



## Merlot N



### Name of the variety in France

Merlot

### Origin

This variety is originally from the Bordeaux vineyards. Based on genetic analyses, Merlot would be the result of crossbreeding Cabernet franc and Magdeleine noire des Charentes.

### 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 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: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain.

### Use

Wine grape variety.

### Evolution of cultivated areas in France

	1958	1968	1979	1988	1998	2008	2018
ha	16975	25124	38391	60007	90059	117354	114578

### Descriptive elements

The identification is based on:

- the tip of the young shoot with a high density of prostate hairs,
- the green young leaves,
- the shoots with green internodes,
- the wedge-shaped dark green adult leaves, with five or seven lobes, an open U-shaped petiole sinus, with sometimes naked petiole veins, medium teeth with straight or convex sides, no anthocyanin coloration of veins, a goffered, very blistered leaf blade, and on the lower side of the leaves, a low to medium density of prostate hairs,
- the round-shaped berries.

## Genetic profile

Microsatellite	VVS2	VVMD5	VVMD7	VVMD27	VRZAG62	VRZAG79	VVMD25	VVMD28	VVMD32
Allel 1	137	223	239	186	194	260	238	227	239
Allel 2	149	234	247	188	194	260	248	233	239

## Phenology

Bud burst: 2 days after Chasselas.

Grape maturity: mid-season, 2 weeks and a half after Chasselas.

## Suitability for cultivation and agronomic production

Merlot is a moderately to strongly vigorous variety that tends to produce a lot of off shoots and suckers. Its semi-erect to horizontal bearing requires sufficient trellising. Its fertility is good and it is better to prune it short. In certain climatic conditions, there is a risk of coulure. Merlot is well suited to clay-limestone terroirs. This variety is rather sensitive to winter and spring frosts (early budburst) and appears to be not very adapted to intense drought conditions.

## Susceptibility to diseases and pests

Merlot is particularly sensitive to downy mildew (on flowers and bunches), to vine leafhoppers and burls. It is also rather sensitive to grey rot. On the other hand, it is not very susceptible to powdery mildew and flavescente dorée and is not very affected by wood diseases.

## Technological potentiality

The bunches are small to medium in size, winged and berries are medium in size. Merlot produces round, powerful, rich in alcohol and colored wines with relatively low acidity. These full-bodied and structured wines, with rather supple tannins, can be aged in wood barrels. The aromas are complex and elegant.

## Clonal selection in France

The twelve certified Merlot clones carry the numbers 181, 182, 184, 314, 342, 343, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349 and 519. A conservatory collection of more than 300 clones has been planted in the wine-growing region of Bordeaux since 1966.

## 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.	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
181	Gironde	INRA	medium to high	low to medium	medium to high	medium
	1973	Bordelais Languedoc Provence	low	low	medium	medium to high
	69.67 ha		low to medium			wines appreciated in tasting
182	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium to high	high
	1973	Bordelais Languedoc Provence	medium		medium	low to medium
	6.93 ha		medium			supple and balanced wines

Clone no.	Identity and availability		Agronomic data		Technological data	
	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Fertility</i>	<i>Production level</i>	<i>Sugar level</i>	<i>Color potential</i>
	<i>Year of certification</i>	<i>Agronomic references</i>	<i>Bunch weight</i>	<i>Vigor</i>	<i>Titration acidity</i>	<i>Tannic structure</i>
	<i>Surface area used for propagation (year)</i>		<i>Berry size</i>	<i>Susceptibility to grey rot</i>	<i>Aromatic intensity</i>	<i>Oenological suitability</i>
184	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium to high	low to medium	
	1973	Bordelais Languedoc Provence	medium to high		medium	medium
	9.68 ha					representative wines of the variety

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314	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	
	1973	Bordelais	medium	low	medium	
	4.54 ha					balanced wines

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342	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	
	1975	Bordelais	medium		medium	
	1.63 ha					representative wines of the variety

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343	Gironde	INRA	low to medium	low to medium	high	medium to high
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc Provence	medium		medium	medium
	44.11 ha		medium			structured wines

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345	Gironde	INRA				
	1975					

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Clone not widely distributed.

346	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium to high	
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc Provence	low to medium	high	medium	medium
	23.77 ha		medium			wines appreciated in tasting

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347	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	medium
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc Provence	medium		medium	medium
	37.66 ha		medium			wines appreciated in tasting

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348	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	medium
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc Provence	medium to high		medium	medium
	36.41 ha					wines appreciated in tasting

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349	Gironde	INRA	high	high	medium	
	1975	Bordelais	high			
	7.94 ha					representative wines of the variety

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519	Gironde	ENTAV	high	high	medium	
	1976	Bordelais	medium			
	20.85 ha					representative wines of the variety

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