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### COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING YEAST CELLS AND POLYPHENOLS AND THEIR USE

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#### Abstract

Disclosed is a composition including yeast cells and at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da, the polyphenols are adsorbed and retained in the cytoplasm of the yeast cell. The present disclosure also concerns using the composition in cosmetic, dermatological, nutritional and/or pharmaceutical fields, as well as in winemaking to protect the wine against oxidation, therefore preserving the wine quality, color and aromas, and as an alternative to ageing of wine on lees.

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## Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a Continuation of application Ser. No. 18/062,612, filed on Dec. 7, 2022, which is a Continuation of application Ser. No. 15/568,820, filed on Oct. 24, 2017, which is the National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/IB2016/000551, filed on Apr. 28, 2016, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a) to patent application Ser. No. 15/165,684.0, filed in Europe on Apr. 29, 2015, all of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference into the present application.

## TECHNOLOGICAL FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates to compositions comprising yeast cells and at least one polyphenol and their uses.

## BACKGROUND

[0003] Polyphenols, which are greatly represented in edible plants, have recently attracted great interest due to their antioxidant properties. The evidence for chemopreventive, anti-inflammatory, and cardioprotective roles of these polyphenols from teas, wines, and fruits is rapidly growing. Polyphenols may do even more than prevent disease; they may be used in cosmetics making individuals more youthful looking.

[0004] Polyphenols can also be used to protect the color and phenolic structure of wines. It is known to winemakers that addition of polyphenols during aging process of wine can help prevent excessive oxidation that can result in loss of structure and freshness. However, beyond a certain amount, the polyphenols start having a negative sensory impact on the wine and can even denature the wine.

[0005] In the prior art, the envelopment of small molecules in solid particles, liquid droplets or gases in a yeast is growing applications in pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food. The eukaryotic structure of yeast cell made it a potential excellent encapsulating wall material and its natural properties made it many benefits over other microencapsulation techniques. In Shi et al., 2007 (International Journal of Pharmaceutics, 349, 2008, p 83-93), they reported the encapsulation of resveratrol into modified yeast (yeast cells pre-treated with a plasmolyser to remove most of the cytoplasmic materials that occupies the cells).

[0006] Interactions between yeast cells and polyphenols, have also been studied during fermentation or ageing.<sup>sup.2-5</sup> It has been shown that yeast cells influence the phenolic composition of wines, particularly due to their ability to adsorb some of them. Up to now, this adsorption has mainly been attributed to cell walls, though it has been supposed that low molecular weight polyphenols (monomers and dimers) could enter the periplasmic space through the wall pores and interact with the plasma membrane.<sup>sup.6</sup>

[0007] According to Zlontnik et al. (J. Bacteriol, 159, 1984, p. 1018-1026), the structure of the yeast cell wall is permeable to both small polar and apolar molecules in aqueous solutions, but the size (or molecular weight) and polarity properties of the molecules are the two limiting factors. Scherrer et al. (J. Bacteriol, 118, 1974, p. 534-540) reported that a molecule, with a molecular radius smaller than 0.81 nm or molecular weight lower than 620 Da, could penetrate through the yeast cell wall freely.

[0008] WO 99/01148 discloses pharmaceutical compositions comprising low molecular weight polyphenols (all below 620 Da) mixed with yeast extracts. The invention of WO 99/01148 is based on the fact that polyphenol's absorbability by the intestines is improved when the polyphenol is mixed with yeast and administered by the oral way. The polyphenol can be resveratrol (228.25 Da) alone or mixed with a mixture of polyphenol (catechin 290.26 Da, epicatechin 290.26 Da, gallic acid 170.12 Da, quercetin 302.24 Da, caffeic acid 180.16 Da and rutin 610.52 Da). The Resveratrol can be further mixed with proanthocyanidines (592.54 Da) or anthocyanosides (or anthocyanins with derivatives having molecular weights generally below 400 Da).

[0009] BONILLA F. et al. (Journal of Agricultural and Foodchemistry, 49, no. 4, April 2001 (2001-04), pages 1928-1983), discloses the treatment of wine with yeast to decrease the concentration of browning due to phenolic compounds. All the phenolic compounds show molecular weights well below 620 Da. RAZMKHABS et al. (Journal of Agricultural and Foodchemistry, 50, no. 25, 9 Nov. 2002 (2002-11-09), pages 7432-7437) discloses the adsorption of phenolic compounds and browning products in white wines by yeast and their cell walls. All the phenolic compounds show molecular weights well below 620 Da.

[0010] RIZZO M et al. (Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis, 42, no. 1, 11 Sep. 2006 (2006-09-11), pages 46-55) discloses an analytical HPLC method developed to determine monomeric anthocyanins as catechin, flavonols as rutin and phenol acid as gallic acid adsorbed on the cell wall of 23 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains grown on two media containing high levels of phenolic compounds, from grape seeds and grape skins, and on one control medium. All the disclosed phenolic compounds show molecular weights well below 620 Da.

#### BRIEF SUMMARY

[0011] In accordance with the present invention there is provided a composition comprising yeast cells and at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da, the polyphenols are adsorbed and retained in the cytoplasm of the yeast cell.

[0012] In accordance with the present invention there is provided a use of the composition described herein in cosmetic, dermatological, nutritional and/or pharmaceutical fields.

