99
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			NTSO	1	38	0.35	95	92
53	2–20% VOs in OO	8	0.2569	non-DOSO	0	89	0.82	91	85
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			DOSO	1	20	0.18	100	95
54	2–20% VOs in OO	10	0.3905	non-RAO	0	87	0.81	91	87
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			RAO	1	20	0.19	100	95
55	2–20% VOs in OO	15	0.3948	non-HR	0	89	0.82	97	92
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			HR	1	19	0.18	100	95

<sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table S2 and S4.

<sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class: non-HOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); HOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% HOSO; non-NTSO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (HOSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); NTSO, blends of OO with 2–20% NTSO; non-DOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (HOSO, NTSO, RAO or HR); DOSO, blends of OO with 2–20% DOSO; non-RAO, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR); RAO, blends of OO with 2–20% RAO; non-HR, blends of OO with 2–20% VOs (HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or RAO); HR, blends of OO with 2–20% HR.



**Table S7**

PLS-DA models to detect the presence of a certain vegetable oil in a binary mixture of 20–80% vegetable oil in olive oil, once the presence of RPOO or CO is discarded.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	PLS-comp	Boundary	Class <sup>2</sup>	Class code	n	p	%R	%P
63	20–80% VOs in OO	3	0.4447	non-HOSO	0	125	0.82	100	100
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			HOSO	1	27	0.18	100	100
64	20–80% VOs in OO	3	0.4443	non-NTSO	0	95	0.62	100	100
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			NTSO	1	59	0.38	100	100
65	20–80% VOs in OO	4	0.2963	non-DOSO	0	131	0.87	99	99
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			DOSO	1	20	0.13	100	100
66	20–80% VOs in OO	2	0.3560	non-RAO	0	131	0.85	92	92
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			RAO	1	23	0.15	100	100
67	20–80% VOs in OO	8	0.2858	non-HR	0	132	0.86	97	95
	<i>without RPOO and CO data</i>			HR	1	22	0.14	91	91

<sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table S2 and S4.

<sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class: non-HOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (NTSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); HOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% HOSO; non-NTSO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (HOSO, DOSO, RAO or HR); NTSO, blends of OO with 20–80% NTSO; non-DOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (HOSO, NTSO, RAO or HR); DOSO, blends of OO with 20–80% DOSO; non-RAO, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or HR); RAO, blends of OO with 20–80% RAO; non-HR, blends of OO with 20–80% VOs (HOSO, NTSO, DOSO or RAO); HR, blends of OO with 20–80% HR.

**Table S8**

The most influential variables on the PLS-DA models to discriminate between ‘legal’ and ‘illegal’ blends of olive oil and vegetable oils, ‘legal’ blends of VOO or OO with NTSO and HOSO, VOO blends with 2% S and 5% S, VOO blends with 2–5% HR and 10% HR, OO blends with DOSO and HR, OO blends with RAO and HR, OO blends with RAO and DOSO, and OO blends of with DOSO and HOSO.<sup>1</sup>

