

## WINE Talk: April 2023

The newsletter of Living Wines: Edition 113

Welcome to newsletter 113, the second WINE Talk Newsletter for 2023. We hope you continue to enjoy reading them. We certainly are continuing to enjoy writing them! There has been a problem getting them done over the past couple of months due to illness, however we are back!

We have been able to put together 7 packs to offer in this newsletter.

As well as the packs, the newsletter also has:

- News about wines that are arriving soon;
- Information about recent arrivals of which we still have stocks;
- A story about a new newsletter about natural wines from our friends Giorgio (who lives in Sydney) and Libby (who lives in France);
- A story about a fascinating podcast about the soils of Burgundy;
- Some observations from us about soil in a more general sense and how it is created and how it can be damaged;
- A story about CHATGPT and some of its ramifications for wine writing;
- A story about the Grenache Gris grape variety.

For a full list of wines currently in stock and their prices see:

<https://livingwines.com.au/shop/>

There's an easy way to order our wines. Just send us an email listing the wines and/or packs you would like to order or even just a budget and your style and region preferences. We confirm a plan by return email before processing your order.

If you're not personally known to us or haven't already, please also provide your date of birth so we stay legal (a requirement of Tasmanian legislation). You must of course be over 18 years of age to order.

## New Mosse Releases

It's an exciting time of the year for us when we receive a shipment from the Mosses with Bangarang Nouveau in it (what was "Bangarang Primeur" before they apparently offended some authority or other and had to rename it). It usually marks, and does this year too, our first wine from the new vintage.

There was a lot of optimism about the 2022 vintage when we were in France last September and October and also quite a few full cellars, a very good development, especially in areas that have been decimated by frost in recent years, so it is very good to have this first 2022 to release.

Most of our customers will be familiar with the Mosse family. We have worked with René and Agnès for many years. They were amongst the first vignerons in the area around the village of Saint-Lambert-du Lattay and in the Coteaux du Layon to become prominent in the natural wine movement. Now there is a much larger community, with René very much the retired mentor.

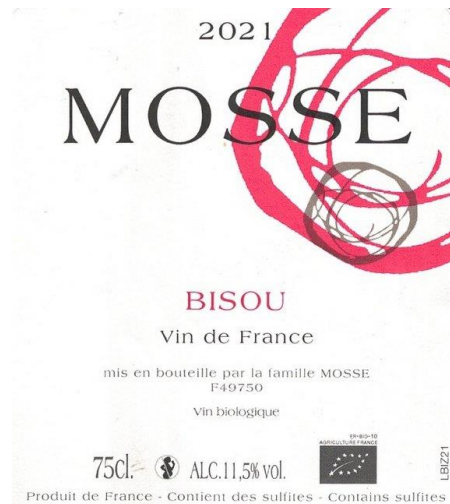
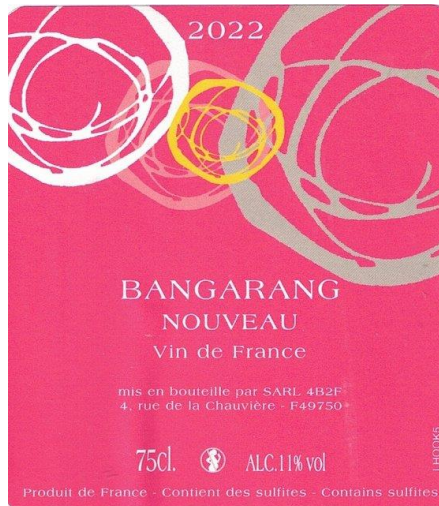
René and Agnès, having come from a natural wine bar in Tours, began the domaine with the purchase of old vines around Saint-Lambert-du-Lattay and the planting of vines in this same area and also in the Coteaux du Layon and Savennières.

They now have 15 hectares. The traditional plantings have been classic Loire varieties like Chenin Blanc, which especially thrives on their schist-rich terroir, Cabernet Franc, Grolleau Gris, Grolleau Noir and Gamay. But there is also some Chardonnay (planted in 1987), which is usually in La Joute and, more recently they have planted Savagnin!

