



## MERLOT

### History

Merlot seems to have originated in the Bordeaux region of South West France, although it was only recognized in the eighteenth century. The variety has become increasingly important with plantings spreading across Southern France. In Australia Merlot was introduced in the 1960s by the C.S.I.R.O. as it sought to trial a wider range of grape varieties.

### Characteristics

#### Vine

The vine is vigorous and quick growing, with thick, dark green leaves usually 5-lobed, with a rough upper surface and a hairy under surface.

#### Fruit

The bunches are quite large, cylindrical, sometimes winged and loosely made up of early and unevenly-ripening berries, which are blue-black in color and crisp, sweet and juicy.

#### Wine

The bouquet is aromatic and the berry-plum qualities are reflected in the palate. The wine is usually medium red in color, medium bodied, soft and round and generally made for early drinking rather than slow maturation.