PLS-DA model	Data	Class <sup>2,3,4,5</sup>	Most discriminant variables: <sup>1</sup> H-NMR signal intensity is higher in the corresponding class
68	2–90% VOs in VOO	‘Illegal’ blend	Linolenic acid (#15b, #7d)
		‘Legal’ blend	Linoleic (#7c, #15a), unsaturated (#24) fatty acids
69	2–90% NTSO in VOO	NTSO	Linolenic (#13d, #12c), linoleic (#7c), unsaturated (#9 at 1.32–1.36 ppm) fatty acids
	2–80% HOSO in VOO	HOSO	Oleic (#13b, #7b, #12a), unsaturated (#24 at 5.32–5.34 ppm) fatty acids
70	2–80% VOs in OO	‘Illegal’ blend	Linolenic (#15b, #7d), oleic (#12a and #7b) acids
		‘Legal’ blend	Linoleic (#7c, #15a, #13c), unsaturated (#24) fatty acids, $\beta$ -sitosterol (#4) and terpenic alcohols or sterols (#2)
71	2–80% NTSO in OO	NTSO	Linolenic (#13d, #12c), linoleic (#7c), unsaturated (#9 at 1.32–1.36 ppm, #24 at 5.30–5.32 ppm) fatty acids
	2–80% HOSO in OO	HOSO	Oleic (#13b, #7b, #12a, #9b), unsaturated (#24 at 5.32–5.34 ppm) fatty acids, triacylglycerides (#18)
72	2–5% S in VOO	2% S	Oleic acid (#13b, #7b)
		5% S	Linolenic acid (#15b, #7d)
73	2–10% HR in VOO	2–5% HR	Linolenic acid (#10c, #12c, #15b), squalene (#11)
		10% HR	Linoleic acid (#7c)
74	2–80% DOSO in OO	DOSO	Oleic (#12a, #9b), saturated (#9a) fatty acids
	2–80% HR in OO	HR	Linoleic acid (#12b, #15a, #7c, #9c)
75	2–80% RAO in OO	RAO	Saturated fatty acids (#9a)
	2–80% HR in OO	HR	Oleic (#9b, #7b, #12a), linoleic (#9c) acids
76	2–80% RAO in OO	RAO	Linoleic acid (#7c, #12b), squalene (#11)
	2–80% DOSO in OO	DOSO	Oleic (#12a, #9b, #7b), linolenic (#9c, #10c) acids
77	2–80% DOSO in OO	DOSO	Oleic (#12a, #9b), unsaturated (#24 at 5.35–5.38 ppm) fatty acids
	2–80% HOSO in OO	HOSO	Linoleic (#12b, #7c), unsaturated (#24 at 5.32–5.34 ppm) fatty acids

<sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table S2 and S4, and the <sup>1</sup>H-signal assignments in Table S1.

<sup>2</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 68–69: ‘Illegal’ blend, blends of VOO with 2–80% VOs (EVAO, HV, HR or S); ‘Legal’ blend, blends of VOO with 2–90% VOs (NTSO or HOSO); NTSO, blends of VOO with 2–90% NTSO; HOSO, blends of VOO with 2–80% HOSO.

<sup>3</sup> Samples contained in each class for PLS-DA models 70–71: ‘Illegal’ blends, blends of OO with 2–80% VOs (RPOO, CO, DOSO, RAO or HR); ‘Legal’ blends, blends of OO with 2–80% VOs (HOSO or NTSO); NTSO, blends of OO with 2–80% NTSO; HOSO, blends of OO with 2–80% HOSO.

<sup>4</sup> Samples contained in each class PLS-DA models 72–73: 2% S in VOO, blends of VOO with 2% S; 5% S in VOO, blends of VOO with 5% S; 2–5% HR in VOO, blends of VOO with 2–5% HR; 10% HR in VOO, blends of VOO with 10% HR.

<sup>5</sup> Samples contained in each class PLS-DA models 74–77: DOSO, blends of OO with 2–80% DOSO; HR, blends of OO with 2–80% HR; RAO, blends of OO with 2–80% RAO; HOSO, blends of OO with 2–80% HOSO.

