

# Zinfandel tempranillo pinotage

“I have yet to see the red wine of any variety that I would prefer to the best samples of Zinfandel produced in this State. Unfortunately, these best samples are like Angel’s visits, few and far between.” George Hussmann, Grape culture and Winemaking in California 1888.





# ZPC

- Zinfandel = Primitivo = Crljenak Kastelanski
- California's Noble red grape and most planted red variety from 1860s to 2000
- Most planted in California approx 50K acres (2010)
- Grown as a table grape in the North East US in greenhouses in 1830s
- arrived in California in the mid 1800's , from east coast grape growers
- DNA fingerprinting (Carole Meredith, UC Davis - ampelography study) shows that Zinfandel and Primitivo are identical. However, they are clonal differences, Primitivo is typically earlier ripening.
- Dec 2001, UC Davis/Carole Meredith announce that Zin and CK are the same variety – found on the Dalmatian coast of Croatia
- CK has been found to be the parent of many Croatian varieties and therefore it is supposed that this area is its point of origin.
- Zin produces light pink wines right through to Port wines, best as a full bodied table wine
- prefers warm (not hot) climates – Sonoma/Napa ideal
- Only grown in significant quantities in California, Puglia (Italy), Baja California (Mexico)

# Benchmark regions

## California

### **Best**

- 1.Sonoma County – Dry Creek Valley, Alexander valley, Sonoma Valley, Russian River Valley\*
- 2.Napa Valley

### **Very good**

- 1.Amador county
- 2.Lodi
- 3.Paso Robles
- 4.Mendocino

## Italy

- 1.Primitivo di Manduria (can be dry, sweet, fortified dry, fortified sweet)
- 2.Primitivo Gioia del Colle Riserva

- <http://www.sonomawinegrape.org/growing-regions>
- [http://zinfandel.org/uploads/Zin3\\_web%20version.pdf](http://zinfandel.org/uploads/Zin3_web%20version.pdf)  
(Zin resource from ZAP)
- <http://www.ridgewine.com/About/Video%20Profile>  
(videos from a top producer)
- <http://www.zinfandel.org/default.asp?n1=5&n2=9> (Zin Aroma wheel)
- <http://www.sonomawinegrape.org/wine-grape-chronicles>  
(videos of various vineyard tasks)
- <http://www.sonomawinegrape.org/old-vine-zinfandel>

# Wine geography

- [http://www.kobrandwineandspirits.com/education/vineyard\\_maps/italy#1](http://www.kobrandwineandspirits.com/education/vineyard_maps/italy#1)
- [http://www.kobrandwineandspirits.com/education/vineyard\\_maps/america#1](http://www.kobrandwineandspirits.com/education/vineyard_maps/america#1)
- <http://www.winesfrombaja.com/information/baja-wine-route> (Baja Mexico)

# Tempranillo

## Synonyms and regions

- Tempranillo (Rioja)
- Tinto fino, Tinto del pais (Ribera del Duero)
- Tinto de Toro (Toro)
- Ull de Lebre (Penedes/Catalonia)
- Cencibel (Valdepenas, La Mancha)
- Tinto de Madrid (Madrid)
- Tinto Roriz (Douro, Portugal)
- Arogonez (Alentejo, Portugal )

# Tempranillo

- Great grape of Spain
- One of the main blending varieties in Port (Tinto Roriz).
- Tempranillo - comes from the name temprano - means early (typically ripens 2 weeks earlier than Grenache).
- does best in temperate climate (not Mediterranean) because of low acidity and is very susceptible to drought
- Rioja (mainly tempranillo with Garnacha (grenache), Mazuelo (carignan) Graciano, malvasia, viura ...)
- NEW – older texts have Grenache as the most planted Spanish variety followed by Mourvedre then Temranillo. As of 2011 Tempranillo is Spain's most planted variety
- Rioja (2011) 153.5K acres, Grenache 13.4K acres
- Approx 500K acres planted in Spain 2012, 6.1K acres in Argentina (2011)

# ageing

- Influence of Bordeaux
- Classifications (UPDATED – changes for Gran Reserva) for red wines
  - Joven = young wines no barrel ageing to less than 6 months barrel ageing
  - Crianza min 2 years of which 6 months must be in barrels, 12 months for Rioja
  - Reserva min 3 years of ageing, of which 12 months must be in barrel
  - Gran Reserva min 18 months barrel ageing and 42 months in bottle. Full details at web site below

[http://www.winesfromspain.com/icex/cda/controller/pag\\_eGen/0,3346,1549487\\_6779323\\_6779108\\_0,00.html](http://www.winesfromspain.com/icex/cda/controller/pag_eGen/0,3346,1549487_6779323_6779108_0,00.html)

# web

- <http://www.winesfromspain.com/icex/cma/contentTypes/common/records/mostrarDocumento/?doc=4555986>
- <http://www.winesofportugal.info/> Portugal
- [http://www.winesfromspain.com/icex/cda/controller/pageGen/0,5120,1549487\\_6759264\\_6759252\\_0,00.html](http://www.winesfromspain.com/icex/cda/controller/pageGen/0,5120,1549487_6759264_6759252_0,00.html) Spain
- <http://www.wosa.co.za/> South africa

# Pinotage

- Created in South Africa by Harold Perold
- 1925 crossing of Pinot noir and Cinsault (then known as Hermitage)
- Only grown in South Africa
- Not South Africa's most planted variety – chenin blanc, followed by cabernet, shiraz, chardonnay, Sauvignon blanc, and Merlot are more planted. 8<sup>th</sup> most planted variety in South Africa – 15K acres (2010)
- Brett. Overall, has been a major problem with SA wine industry
- Coffee style