



Merlot blanc B



Name of the variety in France

Merlot blanc

Origin

This variety was developed in the Bordeaux region vineyards. Based on genetic analyses carried out in Montpellier, Merlot blanc would be the result of crossbreeding Folle blanche and Merlot.

Synonyms

There is no officially recognized synonym in France nor in the other countries of the European Union, for this variety.

Legal information

In France, Merlot blanc is officially listed in the "Catalogue of vine varieties" on the A list and classified.

Use

Wine grape variety.

Evolution of cultivated areas in France

	1958	1968	1979	1988	1998	2008	2018
ha	5275	3662	1905	766	116	71	24

Descriptive elements

The identification is based on:

- the tip of the young shoot with a high density of prostrate hairs,
- the green young leaves,
- the circular adult leaves, with five or seven lobes, deep lateral sinuses, an open U-shaped petiole sinus, long teeth compared to their width at the base with straight sides, no anthocyanin coloration of veins, an involute blistered leaf blade, and on the lower side of the leaves, a low to medium density of erect and prostrate hairs,
- the round-shaped berries.

Genetic profile

Microsatellite	VVS2	VVMD5	VVMD7	VVMD27	VRZAG62	VRZAG79	VVMD25	VVMD28	VVMD32
Allel 1	149	223	239	186	194	252	248	227	239
Allel 2	149	234	247	188	196	260	248	245	271

Phenology

Bud burst: 2 days after Chasselas.

Grape maturity: mid-season, 3 weeks after Chasselas.

Suitability for cultivation and agronomic production

Merlot blanc is very fertile, productive and regular. It is susceptible to drought.

Susceptibility to diseases and pests

Merlot blanc is very susceptible to grey rot. When ungrafted in the sands, it is heavily affected by root-knot nematodes.

Technological potentiality

The bunches are medium in size and the berries are small. Merlot blanc produces relatively neutral and average quality wines.

Clonal selection in France

The only certified Merlot blanc clone carries the number 1182.

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 - Institut Agro | Montpellier, Marseillan, France.
- Dictionnaire encyclopédique des cépages et de leurs synonymes. P. Galet, 2015, Ed. Libre&Solidaire, France.

Description of clones certified in France

Clone no.	Identity and availability		Agronomic data		Technological data	
	Origin	Selection	Fertility	Production level	Sugar level	Color potential
	Year of certification	Agronomic references	Bunch weight	Vigor	Titriable acidity	Tannic structure
	Surface area used for propagation (year)		Berry size	Susceptibility to grey rot	Aromatic intensity	Oenological suitability
1182	Domaine de Vassal 2012	INRA - IFV				representative wines of the variety

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