



Pinot Nero

Synonym: Pinot Noir, Auvernat, Black Burgundy, Blauburgunder, Blauer Spätburgunder, Bourguignon, Burgunder, Cerna, Kek Burgundi, Morillon, Pineau Noir, Plant Doré, Savagnin Noir, Spätburgunder

Commonly mistaken for: Beclan, Blauburger, Blaufrankisch, Brun Fourca, Gamay Noir, Gouget Noir, Persan, Pineau d'Aunis, Sankt Laurent, Tressot, Trousseau

Origin: There are plenty of hypotheses about Pinot Nero's origins (See *Wine Grapes* by Robinson, J. et al, 2012) but it seems the first mentions of Morillon were made in the late thirteenth century and its synonyms continued to be mentioned in following centuries. It could be Egyptian in origin or French, Swiss or Italian, or something else entirely. Pinot Nero is the matriarch of the Pinot family; it is an unstable variety and has given birth to other varieties, such as Pinot Bianco, Pinot Grigio and Pinot Meunier.

Agronomic and environmental aspects: Pinot Nero has a preference for calcareous-clay soil and is suited to cool to temperate climates being an early ripener. It is suitable for different training systems and pruning methods. VSP, with medium-high density of planting is recommended.

Diseases, pests and disorders: Known as a fickle grape, it is difficult to grow successfully, as it buds early and is susceptible to spring frosts; it has low resistance to fungal diseases including powder and downy mildew and botrytis due to its thin skins; it is also susceptible to viral diseases including fanleaf and leafroll.

Description:

Growing Tip:	half-open, cottony, of whitish colour.
Leaf:	medium size, cordate, 3-lobed or 5-lobed. Has a wide opened V-shaped petiolar sinus, often limited through nerves at petiole end; lateral superior sinuses are V-U shaped, while inferior are hardly present. The profile is V-shape with revolute lobes.
Bunch:	small size, compact, of cylindrical form and winged.
Berry:	medium size and spherical or slightly ovate, when pressed out of shape by high density of berries; skin is medium thick and strong, of blue-black colour, covered by waxy bloom.
Vegetation growth habit:	drooping or erect
Vigour:	medium-high
Average bunch weight:	medium-low (80-150 g.)
Average bunches per shoot:	1 or 2
Growth Stages:	
Time of budburst:	medium-early
Time of flowering:	medium
Time of veraison:	early
Time of harvest:	medium-early

Wine characteristics:

The characteristics of Pinot Nero are highly dependent on site. Typically, it produces a light to medium-bodied style with a low level of tannins and fresh acidity. The aromas are characterised by red and black fruits, and may have lifted floral notes, depending on the winemaking techniques used. New oak maturation is commonly used.

The Australian Experience:

There is really not much to say here. Pinot Noir is obviously well established in Australia but the VCR Pinot Nero clone has not been utilised in much production as yet. Trial wines made from the Merbein vineyard were very positive, particularly in aromatics, but it remains to be tested in mainstream Pinot production in Australia.

Available Clone:



Pinot Nero VCR 18

- Clone selected in Tauriono, around the Pordenone province in Friuli, Italy.
- Vine characterized by medium vigour and good productivity
- small, cylindrical and semi-compact bunches with one short wing
- Good resistance to botrytis and chlorosis.
- particularly good spice and violet notes.
- Well suited for medium-long ageing

Maturity Data: Chalmers Merbein Vineyard

	3/2/17	6/2/17	14/2/17	20/2/17	28/2/17	10/3/17
Pinot Nero VCR 18						
Baume	9.2	9.9	11.2	11.6	12.2	13.2
pH	3.51	3.55	3.67	3.80	3.74	3.85
TA	6.5	5.5	5.1	4.4	5.0	4.8