**Table S9**

Prediction of the composition of blind oil samples using the classification and regressions models in the decision trees and the complementary PLS-DA models.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Blind sample	PLS-DA		PLS-R			
	Models applied	Predictions	Predicting model	Blend	% VO	Description
1	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	'Legal' NTSO in VOO	3	NTSO-VOO	39.6 ± 1.9	<i>EVOO + NTSO, 60:40</i>
2	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	'Legal' NTSO in VOO	3	NTSO-VOO	50.8 ± 1.9	<i>EVOO + NTSO, 50:50</i>
3	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	'Legal' NTSO in VOO	3	NTSO-VOO	61.4 ± 1.9	<i>EVOO + NTSO, 40:60</i>
4	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	'Legal' HOSO in VOO	5	HOSO-VOO	40.0 ± 3.9	<i>EVOO + HOSO, 60:40</i>
5	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	'Legal' HOSO in VOO	5	HOSO-VOO	50.1 ± 3.9	<i>EVOO + HOSO, 50:50</i>
6	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	'Legal' HOSO in VOO	5	HOSO-VOO	60.3 ± 3.9	<i>EVOO + HOSO, 40:60</i>
7	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	'Legal' NTSO in OO	20	NTSO-OO	41.7 ± 2.8	<i>OO + NTSO, 60:40</i>
8	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	'Legal' NTSO in OO	20	NTSO-OO	51.2 ± 2.8	<i>OO + NTSO, 50:50</i>
9	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	'Legal' NTSO in OO	20	NTSO-OO	62.1 ± 2.8	<i>OO + NTSO, 40:60</i>
10	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	'Legal' HOSO in OO	18	HOSO-OO	39.9 ± 1.6	<i>OO + HOSO, 60:40</i>
11	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	'Legal' HOSO in OO	18	HOSO-OO	49.9 ± 1.6	<i>OO + HOSO, 50:50</i>
12	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	'Legal' HOSO in OO	18	HOSO-OO	60.3 ± 1.6	<i>OO + HOSO, 40:60</i>
13	1, 2, 3-24, 68, 69	VOO; low; non-VO; 'illegal'	6	EVAO-VOO	6.5 ± 2.1	<i>EVOO + EVAO, 95:5</i>
			4	HOSO-VOO	3.9 ± 6.8	
			11	HR-VOO	3.9 ± 5.6	
14	1, 2, 3-24, 68, 69	VOO; low; EVAO; 'illegal'	6	EVAO-VOO	12.9 ± 2.1	<i>EVOO + EVAO, 90:10</i>
15	1, 2, 3-24, 68, 69	VOO; low; EVAO; 'illegal'	6	EVAO-VOO	23.9 ± 2.1	<i>EVOO + EVAO, 80:20</i>
16	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	VOO; high; EVAO; 'illegal'	7	EVAO-VOO	42.6 ± 3.4	<i>EVOO + EVAO, 70:30</i>
17	1, 2, 3-24, 68, 69	VOO; low; HV; 'illegal'	9	HV-VOO	9.5 ± 2.6	<i>EVOO + HV, 95:5</i>
18	1, 2, 3-24, 68, 69	VOO; low; HV; 'illegal'	9	HV-VOO	10.9 ± 2.6	<i>EVOO + HV, 90:10</i>
19	1, 2, 3-24, 68, 69	VOO; low; HV; 'illegal'	9	HV-VOO	26.0 ± 2.6	<i>EVOO + HV, 80:20</i>
20	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	VOO; high; HV; 'illegal'	9	HV-VOO	27.4 ± 2.6	<i>EVOO + HV, 70:30</i>

Blind sample	PLS-DA		PLS-R			Description
	Models applied	Predictions	Predicting model	Blend	% VO	
21	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RAO, DOSO; 'illegal'	21	DOSO-OO	1.4 ± 1.6	<i>OO + RAO, 95:5</i>
	76	RAO in OO	23	RAO-OO	0.0 ± 1.5	
22	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RAO, DOSO; 'illegal'	21	DOSO-OO	4.4 ± 1.6	<i>OO + RAO, 90:10</i>
	76	DOSO in OO	23	RAO-OO	9.0 ± 1.5	
23	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RAO, DOSO; 'illegal'	21	DOSO-OO	13.2 ± 1.6	<i>OO + RAO, 80:20</i>
	76	RAO in OO	24	RAO-OO	22.3 ± 2.7	
24	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RAO, DOSO; 'illegal'	21	DOSO-OO	19.2 ± 1.6	<i>OO + RAO, 70:30</i>
	76	RAO in OO	24	RAO-OO	22.6 ± 2.7	
25	1, 30-36, 29, 37-55, 70, 71	OO; low; RAO; 'illegal'	24	RAO-OO	12.7 ± 2.7	<i>OO + HR, 95:5</i>
26	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; HR, RAO; 'illegal'	25	RAO-OO	36.2 ± 3.1	<i>OO + HR, 90:10</i>
	75	HR in OO	26	HR-OO	6.4 ± 1.0	
27	1, 30-36, 29, 37-55, 70, 71	OO; low; HR; 'illegal'	26	HR-OO	15.0 ± 1.0	<i>OO + HR, 80:20</i>
			27	HR-OO	20.3 ± 1.3	
28	1, 30-36, 29, 37-55, 70, 71	OO; low; HR; 'illegal'	27	HR-OO	28.3 ± 1.3	<i>OO + HR, 70:30</i>
29	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RPOO, RAO, DOSO; 'illegal'	13	RPOO-OO	5.2 ± 0.5	<i>OO + RPOO, 95:5</i>
30	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RPOO, RAO, DOSO; 'illegal'	13	RPOO-OO	10.1 ± 0.5	<i>OO + RPOO, 90:10</i>
31	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RPOO; 'illegal'	13	RPOO-OO	19.8 ± 0.5	<i>OO + RPOO, 80:20</i>
			14	RPOO-OO	20.4 ± 1.6	
32	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71	OO; low; RPOO; 'illegal'	14	RPOO-OO	30.7 ± 1.6	<i>OO + RPOO, 70:30</i>
33	1, 30-36, 29, 37-55, 70, 71	OO; low; DOSO; 'illegal'	21	DOSO-OO	4.8 ± 1.6	<i>OO + DOSO, 95:5</i>
34	1, 30-36, 29, 37-55, 70, 71	OO; low; DOSO/HOSO; legal-HOSO	17	HOSO-OO	2.0 ± 2.1	<i>OO + DOSO, 90:10</i>
	77	HOSO in OO	18	HOSO-OO	11.2 ± 1.6	
			21	DOSO-OO	12.4 ± 1.6	
35	1, 30-36, 29, 37-55, 70, 71	OO; low; DOSO; 'illegal'	21	DOSO-OO	21.0 ± 1.6	<i>OO + DOSO, 80:20</i>
			22	DOSO-OO	20.1 ± 4.0	
36	1, 30-36, 29, 37-55, 70, 71	OO; low; DOSO/HR; 'illegal'	22	DOSO-OO	35.1 ± 4.0	<i>OO + DOSO, 70:30</i>
	74	DOSO in OO	27	HR-OO	29.4 ± 1.3	

