



## Merlot N



### Name of vine variety in France

Merlot

### Origin

This variety is originally from the Bordeaux vineyards.

### Synonymy

There is no officially recognized synonym in France nor in other countries in the European Union.

### Regulations

In France, Merlot N is officially listed in the "Catalogue of vine varieties".

This vine variety is likewise listed in the Catalogues of other European Union member states: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania and Slovenia.

### Use

Wine vine variety

### Evolution of area under vines in France

	1958	1968	1979	1988	1998	2008	2011
ha	16975	25124	38391	60007	90059	117354	114015

### Description

Identification signs include:

- the tips of the young shoot have a very dense cover of flat-lying hairs,
- young leaves are green, with shoots and green internodes,
- adult leaves are dark green, wedge-shaped, 5 or 7-lobed with an open petiole sinus with a U-shaped base and sometimes limited by vein near the petiole point; moderate size teeth with straight or convex sides; absence of anthocyanin coloration of veins; very bubbled leaf blade, cupped and the underside with a sparse to moderate coat of flat-lying hairs,
- round-shaped berries.

## Genetic profile

Microsatellite	VVS2	VVMD5	VVMD7	VVMD27	VRZAG62	VRZAG79	VVMD25	VVMD28	VVMD32
Allel 1	137	223	239	186	194	260	238	227	239
Allel 2	149	234	247	188	194	260	248	233	239

## Phenology

Bud burst: 2 days after Chasselas.

Grape maturity: period II, 2 and 1/2 weeks after Chasselas.

## Suitability for cultivation and agronomic production

Merlot N is a moderate to strong vigor variety with a tendency of growing water and new shoots. Its semi-erect horizontal growth requires sufficient trellissing. Good fertility and preference is given to short pruning. In certain climatic conditions, there is a risk of coulure. Merlot N is well suited to clay-limestone terroirs. This variety is rather sensitive to winter and spring frost (early bud burst) and would appear to be not very adapted to intense drought conditions.

## Sensitivity to diseases and pests

Merlot N is particularly sensitive to downy mildew (on inflorescences and clusters), to leaf hoppers and burls. It is likewise rather sensitive to grey rot. On the other hand, it is not very sensitive to oidium and flavescence dorée and is seldom affected by wood disease.

## Technological potential

Grape clusters are small to moderate size, winged and berries are moderate size. Merlot N produces round, powerful, rich in alcohol and colorful wines with relatively low acidity. These full-bodied and structured wines with rather supple tannins can be matured in wood barrels. Complex and elegant aromas.





## Clonal selection in France

The 13 approved Merlot N clones carry the numbers 181, 182, 184, 314, 342, 343, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 447 and 519. A conservatory collection with more than 300 clones has been set up in the Bordeaux vineyards since 1966.

## Bibliographic references

- Catalogue des variétés et clones de vigne cultivés en France. Collectif, 2007, Ed. IFV, Le Grau-du-Roi.
- Documentation interne du Domaine de Vassal. 1949-2011, INRA, Marseillan-plage.
- Cépages et vignobles de France, tome 1. P. Galet, 1990, Ed. Dehan, Montpellier.
- Ampélographie. P. Viala et V. Vermorel, 1902-1910, Ed. Masson, Paris.

## Description of clones approved in France

Clone number	Identity and availability		Agronomic data		Technical data	
	Origin	Selection	Fertility	Production level	Sugar content	Potential color
	Year approved	Agronomic references	Weight of grape bunches	Vigor	Total acidity	Tannic structure
	Growing surface area		Size of berries	Sensitivity to Botrytis	Aromatic intensity	Oenological aptitudes
181	Gironde	INRA	medium to high	medium	medium to high	medium
	1973	Bordelais Languedoc, Provence	low	medium	medium	medium to high
	69.67 ha		low to medium			wines appreciated in wine tastings
ENTAV  INRA  More drooping growth. Clone appreciated for its agronomic characteristics and quality of wines produced.						
182	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium to high	high
	1973	Bordelais Languedoc, Provence	medium		medium	low to medium
	6.93 ha		medium			supple and balanced wines
ENTAV  INRA  Clone appreciated for its agronomic characteristics and quality of wines produced						
184	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium to high	low to medium	
	1973	Bordelais Languedoc, Provence	medium to high		medium	medium

Clone number	Identity and availability		Agronomic data		Technical data	
	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Fertility</i>	<i>Production level</i>	<i>Sugar content</i>	<i>Potential color</i>
	<i>Year approved</i>	<i>Agronomic references</i>	<i>Weight of grape bunches</i>	<i>Vigor</i>	<i>Total acidity</i>	<i>Tannic structure</i>
	<i>Growing surface area</i>		<i>Size of berries</i>	<i>Sensitivity to Botrytis</i>	<i>Aromatic intensity</i>	<i>Oenological aptitudes</i>
9.68 ha					distinctive wines of the vine variety	

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<b>314</b>	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	
	1973	Bordelais	medium	medium	medium	
	4.54 ha					Balanced wines

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<b>342</b>	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	
	1975	Bordelais	medium		medium	
	1.63 ha					distinctive wines of the vine variety

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<b>343</b>	Gironde	INRA	low to medium	medium	high	medium to high
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc, Provence	medium		medium	medium
	44.11 ha		medium			structured wines


ENTAV  INRA® Clone appreciated for its agronomic characteristics and its capacity for producing wines with good ageing potential

<b>345</b>	Gironde	INRA				
	1975					


ENTAV  INRA®

Small distribution clone


<b>346</b>	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium to high	
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc, Provence	low to medium	high	medium	medium
	23.77 ha		medium			wines appreciated in wine tastings

ENTAV  INRA® Clone appreciated for its agronomic characteristics and quality of wines produced

<b>347</b>	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	medium
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc, Provence	medium		medium	medium
	37.66 ha		medium			wines appreciated in wine tastings

ENTAV  INRA® Clone appreciated for its agronomic characteristics and quality of wines produced

<b>348</b>	Gironde	INRA	medium	medium	medium	medium
	1975	Bordelais Languedoc, Provence	medium to high		medium	medium
	36.41 ha					wines appreciated in wine tastings

ENTAV  INRA® Clone appreciated for its agronomic characteristics and quality of wines produced

<b>349</b>	Gironde	INRA	high	high	medium	
	1975	Bordelais	high			
	7.94 ha					distinctive wines of the vine variety

ENTAV  INRA® Productive clone

<b>447</b>	Gironde	ENTAV				
	1976					

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Small distribution clones; carrier of leafroll2 virus

<b>519</b>	Gironde	ENTAV	high	high	medium	
	1976	Bordelais	medium			
	20.85 ha					distinctive wines of the vine variety

ENTAV  INRA® Productive clone



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