[0013] In accordance with the present invention there is provided a use of the composition in winemaking to protect the wine against oxidation, therefore preserving the wine quality, color and aromas. In embodiments, the composition can be used as an alternative to ageing on lees.

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## Description

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] Having thus generally described the nature of the invention, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, showing by way of illustration, a preferred embodiment thereof, and in which:

[0015] FIG. 1 shows untreated (A, C) and treated (B,D) yeast cells with grape skin proanthocyanidins under light and epifluorescence microscopy;

[0016] FIG. 2 shows confocal images of untreated and treated yeast cells (Y, IY, A-IY) and untreated and treated yeast cell walls (CW) with grape skin proanthocyanidins; asterisk focuses on fluorescent clotted cytoplasm; white arrows: clotted cell walls; blue arrow: remnants of cytoplasm out of the cells. Y means whole yeast cells, IY means Inactivated Yeast cells and A-IY means yeast inactivated after autolysis.

[0017] FIG. 3 shows (A) Confocal image of treated cells with grape skin proanthocyanidins and (B) spectral analysis showing the auto-fluorescence emission spectrum of grape tannins ( $\lambda_{em}$  430-800 nm range) 14. ROI: region of interest.

[0018] FIG. 4 shows TEM images at diverse magnifications of (A-C) untreated and (D-F) treated yeast cells (Y) and cell wall (CW) with grape skin proanthocyanidins; red arrows: mannoproteins; blue arrows: cell wall thickness.

[0019] FIG. 5 shows TEM images at diverse magnifications of (A-C) untreated and (D-F) treated yeast cells (Y) and cell wall (CW) with wine polyphenol pool; red arrows: mannoproteins; blue arrows: antennary oligo (manno)-saccharides.

[0020] FIG. 6 shows TEM images of (A) treated yeast cell wall with wine polyphenol pool, showing clotted outer and inner mannoproteins, (B & C) a treated cell showing clotting of the plasmalemma, and (D) drawing of plasmolysed outer region of untreated and treated yeast cells. cw: polysaccharidic cell wall; mp: mannoproteins; pe: periplasm; pl: plasmalemma; red circles: GPI anchor; blue arrows: contrasted knots in the inner layer of mannoproteins; green arrows: contrasted knots at the outer layer of mannoproteins; red arrows: clumps of clotted plasmalemma proteins; on scale.

[0021] FIG. 7a shows the adsorption of polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (290 Da) vs a polyphenol with a molecular weight above 620 Da (dpm 20, 5840 Da); and

[0022] FIG. 7b shows the reversibility of interactions between yeast and the adsorbed polyphenols of FIG. 7a in a medium without polyphenols.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0023] The present description is based on the unexpected discovery that polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da could cross the yeast cell envelope barrier (cell wall and plasma membrane) of yeasts and interact with their cytoplasm constituents.

[0024] Therefore, the present disclosure provides a composition comprising yeast cells and at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da, the polyphenols are adsorbed and retained in the cytoplasm of the yeast cell. Polyphenols are a class of chemical compounds comprising a hydroxyl group ( $-\text{OH}$ ) bounded directly to an aromatic hydrocarbon group. This large group of compounds can be broadly separated into two categories: flavonoids and non-flavonoids. Exemplary Flavonoids include, but are not limited to flavonols, flavanols, flavanonols, anthocyanidins and anthocyanins. Exemplary non-flavonoids include, but are not limited to phenolic acids, stilbenoids and hydrolysable tannins. Exemplary hydrolysable tannins include, but are not limited to ellagitannins and gallotannins. The ellagitannins are formed primarily from the oxidative linkage of galloyl groups in 1,2,3,4,6-pentagalloyl glucose. The gallotannins are polymers formed when gallic acid, a polyphenol monomer, esterifies and binds with the hydroxyl group of a polyol carbohydrate such as glucose.

[0025] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be flavonols, flavanonols, flavanols, anthocyanidins, anthocyanins, phenolic acids, stilbenoids, hydrolysable tannins or mixtures thereof. In still embodiments, the at least one polyphenols are selected from the group consisting of flavonols, flavanonols, flavanols, anthocyanidins, anthocyanins, phenolic acids, stilbenoids, hydrolysable tannins and mixtures thereof. In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be hydrolysable tannins. In further embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be ellagitannins or gallotannins. In still embodiments, the at least one polyphenols are selected from the group

consisting of ellagitannins and gallotannins. In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be flavan-3-ols. In still some embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be formed by polymerization of flavan-3-ols. The at least one polyphenols formed by polymerization of flavan-3-ols are also called condensed tannins or proanthocyanidins. In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be proanthocyanidins.

[0026] Polyphenols are found in numerous fruits and vegetable. Hydrolysable tannins and proanthocyanidins are abundant in various plants, especially in grape skins and seeds, lingonberries and bilberries, cranberries, gallnuts, sumac, witch hazel, tea leaves and some types of wood, such as quebracho wood. Proanthocyanidins are also found in wine. Proanthocyanidins have a high level of antioxidant activity, and various studies have demonstrated their efficacy in reducing the blood pressure, reducing platelet aggregation and counteracting the progress or onset of disorders of the cardiovascular system. Proanthocyanidins also possess antibacterial, antiviral, anti-angiogenic, antitumoral and chemopreventive properties.

[0027] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can have a molecular weight above about 870 Da. In other embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can have a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa. In further embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can have a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa.

