

# MERLOT

## a) The flavours of Merlot

Merlot is a **black grape variety**. It gives wines which develop **seductive aromas of plum and supple texture (less tannic than Cabernet)**. Merlot grows in hot to moderate climates to develop full body wines with black fruit character. It also has this unique ability of making soft, rich-textured, low acid and low tannin red wines. The best Merlot is also often aged in oak.

As far as ageing is concerned, Merlot's low tannins and low acidity make it a less than obvious wine for the cellar. The majority of Merlot wines not only don't need to age in bottle but also don't want it. To age Merlot will risk fading fruits and disintegrating the structure. However, Merlot can age perfectly well as part of the Bordeaux blend with a note of Cabernet Sauvignon to prop it up.



## b) Premium Merlot regions



◆ **Bordeaux. The Right Bank of the Gironde** is a premium Merlot region. It gathers *Saint-Emillion and Pomerol* appellations. Those areas offer high quality Merlot vineyards with the most famous wineries of Petrus, Ausone and Cheval Blanc.

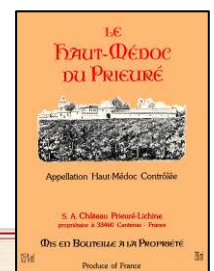
🍷 Get a taste of Saint Emilion by tasting the **Château Fonrazade**, Saint Emilion Grand Cru.

◆ The Merlot wine production regions are almost the same as the Cabernet Sauvignon regions. This means that **Merlot is grown world wide**. Cabernet Sauvignon growers in South Africa, California, Australia and Eastern Europe have found that the traditional Bordeaux blend worked perfectly in their country too. That is why Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot are most of the time planted in the same areas. However, Merlot likes cooler climate than Cabernet Sauvignon.

## c) Merlot in blends

Merlot is mainly blended with Cabernet Sauvignon to make Bordeaux wines and help soften the tannins of Cabernet sauvignon.

🍷 Enjoy pleasant Bordeaux blend with **Le Haut Médoc du Prieuré** (70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon) or **Château Lachesnaye** (70% Merlot, 15% Cabernet sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc).



### Merlot Key Facts

Moderate climate	red fruit, medium acid, light/medium tannin
Hot climate	Black fruit, low acid, medium tannin
Other flavours	Oak, fruitcake, chocolate