

Characteristics of Major Black Varietal Grapes

Grape	Colour	Tannins	Acidity	Alcohol	Body	Aroma	Major regions	Top wines
Barbera	Medium	Low	High	High	Medium	Styles vary greatly from light, fresh, fruity to powerful, intense w/ need of cellaring	Asti, Lombardy, Central Valley	
Cabernet Franc	Light/medium ruby red	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Pencil shavings, herbaceous, earthy style of wine	Bordeaux, Loire, Veneto	Château Cheval Blanc
Cabernet Sauvignon	Dark blue/black	High	Moderate	High	Full	Cedar, blackcurrants, violets, green pepper	Chile, Bordeaux, California	Château Latour
Cinsault	Medium ruby	low		moderate	medium	Soft fruits	Languedoc, Vin de pays de l'Hérault, Provence	
Gamay	Light cherry red	Low	High	Low	Light/medium	Style depends on vinification, esters show from carbonic, red fruits from conventional, but drink young anyway	Beaujolais, Italy, Bourgogne	Moulin à Vent
Grenache (Garnacha)	Medium ruby	Low	Low	High	Medium	Rich, warm, alcoholic, often blended; oxidizes easily, nutty finish	Languedoc, Southern Rhône, Castile La Mancha	Châteauneuf du Pape
Malbec	Deep red/black	Lush tannins	Low	Medium	Full	Rustic	Argentina, Cahors, Blaye	
Merlot	Medium purple with black hues	Medium	Moderate	High	Full	Plummy, fruitcake-like, generous	Bordeaux, Languedoc, Italy	Château Pétrus
Mourvèdre (Monastrell)	Dark, very intense	High		High	Full	Gamey, animal note, intense fruit, blackberries	Castile La Mancha, Jumilla, Alicante	
Nebbiolo	Medium ruby with orange hues	High	High	High	Full	Black cherries, liquorice and leather	Barolo, Valtellina, Nebbiolo D'alba	
								Romanée-Conti
Pinot Noir	Light/medium cherry red with orange hues	Low	Medium	Medium	Full	Rich, velvety smooth, cherries to strawberries, autumnal to gamey	Champagne, Germany, United States	
Pinotage	Medium	Medium	High	High	Medium	Rustic, high toned, sweet, paint like pungency, sewers	South Africa, New Zealand	
Sangiovese	Medium ruby	High	High	Moderate	Medium	Savory fruit, farmyard leather plum/prune, rich alcohol, brown early	Tuscany, Emilia-Romagna, Puglia	Brunello Di Montalcino
Syrah (Shiraz)	Dark purple with black hues	High	High	High	Medium	Big, rich, fruity, pepper, burnt rubber	Languedoc, South Australia, Spain	South Australia
Tannat	Very dark	Very high	High			Fruity, aromatic, MLF necessary, long wood aging	Uruguay, France, Irouleguy	Madiran
Tempranillo (Tinta Roriz)	Medium to dark ruby	Average	Low	Moderate	Full	Long lived wines w/ finesse & complexity,	Rioja, La Mancha, Ribera del Duero	Ribera del Duero

Characteristics of Major White Varietal Grapes

Grape	Colour	Acidity	Alcohol	Body	Aroma	Major regions	Top wines
Chardonnay	Medium yellow, varies from pale to golden	Moderate	High	Full	Flexible, often barrel-fermented and aged in oak on lees	California, Australia, Bourgogne	Le Montrachet
Chenin Blanc (Steen)	Light	High	High	Medium	High natural sugar, suitable for sparkling or sweet wines. Can be aged on lees.	South Africa, California, Loire	Quarts de Chaume
Gewürztraminer	Light, pink hue	Low	High	Full	Classic description is "smells sweet, tastes dry"	Moldova, Alsace, United States	
Grüner Veltliner	Light	High	Medium	Light	Can resemble Riesling	Wienviertel, Kamptal, Neusiedlersee	
Marsanne	Light	Low	High	Full	Aroma of glue/almonds, honeysuckle, jasmine, fat, rich & full	Languedoc, Vin de pays de l'Hérault, Australia	
Müller-Thurgau	Light	Low	Low	Light	Flowery bouquet w/ good fruit, sweet juice	Rheinhessen, Baden, Pfalz	
Muscadet	Light	High	Low	Light	Often slight spritz, green apples, acid	Loire, Bourgogne	
Muscat Blanc à Petit Grains	Medium		Low	Full	Intense grapey, musky aromas	Languedoc, Vin de pays de l'Hérault, Greece	
Pinot Blanc (Pinot Bianco)	Light	Low	High	Full	Can be treated like Chardonnay	Alsace, Austria, Germany	
Pinot Gris (Pinot Grigio)	Light	Low	High	High	Can be over-cropped to neutrality	Germany, Moldova, Romania	
Riesling	Pale yellow, green hue	High	Low	Light	Intense, petrol, long lived, flowery steely, honeyed	Mosel, Pfalz, Australia	
Roussanne	Light	High		Light	Herbal tea, fine delicate wines, more refined than Marsanne	Languedoc, Vin de pays de l'Hérault, Vin de Pays Vaucluse	
Sauvignon Blanc	Pale yellow, green hue	High	High	Light	Grassy, green fruits, flint	New Zealand, Moldova, Chile	Marlborough
Sémillon	Light/medium gold, brown hue	Low Bordeaux), high (Australia)	High	Full		Bordeaux, SouthWest France, New South Wales	Château d'Yquem
Trebbiano (Ugni Blanc)	Light	High	Low	Light	White, crisp, uninspiring, low in extract & character	Cognac, Argentina, Vin de Pays du Var	
Viognier	Medium to deep yellow	Low	High		Apricots, peaches, blossom, lychees, exotic fruits: drink young	Languedoc, Australia, California	Château Grillet