[0028] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In other embodiments, the mean degree of polymerization (DP) of the at least one polyphenols ranges between about 5 and about 35. In still an embodiment, the mean degree of polymerization (DP) of the at least one polyphenols ranges between about 7 and about 25. In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0029] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0030] In still embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0031] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0032] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be isolated and/or extracted from, but not limited to grape skins and/or seeds, lingonberries and bilberries, cranberries gallnuts, sumac, witch

hazel, tea leaves and some types of wood, such as quebracho wood. The at least one polyphenols can also be isolated and/or extracted from wine. In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be isolated and/or extracted from wine, cranberries or grape skin and/or seeds. In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be isolated and/or extracted from wine. In further embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be isolated and/or extracted from cranberries. In yet embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be isolated and/or extracted from grape skin and/or seeds.

[0033] In all of the embodiments of the present description, the yeast cells can be live yeast cells, dead yeast cells or inactivated yeast.

[0034] Inactivated yeast can be obtained by applying lethal conditions to freshly grown yeast in a way to get a totally dead population of yeast. Those lethal conditions includes amongst other things pH or temperature shock, inducing the instant death of all yeast cells, and inducing the partial denaturation and degradation of yeast components (nucleotides, proteins and peptides, cell membranes). Alternatively, inactivated yeast can be obtained by autolysis. Contrary to inactivated yeast, dead yeast is not obtained through an active step of inactivation of freshly grown yeast; death may be due, for example, to the end of its natural growth during the propagation under anaerobic or aerobic conditions.

[0035] Exemplary yeasts includes, but are not limited to *Saccharomyces* sp. (for example, from the genus *Saccharomyces arboricolus*, *Saccharomyces eubayanus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Saccharomyces beticus*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces fermentati*, *Saccharomyces kudriavzevii*, *Saccharomyces mikatae*, *Saccharomyces paradoxus*, *Saccharomyces pastorianus* and *Saccharomyces uvarum*), *Brettanomyces* sp. (Teleomorph *Dekkera* sp.), *Candida* (Teleomorphs for different species from several genera including *Pichia* sp., *Metschnikowia* sp., *Issatchenkia* sp., *Torulaspora* sp. and *Kluyveromyces* sp.), *Kloeckera* sp. (Teleomorph *Hanseniaspora* sp.), *Saccharomycodes* sp., *Schizosaccharomyces* sp. *Yarrowia* sp. (*Yarrowia lipolytica*) and *Zygosaccharomyces* sp.

[0036] In embodiments, the yeast cells can be from *Saccharomyces* sp., *Brettanomyces* sp., *Candida*, *Kloeckera* sp., *Saccharomycodes* sp., *Schizosaccharomyces* sp., *Yarrowia* sp. or *Zygosaccharomyces* sp. In still embodiments, the yeast cells are selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces* sp., *Brettanomyces* sp., *Candida*, *Kloeckera* sp., *Saccharomycodes* sp., *Schizosaccharomyces* sp., *Yarrowia* sp. and *Zygosaccharomyces* sp.

[0037] In embodiments, the yeast cells can be a *Saccharomyces arboricolus*, a *Saccharomyces eubayanus*, a *Saccharomyces bayanus*, a *Saccharomyces beticus*, a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a *Saccharomyces fermentati*, a *Saccharomyces kudriavzevii*, a *Saccharomyces mikatae*, a *Saccharomyces paradoxus*, a *Saccharomyces pastorianus* or *Saccharomyces uvarum*. In further embodiments, the yeast cells are selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces arboricolus*, *Saccharomyces eubayanus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Saccharomyces beticus*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces fermentati*, *Saccharomyces kudriavzevii*, *Saccharomyces mikatae*, *Saccharomyces paradoxus*, *Saccharomyces pastorianus* and *Saccharomyces uvarum*. In further embodiments, the yeast cells are a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

[0038] In embodiments, the yeast cells can be from *Dekkera* sp. In still embodiments, the yeast cells can be from *Pichia* sp., *Metschnikowia* sp., *Issatchenkia* sp., *Torulaspora* sp. or *Kluyveromyces* sp. In yet further embodiments, the yeast cells are selected from the group consisting of *Pichia* sp., *Metschnikowia* sp., *Issatchenkia* sp., *Torulaspora* sp. and *Kluyveromyces* sp. In embodiments, the yeast cells can be from *Hanseniaspora* sp. In further embodiments, the yeast cells can be from *Yarrowia* sp. In still a further embodiment, the yeast cells can be a *Yarrowia lipolytica*.

[0039] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above about 620 Da. In embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins can have a molecular weight above about 870 Da. In other embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins can have a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa. In further embodiments, the

hydrolysable tannins can have a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa.

[0040] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight above about 620 Da. In embodiments, the proanthocyanidins can have a molecular weight above about 870 Da. In other embodiments, the proanthocyanidins can have a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa. In further embodiments, the proanthocyanidins can have a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa.

[0041] In embodiments, the at least one polyphenols can be a mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above about 620 Da. In embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins can have a molecular weight above about 870 Da. In other embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins can have a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa. In further embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins can have a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa.

