

Viognier B

Wine grape variety.



Origin

This is a native variety from the northern part of the Côtes du Rhône. Based on genetic analyses carried out in Montpellier, it would be closely related to Mondeuse blanche.

Use

Wine grape variety.

Name of the variety in France

Viognier

Synonymy

There is no officially recognized synonym in France nor in the other countries of the European Union, for this variety.

Regulatory data

In France, Viognier 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, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain.

Description elements

The identification is based on:

- the tip of the young shoot with a medium to high density of prostrate hairs,
- the green young leaves with slightly bronze spots,
- the small to medium, circular, light to medium green adult leaves, with three or five lobes, with shallow lower lateral sinuses, an open or slightly open petiole sinus, medium teeth with straight or convex sides or with one side convex and one side concave, no anthocyanin coloration of veins, a blistered leaf blade, curly on the edges, and on the lower side on the leaves, a low to medium density of erect and prostrate hairs,
- the round-shaped berries.

Evolution of cultivated areas in France

Year	1958	1968	1979	1988	1998	2008	2018
ha	29	14	54	82	2100	3255	6740

Genetic profile

Microsatellite	VVS2	VVMD5	VVMD7	VVMD27	VRZAG62	VRZAG79	VVMD25	VVMD28	VVMD32
Allele 1	131	223	239	182	188	252	238	216	261
Allele 2	137	229	249	188	200	252	240	243	271

Cultivation and agronomic skills

This variety is usually trained (it is sometimes sensitive to the wind), pruned moderately long and with a fairly high planting density. Traditionally grown in acidic terroirs, this variety is well adapted to sufficiently deep soils (but not too fertile) in southern areas, to avoid the risk of drought. Its early budburst exposes it to spring frosts.

Susceptibility to Diseases and Pests

Viognier does not seem particularly sensitive to diseases.

Clonal selection in France

The three certified Viognier clones carry the numbers 642, 1042 and 1051. A conservatory of 60 or so clones was planted in the wine-growing region of Condrieu (French department of Rhône) in 2002.

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 - Institut Agro Montpellier, 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.

Phenology

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

Technological potential

The bunches are small and compact. The berries are also small. Under favorable conditions, the varietal characteristics of Viognier allows for the production of very aromatic (abricot, peach, etc.), complex and powerful good quality wines. Viognier gives warm wines (high sugar accumulation potential): full-bodied but lacking a bit of acidity and occasionally presenting a slight bitterness. It can also be used to produce sweet or sparkling wines or blended (5, 10 % or more) with other grapes (particularly Syrah) to add finesse and aromas to red wines.



