

Islington U3A Wine Appreciation Groups

Most Popular Grape Varieties

No. 1 Cabernet Sauvignon

A red grape variety that grows well in almost all climates except from northern regions. It has a full-bodied but firm taste, due to the high tannin content winemakers are often blend it with other varieties such as Merlot and also Syrah.

No. 2 Merlot

Red grape variety that is most-planted grape variety in Bordeaux, France. It's widely recognized also in Italy, Romania, California, USA and Chile. It has deep colour, full body and contains less tannin than Cabernet Sauvignon that's why, is often blend it with Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, or both.

No. 3 Airen

A white grape variety mostly recognized in Spain. It tolerates hot and dry conditions and poor soil. Wine is often acidic and characterless, that's why it's mainly used in brandy industry, production of high-alcohol local wines and lighter-bodied red wines, when blended with Cencibel.

No. 4 Tempranillo

A red grape variety of Spain. Since it prefers warmer climates, it is widely recognized also in California, Australia, South America, Turkey and New Zealand. It has a full-bodied taste and high acidity level.

No. 5 Chardonnay

A white grape variety that grows in almost every wine-production country in the world, because of its adaptability to a wide range of climates. It has a full-bodied taste and medium to high acidity. Normally chardonnays are dry or half dry wines.

No. 6 Syrah

A red grape variety mostly grown in California, Australia and France. It has a full-body taste and firm tannin; the grapes contain the most antioxidants among all popular wine grape varieties.

No. 7 Garnacha Tinta

A red wine variety that needs hot and dry conditions, and ripens late. It has a low acidity and tannin, and is usually used for blending with other red varieties.

No. 8 Sauvignon Blanc

A white wine variety that grows in France (Bordeaux and Loire Valley), Italy, South Africa and California. It is high in acidity with pronounced aromas and flavours.

No. 9 Trebbiano Toscano

A white wine variety origin from Italy, it's also grown in France, Portugal, Spain, South America and Australia. Wine is fresh and fruity with high acidity, usually is used for blending with other wines and for brandy production.

No. 10 Pinot Noir

A red wine variety, grown in France, California, New Zealand, Australia and Chile. It has medium to high acidity, medium to low tannin, and fruity or earthy flavours. It's not common to blend it with any other grapes.