[0042] In embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0043] In embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0044] In still embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0045] In embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0046] In embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25. In embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the

proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0047] In still embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0048] In embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the proanthocyanidins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0049] In embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 620 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0050] In embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight above 870 Da can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0051] In still embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 620 Da to about 20 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

[0052] In embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50. In further embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 5 and about 35. In other embodiments, the mixture of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins having a molecular weight ranging between about 870 Da and about 14.5 kDa can have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 7 and about 25.

Uses

[0053] The present disclosure also concerns the use of the composition described herein in cosmetic, dermatological, nutritional and/or pharmaceutical fields. In embodiments, the composition can be administered orally or topically. Other administration methods known to the



skilled person in the art may be used as well. In embodiments, the composition is in the form of a foodstuff, a dietary supplement or feed.

[0054] The present disclosure also concerns the use of the composition described herein in oenological field. In embodiments, the composition can be use in winemaking to protect the wine against oxidation, therefore preserving the wine quality, color and aromas. In embodiments, the composition can be used as an alternative to ageing on lees.

[0055] In the following examples, we demonstrated that grape and wine polyphenols with molecular weights larger than 620 Da can cross the yeast cell envelope barrier (cell wall and plasma membrane) of dead and/or inactivated yeast and interact with cytoplasm constituents

#### Example I—Grapes and Preparation of Skin Proanthocyanidins

[0056] The grape skin proanthocyanidines fraction was purified from the skin of 1.25 kg Muscat berries. Proanthocyanidines were extracted with 2.5 liters of Acetone/H<sub>2</sub>O/Methanol (51/34/15), under stirring and during 2 h.<sup>sup.8</sup> The mixture was centrifuged for 20 min at 2000 g and 20° C. The solid phase was extracted again with the same solvent during one night at 4° C. and the mixture was centrifuged. The supernatants were pooled, filtrated, concentrated under vacuum at 30° C. (final volume 200 mL) and stored at -80° C. before the following steps. Chlorophyll was removed by three extractions with hexane and the proanthocyanidines extract was applied on a styrene/divinylbenzene Diaion resin in batch conditions. The resin was washed several times with H<sub>2</sub>O acidified with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, 0.05% v/v) to remove sugars and proteins (followed by refractometer) and proanthocyanidines were recovered with methanol acidified with Trifluoroacetic acid (0.05% v/v). Methanol was evaporated and the samples were dispersed in distilled water and freeze-dried. This PA extract was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O acidified with TFA (0.05% v/v) (5 mL, 47 mg.Math.mL.<sup>sup.-1</sup>) and further applied on a Toyopearl TSK HW-50 (F) gel (Tosoh Corp., Tokyo, Japan) (diameter, 2.7 cm; 18 cm height) equilibrated with the same solvent. The column was then extensively washed with H<sub>2</sub>O:TFA (0.05% v/v, 300 mL). Elution by 55:45:0.05 v:v:v EtOH:H<sub>2</sub>O:TFA (450 mL at 10 mL.Math.min.<sup>sup.-1</sup>) was performed first to remove low molecular weight polyphenols. High molecular weight proanthocyanidins were eluted with a 60:40:0.05 acetone:H<sub>2</sub>O:TFA v:v:v mixture (450 mL). After concentration under vacuum (rotary evaporator at 30° C.), the high molecular weight PA fraction was freeze-dried and stored at -80° C. This fraction, named Skin21, had a mean degree of polymerization of 20.1±0.7 and its percentage of epigallocatechin units was 16.8±1.2%. The yield of the depolymerization reaction was 73.9%.

#### Example II—Wine Polyphenols

[0057] A wine polyphenol pool (WP) was purified from 9 L of a Merlot wine, produced in 2012 at the INRA Experimental Unit of Pech Rouge (Gruissan, France). Separation was achieved by applying the wine to a 7 L bed volume column filled with a styrene/divinylbenzene Diaion resin. The wine flow rate was of 4.2 L.Math.h.<sup>sup.-1</sup>. The resin was rinsed with two bed volumes of distilled water (flow rate 4.2 L.Math.h.<sup>sup.-1</sup>) to remove water soluble compounds. The elution was followed by refractometry. The phenolic pool was finally eluted with 5 L of methanol and 12 L of 96/4 v/v ethanol/water, both solvents being acidified with TFA (0.05%). The ethanolic and methanolic extracts were pooled and the solvents removed by vacuum evaporation at 40° C. The polyphenol pool was then freeze-dried and stored at -80° C. under argon atmosphere before further use. The polyphenol composition of the pool was (on a dry weight basis): 29.3 mg.Math.g.<sup>sup.-1</sup> anthocyanins, 7.7 mg.Math.g.<sup>sup.-1</sup> flavan-3-ol monomers, 32.7 mg.Math.g.<sup>sup.-1</sup> phenolic acids, 24.2 mg.Math.g.<sup>sup.-1</sup> stilbens, 5.9 mg.Math.g.<sup>sup.-1</sup> flavonols and 95.0 mg.Math.g.<sup>sup.-1</sup> tannins. The average degree of polymerization of the tannins, determined was 7.3±1.1, with a % of epigallocatechin units (EgC) and of epicatechin-gallate (Ec-G) of 24.2±2.3 and 3.3±0.3, respectively. The low yield was mainly related to the fact that most polyphenols in the wine pool consisted in derived pigments and tannins, formed by chemical reactions during winemaking and aging and resistant to usual depolymerization methods. 9,10

