

MOURVÈDRE



Descriptive Elements

The identification is based on:

- The tip of the young shoot with a very high density of prostate hairs,
- The young leaves with bronze spots,
- The shoots with red colored internodes and an erect bearing,
- The circular adult leaves, entire or with three lobes, with an open lyre-shaped petiole sinus, large teeth, moderate compared to their width at the base with straight sides, a moderate anthocyanin coloration of veins, a flat leaf blade, and on the lower side of the leaves, a high density of erect and prostate hairs,
- The round-shaped berries.

Origin

This variety is originally from Spain and was probably introduced in France at the end of the Middle Ages.

Synonyms

In the European Union, Mourvèdre is officially called by other names: Mataro (Cyprus) and Monastrell (Spain). These synonyms are officially recognized in France regarding plant propagation material.

Legal Information

In France, Mourvèdre is officially listed in the "Catalogue of vine varieties" on the A list and classified. This variety is also listed in the catalogues of other Member States of the European Union: Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Spain.

Use

Wine grape variety.

Evolution of Cultivated Areas in France

	1958	1968	1979	1988	1998	2008	2018
ha	617	857	3146	5608	7249	9164	9149

Genetic Profile

Microsatellite	VVS2	VVMD5	VVMD7	VVMD27	VRZAG62	VRZAG79	VVMD25	VVMD28	VVMD32
Allel 1	131	223	249	176	188	252	240	243	239
Allel 2	149	238	249	186	204	262	262	257	255

Phenology

Bud burst: 13 days after Chasselas.
Grape maturity: late-season, 4 weeks and a half after Chasselas.

Suitability for Cultivation and Agronomic Production

Mourvèdre is a demanding variety and its growing is delicate. With its erect bearing and acrotonic nature, it must be pruned short. As such, it can be trained in cordon, with reduced trellis or in open gobelet. Care must be taken to maintain the non abundant foliage, that is moderately effective. Trimming must be avoided to limit the presence of large size grappillons, which then represent a bothersome competition. Production per vine trunk must be low to prevent risk of depletion. This variety sometimes demonstrates alternating fertility. The pedo-climatic requirements of Mourvèdre are very demanding. This variety appears well adapted to limestone soils deep enough to allow a limited but regular water supply. Potassium and magnesium supplies (K/Mg) must also be balanced in order to prevent the appearance of deficiencies. Finally, the main limiting factor for growing this late variety (budburst and grape maturity), is that the temperatures at the moment of grape maturation must be very high (especially minimum temperatures) to enable proper ripening and a sufficient accumulation of sugar in the berries. This variety is thus reserved for the hottest southern areas and the best exposed.

Susceptibility to Diseases and Pests

Mourvèdre is sensitive to mites, vine leafhoppers, esca and sour rot. On the other hand, it is generally not very so susceptible to grey rot and it resists well against phomopsis.

Technological Potentiality

Mourvèdre's bunches are medium to large and the berries are medium in size. The color potential of this variety is moderate with sometimes a lack of acidity. Nevertheless, Mourvèdre can produce very high quality, aromatic, tannic and structured wines, suitable for ageing and maturing in wood barrels, provided that the grape maturity is sufficient (12 natural degrees minimum) and that the production per vine trunk is limited.

Clonal Selection in France

The fourteen certified Mourvèdre clones carry the numbers 233, 234, 244, 245, 247, 248, 249, 369, 448, 449, 450, 520, 1069 and 1215. A conservatory of almost 100 clones has been planted in the wine-growing region of Bandol (French department of Var) since 2004.

Bibliographic References

- Catalogue des variétés et clones de vigne cultivés en France. Collectif, 2007, Ed. IFV, Le Grau-du-Roi, France.
- Documentary collections of the Centre de Ressources Biologiques de la Vigne de Vassal-Montpellier, INRAE - Montpellier SupAgro, Marseillan, France.
- Dictionnaire encyclopédique des cépages et de leurs synonymes. P. Galet, 2015, Ed. Libre&Solidaire, France.
- Traité général de viticulture, Ampélographie. P. Viala and V. Vermorel, 1901-1909, Ed. Masson, Paris, France.

Description of clones certified in France

Clone no. 450	Identity and availability		Agronomic data		Technological data	
	Origin	Non précisée	Fertility	medium	Sugar level	medium
	Selection	ENTAV	Production level	medium to high	Oenological suitability	representative wines of the variety
	Year of Certification	1976	Bunch weight	high		
	Agronomic references	Languedoc Provence Rhône-Valley	Vigor	low		
	Surface area used for propagation (year)	0.04 ha				

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Catalogue of grapevines cultivated in France: <http://plantgrape.plantnet-project.org>

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