Edited on 22/06/2020

Syrah N



Name of vine variety in France

Syrah

Origin

This variety is seemingly originally from the northern Côtes du Rhône or the Dauphiné region. Based on published genetic analyses, it would be the result of crossbreeding between Mondeuse blanche and Dureza.

Synonymy

In France, this variety can officially be called "Shiraz" or "Serine" regarding plant propagation material.Syrah can officially be designated as Shiraz in Cyprus, Germany, Italy and Malta.

Regulations

En France, la Syrah is officially listed in the "Catalogue of vine varieties" on the A list and classified. This variety is also listed in the catalogues of other Member States of the European Union: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

Use

Wine grape variety.

Evolution of area under vines in France

	1958	1968	1979	1988	1998	2008	2018
ha	1602	2658	12282	27041	44823	67834	65772

Description

The identification is based on:
- the tip of the young shoot with a high density of prostate hairs,
- the green young leaves,
- the shoots with a ribbed surface and long green internodes,
- the adult leaves with five lobes, open lateral sinuses, an open petiole sinus with sometimes naked petiole veins, short to medium teeth with convex sides, no anthocyanin coloration of veins, a sometimes goffered leaf blade, and on the lower side of the leaves, a low to medium density of prostate hairs,
- the ellipsoid berries.

Genetic profile

Microsatellite	VVS2	VVMD5	VVMD7	VVMD27	VRZAG62	VRZAG79	VVMD25	VVMD28	VVMD32
Allel 1	131	223	239	186	188	246	240	216	239
Allel 2	131	229	239	188	194	252	240	227	271

Phenology

Bud burst: 7 days after Chasselas.
Grape maturity: mid-season, 2 weeks and a half after Chasselas.

Suitability for cultivation and agronomic production

This variety produces long shoots that are fragile to the wind in spring and must be carefully trellised. In most cases, short pruning is sufficient in southern zones. Syrah is sensitive to chlorosis, poorly adapted to soils with high active limestone content. Then, grafting onto 110 R must absolutely be avoided. This variety ripens quickly, resulting in a relatively short véraison-ripeness period. The optimum harvest period is short and is evaluated not only by considering sugar and acidity concentrations, but also by the weight of the berries, bunches and berry analysis, and berry tasting.

Sensitivity to diseases and pests

Syrah is not very susceptible to downy mildew but is rather sensitive to mites and grey rot, especially at the end of the ripening period. This variety has a specific decline behavior, characterized by leaf reddening combined with at the grafting point, which can in the long term cause the vine trunks to die. To date, the causes remain unknown and no disease causative agent have been identified, but significant behavioral differences between clones have been noted.

Technological potential

The bunches are small to medium in size and the berries are small. Syrah can produce great quality red wines with a fairly high alcohol degree, that are suited to ageing. This variety gives very aromatic, fine, tannic, robust, complex (spices, violet, olive, leather-animal, etc) wines with relatively low acidity (pH is sometimes rather high, particularly on schist soils), which tend to have an intense (blue-toned) color. Syrah also produces very fruity and interesting rosé wines.

Clonal selection in France

The seven certified Syrah clones carry the numbers 470, 471, 524, 747, 1140, 1141 and 1188. A conservatory of more than 600 clones was planted in 1995 in the French department of Drôme. An additional conservatory of 50 or so clones was planted in 2002 in the French department of Rhône.

Bibliographic references

- Catalogue des variétés et clones de vigne cultivés en France. Collectif, 2007, Ed. IFV, Le Grau-du-Roi, France.
- Documentary collections of the Centre de Ressources Biologiques de la Vigne de Vassal-Montpellier, INRAE - Montpellier SupAgro, Marseillan, France.
- Dictionnaire encyclopédique des cépages et de leurs synonymes. P. Galet, 2015, Ed. Libre&Solidaire, France.
- Traité général de viticulture, Ampélographie. P. Viala and V. Vermorel, 1901-1909, Ed. Masson, Paris, France.

Description of clones approved in France

	Identity and availability		Agronomic data		Technical data	
Clone number	*Origin*	*Selection*	*Fertility*	*Production level*	*Sugar content*	*Potential color*
	Year approved	*Agronomic references*	*Weight of grape bunches*	*Vigor*	*Total acidity*	*Tannic structure*

Growing surface area		*Size of berries*	*Sensitivity to Botrytis*	*Aromatic intensity*	*Oenological aptitudes*	
470	Tarn-et-Garonne	ENTAV	very low	low	high	high
	1976	Côtes-du-Rhône Languedoc Provence	low	high	medium to high	high
	18.83 ha		medium	low		aromatic, concentrated wines with good tannic structure
ENTAV INRA	Clone presenting very few blight symptoms. Low production level, especially under limiting conditions. High vigor and drooping growth. Fairly loose grape clusters. Clone appreciated for the grape cluster configuration, its low production potential and the color and quality of the wines produced.					
471	Drôme	ENTAV	medium to high	medium to high	medium to high	medium to high
	1976	Côtes-du-Rhône Languedoc Provence	medium	high	medium	medium to high
	12.64 ha		medium	medium		round wines with good tannic structure on the palate
ENTAV INRA	Clone generally presenting few blight symptoms. Less compact grape clusters. Good maturity despite production level.					
524	Drôme	ENTAV	high	high	medium	
	1976	Côtes-du-Rhône Languedoc Provence	high		medium	
	7.37 ha		medium to high	medium		distinctive wines of the vine variety
ENTAV INRA	Clone presenting very few blight symptoms. Less compact grape clusters.					
747	Tarn-et-Garonne	ENTAV	medium to high	high	low to medium	low to medium
	1981	Côtes-du-Rhône Languedoc Sud-Ouest	medium to high		medium	low to medium
	16.57 ha		high			distinctive wines of the vine variety
ENTAV INRA	Clone presenting very few blight symptoms					
1140	Drôme	CA26 - IFV	medium to high	medium to low	high	medium to high
	2012	Côtes-du-Rhône	low	medium	medium	high
			low	medium to low		Wines appreciated for their olfactory quality and the balance on the palate.
ENTAV INRA	Clone presenting very few blight symptoms. Appreciated for the quality of the wines produced.					
1141	Rhône	CA26 - IFV	medium to low	low	high	medium to high
	2012	Côtes-du-Rhône	low	medium	medium	high
			low	medium to low		Wines appreciated for their olfactory quality and the balance on the palate.
ENTAV INRA	Clone presenting very few blight symptoms. Appreciated for the quality of the wines produced.					
1188	Rhône	CA26 - IFV	high	medium	high	medium to high
	2012	Côtes-du-Rhône	low	medium	medium	high
			low	medium to low		Wines appreciated for their olfactory quality and the balance on the palate.
ENTAV INRA	Clone presenting very few blight symptoms. Appreciated for the quality of the wines produced.					