#### Example III—Yeast Cells and Preparation of Yeast Cell Walls

[0058] The yeast strain used in the present work is a commercial *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain (Lallemand, Montreal, Canada) commonly used in oenology. Yeast was propagated aerobically at 32° C. in a fed-batch manner, with a growth rate of 0.18 h<sup>sup.</sup>−1, for a total of 17 h. Feed substrate was beet molasses diluted to allow suitable delivery of the molasses to the propagation and ammonia hydroxide (5%) was used as the nitrogen source. The yeast biomass (Y) was either frozen at −20° C. and conserved as such or submitted to further post-harvesting treatments to obtain inactivated yeast fractions. The viability of frozen cells (Y), was determined prior interaction assays through flow-cytometry associated with staining techniques and growth on Petri plates. Results (1 and 2.4% respectively) indicated that most cells were dead. A part of the biomass was inactivated by thermal treatment, achieved by holding the yeast cream at 70° C. for 15 minutes in a temperature controlled vessel. The inactivated yeast biomass was spray-dried in a Buchi B290 spray dryer (Buchi, New Castle, DE, USA). This enabled to obtain the inactivated yeast fraction (IY). Another part was submitted to autolysis. Autolysis was carried out by incubating the yeast biomass at a pH of 5.5 at 55° C. for 20 h. After autolysis the yeast was centrifuged at 15000 g for 15 min in order to separate the soluble fraction from the insoluble fraction. The insoluble part (A-IY) was spray-dried.

[0059] A cell wall fraction (CW) was purified from the biomass Y at the laboratory scale by mechanical disruption, according to the protocol described by Dallies et al. (1998)..sup.11 Before disruption, the yeast biomass was washed three times in a 5 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) by successive resuspension and centrifugation steps (1000 g, 5 min, 5° C.). Cells were then dispersed in the phosphate buffer at a concentration of 10.sup.9 cells.Math.mL.sup.−1 and 2 mL aliquots distributed in suitable glass tubes containing 5.3 g of 0.5 mm diameter Ytria-Stabilized Zirconium Oxide beads. Complete cell disruption was achieved with a tissue homogenizer (Precellys 24, Bertin Technologies, France) by the application of 13 periods of shaking of 20 s each at 5500 rpm, with 1 min intervals on ice between each period. Cell disruption was followed by optical microscopy. The cell suspension was then collected and beads were extensively washed with the phosphate buffer. The supernatant and washing solution were pooled and centrifuged at 3800 g for 5 min..sup.11 The pellet, containing the cell walls, was washed four times with phosphate buffer and twice with deionized water. The cell wall suspension was heated at 72° C. for 15 min to remove residual enzymatic activities, and sodium azide (0.02% w/v) was added to prevent any microbiological development. The suspension was then stored at 4° C. until use. The dry weight per milliliter of suspension, 4.4 mg.Math.mL.sup.−1, was determined by freeze-drying of aliquots. In accordance with literature data,.sup.1,12 it was calculated that cell walls accounted for about 20% of the whole cell dry weight. Neutral sugars.sup.11 and Kjeldhal analyses performed on CW indicated a neutral sugar content of 80% (w/w) and a nitrogen content of about 2% (w/w).

#### Example IV—Sorption Experiments

[0060] Yeast cells (Y; IY or A-IY) (2\*10.sup.8 cells.Math.mL.sup.−1) or yeast cell walls (CW) (0.88 mg.Math.mL.sup.−1) were suspended in a model wine (12% ethanol, tartaric acid 2 g.Math.L.sup.−1, NaCl 50 mM, pH adjusted to 3.5 with KOH, SO.sub.2 25 mg.Math.L.sup.−1). An equal volume of grape skin tannins or wine polyphenol pool solution (8 mg.Math.mL.sup.−1 in model wine) was added to yeast cells or yeast cell wall suspensions, and the mixtures were gently stirred for 24 h. Suspensions were then centrifuged and the pellets recovered. Centrifugation conditions were 1500 g—5 min—5° C. and 10 000 g—5 min—5° C. for yeast whole cells and cell walls, respectively. Pellets were washed 4 times with 1 mL of PBS buffer to remove the non sorbed polyphenols, and resuspended in 1 ml of the same buffer. Yeast cells and yeast cell walls suspended in the same conditions in a model wine without polyphenol served as controls.

#### Example V—Comparative Experiments

[0061] This example shows the adsorption of polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da vs a polyphenol with a molecular weight above 620 Da; and the reversibility of interactions

between yeast and the polyphenols when the isolated polyphenols-adsorbed yeast are put in a medium containing no polyphenols.

