

# WINE GRAPE VARIETIES OF THE WORLD FROM A EUROPEAN POINT OF VIEW

For all wine enthusiasts



Markku Kiskola



Because of the abundance of wines, it's much easier to get to know them starting with the different types of grapes.

To this end, **Wine Grape Varieties of the World from a European Point of View** offers good support by listing about 930 varieties, many with several synonyms. *Almost every variety now has a brief description of the aroma.*

The book first lists the ten most favoured grape varieties, and after this the varieties are listed by countries and by wine regions. 58 countries are included. Finally, you can find maps of wine regions, a description of the most common varieties, and an alphabetical index of the wine grape varieties including a large number of synonyms.

This reference book is the same size as the screen of a tablet, handy for viewing at your home as well as packing it in your bag or suitcase as a guide to local wines.

It is also available as an eBook for all platforms. This makes it easy to search all the grape varieties for instance of a particular wine region or a particular country.

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# **Wine Grape Varieties of the World from a European Point of View**

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## To the reader

This book might well be one of the most extensive catalogues of the grape varieties ever done. It begins by introducing more than ten most favoured grape varieties. It then goes on to list a total of about 930 varieties, some of them, possibly, being identical.

The various names in different languages can actually mean the same variety, or the local clones proclaimed to be unique can actually be the same. Surely, this book contains more than nine hundred different grape varieties.

You will find a short introduction before the listing of the grape varieties, followed by a short description of the most common ones in the countries covered in this book. Finally, there is the alphabetical index of varieties, including a large number of selected synonyms.

The main catalogue lists the *Vitis Vinifera* varieties, which have traditionally been used to make wines. However, especially in North America they also use hybrid varieties which are man-made crosses of *Vitis Vinifera*, *Vitis Labrusca* (VV x VL) and, additionally, other families of varieties. These are mostly omitted in this book. If they are mentioned in the catalogue the notes column tends to display the word hybrid.

The catalogue also omits more than one hundred varieties which are being developed in laboratories. Because their use in wine making is not widespread. Instead, some eatable table grapes are included when they are used also for wine making.

Each variety is listed only once, together with its aliases, names of the countries, and the regions of cultivation whenever known. The names of the regions are written in their native form, e.g. Bourgogne, not Burgundy. The term

Catalunya (Catalunya, Montsant, Penedès, Segre) means that the variety is grown not only in the Montsant, Penedès and Segre sub-regions of Catalonia, but also, possibly throughout Catalonia, and definitely in its sub-region of 'Catalunya'.

The notes column displays plus signs for many of the varieties. Here ++ stands for a wine for everyday consumption, whereas +++++ stands for the highest quality. These ratings reflect only the personal taste of the writer. Every one has his or her specific taste for different wines. You could compare your own taste to the aromas in the note column.

The varieties/aliases and countries/regions have been most carefully cross-checked, trying to find the best available knowledge. Nevertheless, some errors may exist, and the writer cannot take responsibility for possible damage or regret caused by them.

The names of many varieties are often quite ambiguous. The synonyms (aliases) of variety names in different countries and/or regions can be the same even though the varieties are actually different. On the other hand, the varieties claimed to be unique might prove to be the same.

It has taken tens of years to put together this book. Because of the enormous size of the subject, it can be said that all the time consumed to collect the data was necessary. So, this 2023 edition now gives many variety-specific flavours.

To minimize the size of this book, e.g. the number of pictures has been kept to minimum. The compact size makes it handy for use as a pocket reference book.

I hope this concise study of wines gives you enjoyment, and perhaps useful information, too. Tens of years of studying wines has given the writer, not only great enjoyment, but also the inspiration to write this book.

Enjoyable moments of reading this book and sampling various wines

Markku Kiskola,  
Vantaa, Finland, February 2023

Do you often think what would be the best wine? Or how to find your own favourite wine. Would you like it easier to talk about wines and wine grapes?

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