



CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Characteristics

Vine

The vine has an upright, leafy growth with deeply indented, distinctive 5-lobed glossy leaves which have a downy mauve-colored underside. The flowers are produced comparatively late and the berry yield is regular but usually low.

Fruit

The bunches are small, conical and often winged. The berries are small, loose, round, thick-skinned, blue-black in color and covered in bloom, producing juice with a strong varietals flavor.

History

Cabernet has its origins in the Médoc, Graves, and Gironde region of South-West France. It was possibly known in Roman times, but was certainly recognized by the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Cabernet probably arrived in Australia in 1832 in the collection of James Busby, but it is possible that it may have been brought in with the First Fleet by Governor Arthur Phillip, and it is mentioned by Sir William Macarthur in his description of varieties recommended for cultivation in Australia. It was introduced into South Australia by Joseph Gilbert in the 1840s for plantings at Pewsey Vale.

Wine

With its wide distribution throughout the world wine-growing areas, the style of the wine produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes will vary according to the climate, soil and winemaking techniques used. The wine usually has a complex bouquet and a perfumed, rich, capsicum, multi-berry fruit palate which is often astringent, possessing tannin and needing slow maturation. The juice from the Cabernet Sauvignon grape may be used in the production of rosé wine, as in the famous Anjou Rosé of France, it may be made into a sparkling red wine and it is often blended with other grape varieties such as Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot in the great wines of Bordeaux in South-Western France and especially with Shiraz in Australia.