#### Adsorption Isotherms.

[0062] A contact time of 24 h was chosen for adsorption experiments. A stock solution of polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da was prepared by dissolving catechin powder in a model wine at a concentration of 10 g/L. A stock solution of polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da was prepared by dissolving grape skin tannins with a DPM of 20 in a model wine at a concentration of 10 g/L

[0063] Dilutions of both stock solutions were performed to get a final concentration range between 0.01 and 5 g/L. All sorption experiments were carried out by mixing equal volumes of a  $2 \times \text{g.Math.L.sup.} - 1$  polyphenol solution (x being the final desired polyphenol concentration) and of a  $2.\text{Math.10.sup.}8$  cells/mL suspension (final concentration  $10.\text{sup.}8$  cells/mL). Samples (2 ml) were placed in a 2 mL tightly closed Eppendorf in order to minimize headspace and were stirred continuously (Stuart rotator SB3, 40 rpm) in absence of light and at room temperature. After 24 hours, samples were clarified by centrifugation (1000 g, 5 min, and 5° C.) and supernatants were recovered for spectrophotometric measurements. The total polyphenol concentrations in the bulk were determined by absorbency measurements at 280 nm after adequate dilution. Total encapsulated polyphenol with a molecular weight below 620 Da and total encapsulated polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da were calculated from the difference in absorbency between the samples and the corresponding controls using:

$$[00001] \text{TAP} = \text{TPI}^{\text{PPcontrol}} - (\text{TPI}^{\text{sample}} - A_{280}^{\text{Ycontrol}})$$

TPI.sup.PPcontrol being the total polyphenols index ( $A.\text{sub.}280 \times \text{dilution factor}$ ) of the polyphenol solution without yeast cells, TPI.sup.sample the total polyphenols index of the supernatant recovered after contact with yeasts and  $A.\text{sub.}280.\text{sup.}Y\text{control}$  the absorbency related to a possible release of compounds by yeasts. Indeed, yeast in the absence of polyphenols may release compounds that absorbed at 280 nm. Though very low, this absorbency affects the measurements at the lowest polyphenols concentrations. Therefore, yeast controls, i.e.  $10.\text{sup.}8$  cells/ml suspensions in the model wine without polyphenols, were also performed. Data represent a mean of at least two separate experiments.

[0064] FIG. 7a is comparing the amounts of polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) adsorbed by the yeast vs the amounts of the polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da (DPM 20) by the yeast. The amounts of the polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) adsorbed by yeast are about 10 times lower than those of the polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da (DPM 20) adsorbed by yeast. The polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) of FIGS. 7a and 7b have a molecular weight of 290 Dalton. The polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da of FIGS. 7a and 7b have a molecular weight of about 5840 Dalton.

#### Evaluation of the Reversibility of the Polyphenols.

[0065] The yeast pellets obtained by centrifugation after adsorption above were re-suspended in 2 ml of a model wine without polyphenols. Samples were stirred for 24 h and the supernatants recovered. The adsorption reversibility was evaluated through the quantity of polyphenols recovered in supernatants. As shown in FIG. 7b, the interactions between yeast and the polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) were found to be fully reversible, which reflects the weak interactions of the polyphenol with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) with yeast constituents. The polyphenol with a molecular weight above 620 Da (DPM 20) shows a low reversibility, demonstrating much stronger interactions.

#### Example VI—Analysis and Results

##### Transmission Electron Microscopy

[0066] PBS buffer was removed from the samples and controls and the pellets were re-suspended in a solution of 2% acrolein, 2% glutaraldehyde in cacodylate buffer (0.05M, pH 7) for 12 h at 4°

C...sup.13 They were then rinsed several times in cacodylate buffer and post-fixed in a 1% osmic acid for 2 hours at dark and at room temperature. After two rinses in cacodylate buffer, the samples were dehydrated in a graded series of acetone solutions (30-100%) at room temperature. They were then embedded in EmBed 812 using an Automated Microwave Tissue Processor for Electronic Microscopy, Leica EM AMW. Thin sections (70 nm; Leica-Reichert Ultracut E) were collected at different levels of each block. These sections were stained sequentially with uranyl acetate and lead citrate. They were then observed using a Hitachi 7100 transmission electron microscope with 75 kV accelerating voltage in the Centre de Ressources en Imagerie Cellulaire de Montpellier (France) Light and Epifluorescence Microscopy

[0067] Samples and controls were observed under normal light and epifluorescence. Imaging was performed with a Zeiss Axiophot microscope using DAPI filter [DAPI=(4'6-diamidino-2-phenylindole); ( $\lambda_{exc}$ =340-380 nm,  $\lambda_{em}$ =425-800 nm)].

#### Confocal Microscopy

[0068] Confocal imaging was performed with a Zeiss Axiovert microscope 200M 510 META fitted with a Plan-Apochromat x40/1.2 W Zeiss objective. Excitations were obtained for tannins with a 405 nm blue diode, and emissions were collected for tannins with (505-550 nm bandpass) filter..sup.14 For images acquired in lambda scanning mode, the emission spectra were obtained on sample ROIs (regions of interest) by spectral acquisition (lambda stack, excitation at 405 nm). The detection bandwidth was set to collect emissions from 400 to 750 nm, using an array of 32 photomultiplier tube (PMT) detectors, each with a 10.7 nm bandwidth. The method of linear unmixing was applied with advanced iterative and one residual channel.

#### Results

[0069] Untreated yeast cells (Y) were observed in light microscopy (FIG. 1A) as regular spheres (average diameter 3  $\mu$ m), they exhibited no fluorescence (FIG. 1C). Yeast cells treated with grape skin proanthocyanidins showed the same morphology than untreated cells, and formed stacks (FIG. 1B). They fluoresced strongly in blue (FIG. 1D).

