

# Wine Syrah

WELCOME!

Hello Ladies & Gentlemen!

Well, It's Friday night!  
Who's up for a glass of wine?

up for sth = do you want to do it??

SOUND CHECK!  
Can you hear me ok?

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Brenda.

I am from Vancouver Island;  
located in western Canada.



# Introduction



## Shiraz = Syrah

Syrah, which also goes by the name Shiraz, is a dark-skinned grape grown around the world used to produce wine by the same name. Syrah is often used for **blending**, and is the seventh most grown grape in the world as of 2004.

According to research done on Syrah's DNA, it's an **offspring** of two grapes from southeastern France, the Mondeuse Blanche and the Dureza.

**blend = mix = together**

**When a man and woman get married they blend their families and lives.**

**How many offsprings do you have?**  
**offspring = child**



**Any questions?**

# History

The longest documented history of the Syrah grape is in the Rhone region of southeastern France, but it's unknown if that's where the grape originated. Its parent varieties have all but disappeared from the French vineyards, and were never very popular.

Its parent varieties also never traveled far from the region, making it safe to say the Rhone region is the home of Syrah.

**vineyard: a place where grapes are grown for making wine;    winery                  Is this clear?**

**vine: a long plant that grows horizontally**



# Shiraz

Shiraz = Syrah

Do you have any questions?

✓ The name “Syrah” is used in France, as well as the rest of Europe, the United States, and many South American nations.

The name “Shiraz” however became popular in Australia and New Zealand, and later also in South Africa and Canada.

One theory of where it got its new name is from a city in Iran named Shiraz, which has also long produced its own wine. Some legends claim this is where Rhone got its first Syrah grapes, but no evidence exists to support them. **theory: something believed to be true, but has not been proven**  
**The Darwin Theory: the belief we evolved from apes/monkeys**



legend: a story passed down from generation to generation; no prove/evidence of its truth

Legend has it that the dragon blew fire at the people in the village.

Rhone: a district/area located in France

Any more questions?

became popular  
**Rise Of Syrah**

✓ Syrah was supposedly made famous by a **hermit** who returned from the **crusades** and settled in a **hermitage** on a hill in Rhone, where he made wine. Hermitage wines quickly gained a reputation for being powerful and of good quality, attracting foreign attention by the 18th and 19th centuries. Syrah made its way to Australia in the 1800's, quickly becoming established as an important variety there. In modern times, plantings expanded significantly, and in the early 2000s, it broke into the top-10-planted-varieties-in-the-world list.

**Have you learned a new word, yet?**

There is a legend that a hermit used to live in the tea hills of Taiwan.

**hermit:** a person who lives all by themselves; live an isolated life; don't like to be around people

**Does this make sense?**

**hermitage:** where the hermit lives; his land/home

**crusade:** war/battle among Christians who fought for land



# The Grapes



vigorous: lively, energetic, strong

✓ Syrah has a reputation of being **vigorous**, and can thrive in warm and sunny conditions, even if the soil is poor.

✓ Due to its vigor, Syrah requires **aggressive** crop thinning and **canopy** management to expose more of the fruit to the sun for ripening. Syrah produces small clusters and small berries with concentrated flavors and significant **tannin**. To compensate, winemakers expose the juice to more oxygen to soften the tannins.



I like to have a canopy when at the beach.

canopy: roof like/top of you

tannin: acidic flavor often from wine; dry and sour in the back of your throat

compensate: to make up for; to balance out

To soften/lessen tannins in wine, pour the bottle of wine into a decanter first.

aggressive = strong determination to do something

# The Wine



The wine is described as having a powerful flavor and a full body. Syrah characteristically has a **dense** blackberry fruit character with black pepper notes, although the **aromas** and flavors largely depend on the climate, soil, and methods involved with how the grapes are grown. Other known associated flavors include violets, chocolate, espresso, and **truffle**.