Blind sample	PLS-DA		PLS-R			Description
	Models applied	Predictions	Predicting model	Blend	% VO	
37	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	VOO; high; NTSO; legal-NTSO	3	NTSO-VOO	99.4* ± 1.9	Label: 65% NTSO + 35% EVOO <sup>4</sup>
38	1, 2, 25-28, 68, 69	VOO; high; NTSO; legal-NTSO	3	NTSO-VOO	104.9* ± 1.9	Label: Vegetable oil + VOO <sup>4</sup>
39	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71 75	OO; low; CO, RAO, HR; 'illegal' HR in OO	16	CO-OO	56.4 ± 0.6	Label: Rapeseed oil + EVOO <sup>4,5</sup>
			27	HR-OO	107.3* ± 1.3	
40	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	OO; high; NTSO; legal-NTSO	20	NTSO-OO	93.2* ± 2.8	Label: 80% Rapeseed oil + 20% VOO <sup>4,5</sup>
41	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71 75	OO; low; CO, RAO, HR; 'illegal' HR in OO	16	CO-OO	52.0 ± 0.6	Label: 75% Rapeseed oil + 25% EVOO <sup>4,5</sup>
			27	HR-OO	106.9* ± 1.3	
42	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71 75	OO; low; CO, RAO, HR; 'illegal' HR in OO	16	CO-OO	41.6 ± 0.6	Label: 75% Rapeseed oil + 25% EVOO <sup>4,5</sup>
			27	HR-OO	95.5* ± 1.3	
43	1, 30-36, 29, 37-67, 70, 71 75	OO; low; CO, RAO, HR, DOSO; 'illegal' HR in OO	16	CO-OO	51.2 ± 0.6	Label: 80% Rapeseed oil + 20% EVOO <sup>4,5</sup>
			27	HR-OO	106.9* ± 1.3	
44	1, 30-36, 29, 56-67, 70, 71	OO; high; NTSO; legal-NTSO	20	NTSO-OO	93.3* ± 2.8	Label: 80% Vegetable oil + 20% VOO <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See abbreviations in Table S2 and S4.

<sup>2</sup> Decision trees in Figures 1 and S1.

<sup>3</sup> Complementary PLS-DA models: PLS-DA models 72–77 in Table 5.

<sup>4</sup> The label did not comply with the Reg. (EU) 29/2012 and its amendments, since the commercial blend did not contain at least 50% of olive oil, and therefore, the presence of olive oil on the label is forbidden.

<sup>5</sup> From the predictions achieved, it could be infer that samples (39, 41–43) did not contain NTSO or HOSO, and presented close composition to pure HR or blends of 50% CO in OO. Sample 40 was identified by all classification models as a NTSO-OO blend.

\* Extrapolated results (outside the calibration range of the regression model).

**Declaration of interests**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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