[0070] Confocal microscopy was performed on yeast cells (Y), inactivated yeasts (IY, A-IY) and yeast cell wall (CW) (FIG. 2). Untreated yeast cells and untreated inactivated yeasts showed an extremely faint and almost invisible blue fluorescence; the same was observed for purified cell walls (FIG. 2). After contact with grape skin PAs, yeast cells and inactivated yeasts showed an intense blue fluorescence in their inner core (FIG. 2); some plasmolysed cells were observed with Y, they showed in addition to their fluorescent core, a corona fluorescing in blue. Cell walls exhibited a blue fluorescence and were devoid of internal content. In both cases (Y and CW), some scarce residual fluorescent cytoplasmic elements were observed (FIG. 2).

[0071] An examination of treated cells (Y) by confocal spectral analysis revealed particles (diameter 3  $\mu$ m) (FIG. 3A) exhibiting an autofluorescence emission spectrum (FIG. 3B) with several maxima in the 500-600 nm range.

[0072] Transmission electron microscopy was performed on yeast cell biomass (Y) and yeast cell wall (CW) before and after treatment with grape skin PAS (FIG. 4) or with wine polyphenol pool (FIG. 5). Untreated yeast cells (Y) appeared as spherical structure ( $\phi$ =3  $\mu$ m) surrounded by a wall (thickness 100-140 nm), itself encircled by a brush-like pattern (thickness 30-40 nm) (FIG. 4A-C; FIG. 5A-C). Cells showed high metabolic activity as shown by myriads of ribosomes in their cytoplasm. Under higher magnification, the outer surface of the wall appeared covered by a vaguely fibrillar network with 4-8 nm contrasted knots (FIG. 4A-C; FIG. 5A-C). Under this brush-like structure, laid a strongly contrasted corona (FIG. 4B, C; FIG. 5B, C), itself deposited on a grey layer.

[0073] Polyphenol-treated cells and cell walls, compared with untreated cells, showed obvious differences at their cell wall and cytoplasm levels: the outer brush-like pattern appeared as pedunculate elements with kind of osmiophilic heads (30-50 nm) (FIG. 4D-F; FIG. 5D-F; FIG. 6A, B). Its thickness might be as high as the wall sensu stricto. Although less dense, similar patterns

were observed in plasmolyzed cells on the inner face of the walls (FIG. 6A-C). Finally, at the junction between the cytoplasm and the cell wall, an intensely osmiophilic thin layer was visible (FIG. 5D-F). Another major difference laid in the cytoplasm of polyphenol-treated cells: indeed and contrary to untreated cells, the entire cytoplasm appeared as highly osmiophilic. The plasmalemma (7 nm thickness) appeared in treated cells bearing osmiophilic flat clumps (FIG. 6C). [0074] Yeast treatment with grape skin PAs and wine polyphenols led to the same observations at the yeast cell wall and cytoplasm levels by TEM microscopy. Red wine polyphenols consists in a complex mixture of native polyphenols monomers (mainly phenolic acids, flavanol monomers, anthocyanins) and tannins, along with so-called derived pigments and tannins formed during winemaking due to the chemical reactivity of these constituents.<sup>sup.9,10,15,16</sup> These structural changes result in the formation of modified units/subunits that cannot be easily analysed and induce bias in the determination of the average degree of polymerization of the latter. In a previous work, we evidenced however that interactions between red wine polyphenols and yeast cells or yeast cell walls mainly concern oligomeric and polymeric forms (unpublished results).

Observations similar to those described previously for grape PAs were obtained by microscopy. [0075] Turning now to results of Example V, as shown in FIG. 7a, polyphenols and yeast were contacted for 24 hours and polyphenols adsorbed by the yeast were quantified. FIG. 7a is comparing the amounts of polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) adsorbed by the yeast vs the amounts of the polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da (DPM 20) by the yeast. The amounts of the polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) adsorbed by yeast are about 10 times lower than those of the polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da (DPM 20) adsorbed by yeast. The polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) of FIGS. 7a and 7b have a molecular weight of 290 Dalton. The polyphenols with a molecular weight above 620 Da of FIGS. 7a and 7b have a molecular weight of about 5840 Dalton. [0076] The isolated polyphenols-adsorbed yeasts were put in a medium containing no polyphenols to evaluate the reversibility of the adsorption of the polyphenols. The use of the medium containing no polyphenols favors the shift of the equilibrium towards the release of polyphenols. As shown in FIG. 7b, the interactions between yeast and the polyphenols with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) were found to be fully reversible, which reflects the weak interactions of the polyphenol with a molecular weight below 620 Da (catechin) with yeast constituents. The polyphenol with a molecular weight above 620 Da (DPM 20) shows a low reversibility, demonstrating much stronger interactions.

[0077] Therefore, interactions between the polyphenol with a molecular weight below 620 Da and yeast are weaker and reversible as shown in FIGS. 7a and 7b, whereas the polymer with a molecular weight above 620 Da has the ability to form strong and irreversible interactions.

