

Mulcra Estate Wines®

Premium Australian Wines of Distinction.

Varietal Grape History

Petit Verdot

[puh-TEE vehr-DOH]

The history of Petit Verdot is an interesting one. Petit Verdot is a cousin of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. The grape has been linked to the Balisca vine that came from Albania via the Greeks during the height of their civilization. In the 16th and the first part of the 17th century, Petit Verdot produced a wine called "cargaison" that provided a hearty drink for ships crews headed on extended voyages at sea.

Petit Verdot is a high-quality red-wine grape grown mainly in France's Bordeaux region. Petit Verdot produces full-bodied, extremely deep-coloured wines with peppery, spicy flavour characteristics, and high tannins and alcohol. It's traditionally been used to add flavour, colour, and tannins to the Bordeaux blend. Originally planted in the lower lying marshy areas of Bordeaux, the Petit Verdot grape is known for its small berries, thick skins and a tendency to ripen late, even later than Cabernet Sauvignon.

Recently, there's been a minor planting revival by some of the more quality-conscious producers. Small amounts of Petit Verdot are planted in Chile, California and Australia. It's also called Carmelin, Petit Verdau, and Verdot Rouge.