



Malvasia Istriana

Synonym: Malvazija Istarska, Malvasia del Carso, Malvasia Fruilano, Malvasia Istriana, Polijsakica Drnovk

Commonly mistaken for: Malvasia di Lipari, Malvasia Bianca Lunga, Malvasia Nera di Brindisi

Origin: There was long a theory that Malvasia Istriana was Greek but studies in the early 2000s found there was no genetic relationship between the variety and 28 supposedly similar Greek varieties. As its name suggest, it is likely that the variety comes from Istria, north-west Croatia. However, there appears to be no documentation mentioning the variety growing in Istria before 1891, according to Italian wine expert Ian d'Agata, but there is evidence of it growing in Friuli Venezia-Giulia as early as the thirteenth century.

Agronomic and environmental aspects: This vigorous variety produces high and reliable yields but loses its aromatic nature if overcropped. It has a preference for well-draining soils and thus flourishes on river gravels and hillsides on lighter soils rather than clay. It suits wide-spaced vines; VSP can give good results, but only with well-balanced shoot thinning and summer pruning.

Diseases, pests and disorders: Shows a good resistance to most common diseases although does have some susceptibility to powdery mildew.

Description:

Growing Tip:	wide open, cottony, of green colour with yellowish edges.
Leaf:	of medium-large dimensions, pentagonal shape, 3-lobed or entire leaf. Has an open, V-shaped petiolar sinus, lateral superior sinuses are V-U shaped, while inferior are rare. The profile is revolute. The upper and under surface is hairless.
Cluster:	medium, of cylindrical form with one small wing, semi-compact: from densely distributed berries to single berries with some visible pedicels.
Berry:	of medium dimensions, spherical, with waxy bloom, skin of yellowish-green. [1.42g 10/03/2005]
Vegetation Growth Habit:	semi-erect
Vigour:	high
Average bunch weight:	medium-low (100-250 g.)
Average Bunches per shoot:	1 or 2

Growth Stages:

Time of budburst:	late
Time of flowering:	medium
Time of veraison:	medium
Time of harvest:	medium

Wine characteristics:

From fresh and fruity to oaked and robust, Malvasia Istriana offers the producer a range of styles. Some winemakers opt for long maceration on skins, producing tannic orange wines. Generally, the style is fresh and fine with floral notes and white-stone fruit; you may also find exotic spice or pepper on the nose too. In warmer sites, alcohol levels can be high.

The Australian Experience:

Not widely planted but making delicious wines with perfume, texture and age-ability where it is being grown. Quite early ripening in the warmer sites where Chalmers are growing it. Can suffer from botrytis if fruit zone is too crowded. Will lose its acidity readily in hot conditions.

Available Clone:**Malvasia Istriana VCR 4**

- This clone was selected in Cividale del Friuli (province of Udine);
- vine has very good vigour, with a reliable yield.
- The bunch is long, semi-compact or semi-loose, of cylindrical-conical shape, and often has a wing.
- The berries are large in size.
- Good resistance to botrytis and medium resistance to powdery mildew.

Maturity Data: Chalmers Merbein Vineyard

	16/2/17	20/2/17	23/2/17	27/2/17	2/3/17	6/3/17
Malvasia Istriana VCR 4						
Baume	10.8	11.0	11.2	11.6	12.2	12.4
pH	3.78	3.74	3.79	3.96	3.75	4.06
TA	5.0	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.9	4.0

Maturity Data: Chalmers Heathcote Vineyard

	1/2/18	7/2/18	12/2/18	14/2/18		
Malvasia Istriana VCR 4						
Baume	8.9	10.2	11.2	11.4		
pH	3.22	3.31	3.45	3.61		
TA	7.6	7.4	5.8	5.7		