## Discussion

[0078] The overall morphology of yeast cells—a spherical structure ( $\phi=3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ) bound by a polysaccharide wall (thickness 200 nm), itself covered with a brusk-like pattern, is consistent with previously published images of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.<sup>sup.17,18</sup> and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*. In particular, one must note the regular design of mannoproteins bound to the outer face of the cell wall; it appears as pearling structures extending from the wall with multiple contrasted vaguely spherical elements (thereafter called knots). These structures were decorated with weakly contrasted thin filaments. Plasmolysis of some yeast cells was helpful for description of phenomena: indeed, on intact cells, proteins bound to the outer face of the plasma membrane were hardly visible, plasmalemma being stuck to the wall (FIG. 5A,B); after contact with tannins, only a fine osmophilic layer appressed between wall and plasmalemma was visible (FIG. 5D-F). After plasmolysis, fine structures were unveiled in the space generated: on untreated cells, mannoproteins were seen attached by GP1 anchor (glycosyl-phosphatidylinositol).<sup>sup.1</sup> to the outer face of the plasmalemma (FIG. 6B,D). In this area, we noted that, under the influence of plasmolysis tearing force, the mannoproteins were cleaved, a large proportion remaining attached to the inner face of

the wall. The weakly electron-opaque cell wall [mainly  $\beta$ -(1,4)-glucan and chitin] did not show any typical structure.

[0079] The unique property of condensed tannins to form insoluble complexes with proteins is well known.<sup>19,20</sup> This phenomenon is designated in oenology as fining or collage (in French); it shows, with regards to the action, a similarity with the clotting of blood, i.e. an insolubilization of soluble (plasma) and insoluble (red cells) proteins with shrinking. Yeast cell proteins underwent such an interaction with tannins. Indeed, after contact with grapevine tannins, cells showed a strong blue fluorescence in their cytoplasm; spectral analysis of this fluorescence in comparison with purified grapevine tannins.<sup>14</sup> indicated this was due to tannins. Another site of fluorescence, the cell wall, was identified on plasmolysed cells and purified cell walls. Both compartments (cytoplasm and cell wall) contain proteins which therefore engage with tannins into fluorescing complexes.

[0080] After contact with the tannins or wine polyphenol pool, the thickness of the brush border doubled in comparison with the untreated cells, and outer mannoproteins became very osmiophilic, indicating presence of polyphenols. Furthermore, the volume and osmiophily of knots increased dramatically, as did the overall volume of the extending structures; fusion of some of them was also visible (FIG. 6D). The inner mannoproteins formed kind of large coagulated osmiophilic structures still attached through their GP1 anchor to the plasmalemma (FIG. 6D); it is possible that the interaction resulted in the fusion of independent mannoproteins, and the osmiophilic knots were still distinguishable, although larger than in untreated cells.

[0081] Amongst the multiple effects of condensed tannins, interactions of the plasmalemma proteins with proanthocyanidins were well visible on plasmolysed yeast cells (FIG. 6C). The cytoplasm of treated cells was also much affected by the polyphenols: in comparison with the untreated cells, it appeared highly osmiophilic while untreated cells did not (FIG. 4D-F; FIG. 5D-F); again, it seems that soluble and membrane (ribosomes, endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondrion, nucleus, . . . ) proteins formed complexes with the added exogenous polyphenols. According to their average degree of polymerization, a 3 nm average hydrodynamic volume could be estimated for aDP 21 PAs.<sup>21</sup> thus, the polysaccharide wall was permeable to this size of molecules.

[0082] These results evidenced that interactions between yeast cells and polyphenols are not necessarily limited to cell walls when dealing with dead and/or inactivated cells, and allowed to account for the very large differences observed in our previous work (not published) between whole cells and cell walls towards their ability to interact with grape and red wine tannins. The proanthocyanidins are liable to enter the periplasmic space through the cell wall and to interact with the cell membrane and its cytoplasmic content. The yeast cells are grown in aerobic condition whereas in traditional winemaking, yeast have performed the alcoholic fermentation and have thus been grown in anaerobic conditions. Indeed, tannin adsorption in the first case was similar to that determined in the second one.<sup>4</sup>

[0083] Present results also evidenced that among cell wall polysaccharides (mannoproteins,  $\beta$ -glucans and chitin), mannoproteins are likely primarily involved in the interaction between cell walls and tannins.

[0084] While the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that the scope of the claims should not be limited by the preferred embodiments set forth in the examples, but should be given the broadest interpretation consistent with the description as a whole.

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## Claims

1. An isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast comprising a yeast having at least one polyphenols encapsulated and retained in the cytoplasm of the yeast, the at least one polyphenols having a molecular weight above 620 Da, wherein said yeast is inactivated or autolyzed, and wherein said isolated polyphenols are encapsulated by said yeast through strong and irreversible interactions.
2. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols have a mean degree of polymerization (DP) ranging between about 3 and about 50.

3. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols are selected from the group consisting of flavonols, flavanonols, flavanols, anthocyanidins, anthocyanins, phenolic acids, stilbenoids, hydrolysable tannins and mixtures thereof.
  4. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols are formed by polymerization of flavanols.
  5. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols are proanthocyanidins, hydrolysable tannins or mixture thereof.
  6. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols are proanthocyanidins.
  7. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols are hydrolysable tannins.
  8. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols are mixtures of proanthocyanidins and hydrolysable tannins.
  9. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polyphenols are isolated or extracted from wine, grape skins and seeds, lingonberries and bilberries, cranberries gallnuts, sumac, witch hazel, tea leaves and some types of wood, such as quebracho wood.
  10. The isolated polyphenols-encapsulated yeast according to claim 1, wherein the yeast are from *Saccharomyces* sp., *Brettanomyces* sp., *Candida*, *Kloeckera* sp., *Saccharomycodes* sp., *Schizosaccharomyces* sp., *Yarrowia* sp. or *Zygosaccharomyces* sp.
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