

wood, oak, smoke, toast, tar, cigar box, leather, cedar

Noteworthy regions: Northern and Southern Rhone regions of France, Australia (Shiraz), South Africa, California, Washington, Southern Oregon (www.rhonerangers.org). The Australian Shiraz-style of Syrah is more fruit forward and designed for less aging/earlier drinking.

Note: Petite Sirah/Syrah is not the same as Syrah/Shiraz. They are two different wine grapes. Petite Sirah is the name applied by Californian vineyards to a grape historically grown in California. Based on research, it has been determined that Petite Sirah consists primarily of pre-1960 plantings of the French grape Durif, which was produced from an 1870's cross of two French wine grapes, true Syrah and Peloursin. While Syrah is a parent grape, Petite Sirah has an entirely different and distinct profile.

THE WINEMAKER'S CLUB

Rhone Reds - April 12, 2008

Northern Rhone

Côte Rôtie (most famous appellation). Syrah is the dominant grape. Syrah produces tannic, fiery and spicy red wines with long aging potential

Syrah is also blended with a white grape: 80% Syrah, 20% Viognier.

Southern Rhone: The Land of Blends

Grenache-based wines of **Côtes du Rhône**, the most famous appellation is:

Châteauneuf-du-Pape: up to thirteen different grape varieties. Red varieties, from most common to less common: Grenache, Mourvèdre, Syrah, Cinsaut, Counoise, Terret Noir, Muscardin and Vacarese. White varieties: Clairette, Rousanne, Picpoul, Picardan and Bourboulenc.

Most modern CDP: Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. The blend may contain both red and white, though white in only a small percentage.

Traditional CDP is tannic and full-bodied, designed to age a few decades or more. Kit names for CDP: Vieux Chateau Du Roi (Winexpert), Castel del Papa (Mosti Mondiale), GSM (Cellar Craft).

The Pope's Wine: in 1308, Pope Clement V (the former Bishop of Bordeaux) relocated the papacy to Avignon, France. Châteauneuf was summer home of the Pope.

"In the 13th century the village of Châteauneuf, with its 1000 inhabitants, grew rich and had already developed a flourishing vineyard (approximately 300 hectares). In 1308, Clément V planted additional vine stock before he died some years later just after crossing the Rhône to return home. The Pope at Avignon was undoubtedly one of the first wine producers in Châteauneuf.

Under Pope John XXII, wine from Châteauneuf was regularly supplied to the Papal residence. John XXII was beyond doubt the prelate who participated most in developing the reputation of Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines and his legacy, the first appellation in the history of Châteauneuf, was the prestigious appellation of "Vin du Pape" that was later to become "Châteauneuf-du-Pape"

<http://www.chateauneuf.com/english/>

Syrah/Shiraz Profile

Aroma (from the grape varietal): black currant, blackberry, grass, black pepper, licorice, clove, thyme, bay leaf, sandalwood, cedar.

Bouquet (from the winemaking and aging): musk, truffle, earth, vanilla, coconut, sweet