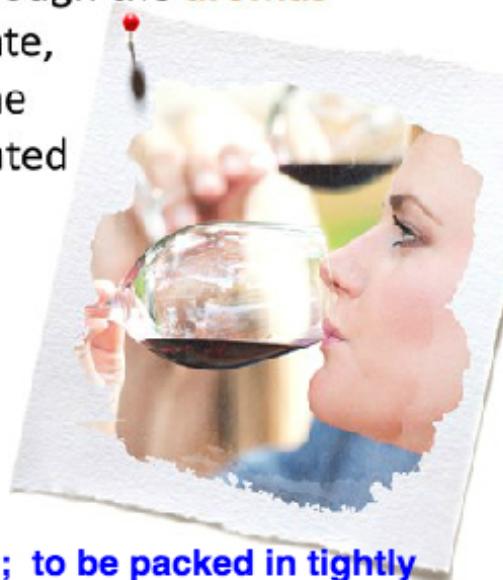
**soil = dirt**

**Beijing is densely populated.**

**A bagel is very dense.**

**The dense forest was very dark.**

**dense:** a lot of something in a small area; to be packed in tightly



**aroma:** a pleasant smell

**The aroma from her perfume lingered for hours.**

**truffle:** rich and creamy flavor

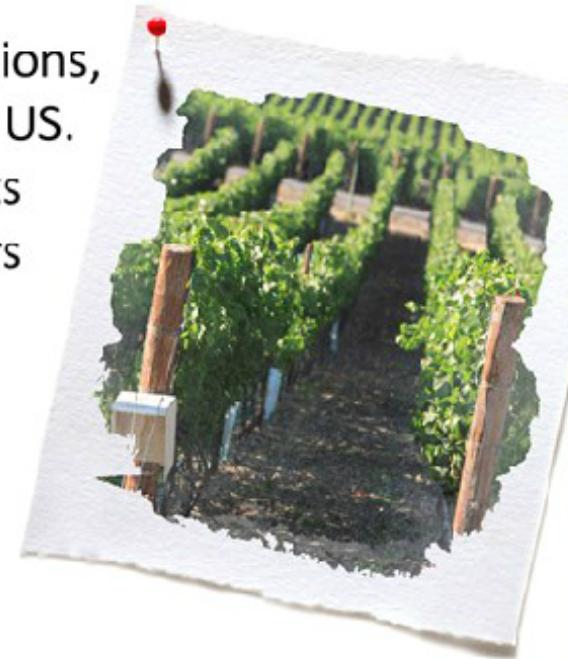
**Any questions?**

area/territory **Regions**

✓ Syrah is primarily grown in warmer regions, especially in Australia, France, and the US. In France, Syrah is grown throughout its home, the Rhone valley. Just forty years ago, only 2,700 **hectares** of Syrah vineyards existed in France. By 1999, the number had increased to 50,700 hectares, with more expansion being planned.

**hectares: a measurement of land  
10,000 sq meters = a lot of property!!!!**

**The king enjoyed the gardens located in the hectares surrounding his castle.**



# Regions

Today, Syrah (or Shiraz, as called by the locals), is the most produced red grape in Australia. One reason for its success is the success of major brands in the US and UK, such as Jacob's Creek and Lindemans. The government had also offered tax **subsidies** to people planting new vineyards. As of 2006, Syrah plantations occupied 41,115 hectares in Australia.

**subsidy: free money\$\$\$\$\$; to help pay  
The university offered a subsidy to the family  
to help their child have extra education.**

**Shanghai's government is granting a subsidy  
to people who drive electric cars.**



# Regions

The United states uses both the Syrah and the Shiraz name. It first appeared in California in the 1970s, and can vary greatly depending on the specific climate they're grown in.

South Africa plantations have grown from 1% of vineyard area in 1995 to almost 19% in 2007.



# With Food



**✓** Syrah has been described as incredibly **food-friendly**, striking a balance between power and **finesse**. **✓** It can pair well with both rich seafood and **robust** meats. A syrah can greatly complement duck breast, lamb, grilled beef, and sausage. Ideally, a wine should have similar body and weight to the food it's paired with, and Syrah has a very balanced, mid-ranged body and weight compared to other reds.

**finesse: done with skill and style**

**The gymnast jumped off the balance beam and landed with finesse.**

**with style: talented; classy**

**What did you have for dinner tonight?**

~~red meat = red wine  
white meat = white wine~~

Drink what you like with whatever food you like.

**robust:** strong and sturdy; full or thick

# Vocabulary



It was a blended family.

- ✓ **blend** : to combine different things **mix**
- ✓ **offspring** : someone's child or children
- ✓ **legend** : an old, well-known story **can not be proven**
- ✓ **hermit** : someone who lives alone and has a very simple way of life **like isolation**
- ✓ **crusades** : a series of wars fought by Christians trying to take Palestine from the Muslims
- ✓ **hermitage** : a place where a hermit lives or has lived in the past
- ✓ **vigorous** : using a lot of energy and strength, strong and healthy
- ✓ **canopy** : the leaves and **branches** of trees that make a kind of roof
  - branches**

The young man grew to be very vigorous.  
The plant is vigorous.

# Vocabulary



**aggressive** : very determined to succeed

**tannin** : a reddish acid

**dense** : made of or containing a lot of things close together **concentrated**

**aromas** : a strong pleasant smell

**truffle** : a soft creamy sweet

**hectare** : 10,000 square meters

**subsidy** : money that is paid by a government or organization to make prices lower, reduce the cost of producing goods, etc.

**food-friendly** : goes well with food

**finesse** : done with a lot of skill and style

**robust** : strong and healthy



**Who's up for a glass of wine?  
Do you have any questions?**

# Thank you

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*Don't forget to leave your feedback for this session.  
See you next time.*