

VIIGNIER

ORIGIN

Viognier is a white grape with an unknown origin. DNA profiling has linked it to Nebbiolo, however there are multiple stories relating to its beginning. Viognier was once very common, though in the 1965s it was reported as being almost extinct, with only eight acres of the grape planted in Northern Rhone. Today the same area has over 740 acres.

VITICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Viognier can be a difficult grape to grow because it is prone to powdery mildew. It has low and unpredictable yields and should be picked only when fully ripe. When picked too early, the grape fails to develop the full extent of its aromas and tastes. When picked too late, the grape produces wine that is oily and lacks perfume. The grape prefers warmer environments and a long growing season, but can grow in cooler areas as well.

COMMON WINE STYLES

Wines made with Viognier are well known for their floral aromas, can also have many other powerful flower and fruit aromas. Although some of these wines, especially those from old vines and the late-harvest wines, are suitable for aging, most are intended to be consumed young. Viogniers more than three years old tend to lose many of the floral aromas that make this wine unique.

PLANTERS RIDGE PRODUCTS

As of 2018, Planters Ridge has created a very small batch of Viognier, which was shared only with our club members. Looking forward, Viognier will play a larger role in our portfolio.