Since 2006 they have also had a négoce, for wines made with purchased grapes. You can tell the négoce wines because, although the labels look the same, with similar colourful circles reminiscent of wine stains on the table from the base of a glass, they don't have the word MOSSE on the label. On the back you will see the name of the négoce (4B2F).

Moussamoussettes is the most famous of these wines but Magic of Juju and both versions of Bangarang (the early release Nouveau and Bangarang) are also négoce wines.

You can see from these labels that Bisou is an estate wine and Bangarang Nouveau is négoce.



The family's wines are now made by René and Agnès' sons Joseph and Sylvestre, who having grown up among the vines, having worked with their parents since they were children. Their on-the-job training before being handed the responsibility for the family's vines and winemaking was very extensive!

The boys see things slightly differently than René, especially when it comes to working with the red grapes. Bangarang and Bisou are both cuvées we don't imagine René would have made. They generally follow the family tradition with Chenin Blanc, particularly the renowned cuvées such as Bonnes Blanches and Initials BB although in good vintages where the risk is not so great have made some exciting macerated Chenin Blancs, another thing René probably would not have done.

This shipment has some René and a lot of the Joseph and Sylvestre. Moussamoussettes, which we first received in 2011, was René and Agnès' creation, and, although not the first in the Loire, a significant wine in the history of natural wine's embrace of pet-nats as a style of sparkling wines. It was one of the first pet-nats we imported. And Chenin 2021 is very much a classic Mosse wine, although the aging was slightly different from usual. But Bangarang Nouveau, Bisou, Overmars, and Nova are all very much wines from the new generation.

We've summarised all the wines we have received along with some notes about availability. Some were sold out when we made the wines available to anyone who had requested advance information and some are now only available in Pack 2, some wines we reserved for newsletter customers.

Wine	Retail price	Type	Variety	Notes
<b>Mosse Overmars 2020</b>	\$70	Macerated	Chenin Blanc	Made with Chenin Blanc from vines planted in 2001 in Beaulieu-sur-Layon. Destemmed grapes were macerated for 6 days with twice-daily punching down by hand. The free-run juice was separated and the grapes then pressed (gently). After 24 hours of settling the two components were combined for aging in a wooden tank. A gentle orange wine, its soft tannins are evident. 13.5% ABV  Generally available
<b>Mosse Bisou 2021</b>	\$52	Light Red	Grolleau Noir, Grolleau Gris, Gamay, Cabernet Franc, Chenin Blanc	From the Mosses' own vines grown on clay with gravel and pebbles of schist on a schist base. Unusually it includes some cabernet franc, a reflection of the tiny harvest. The majority though is Grolleau Noir and Grolleau Gris. The grapes had a brief carbonic maceration (separate for each variety) before pressing and aging in a wooden tank for 8 months. 11.5% ABV  Generally available
<b>Mosse La Joute 2021</b>	\$70	White	Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay	The Chardonnay for this wine was planted in 1987 and the Chenin Blanc in 2015. The soil is clay and quartz on schist. The grapes were slowly pressed then barrel fermented. It spent 8 months in the barrels on its lees. Only in Pack 2
<b>Mosse Cabernet Franc 2020</b>	\$54	Red	Cabernet Franc	The vines are about 30 years old in clay, gravel, and quartz on schist, close by Saint-Lambert-du-Lattay. This vintage is fresh

Wine	Retail price	Type	Variety	Notes
				and juicy with soft tannins. 13% ABV.  Only in Pack 2 and Pack 7
<b>Mosse Chenin 2021</b>	\$56	White	Chenin Blanc	This wine is from Chenin Blanc vines, planted by the Mosse family on clay and schist on plots near Saint-Lambert-du-Lattay and Beaulieu-sur-Layon, between 2000-2002. The wine was directly pressed, but slowly, and, unusually for this cuvee, aged partly in concrete tanks and partly in stainless steel for 6 months before bottling. (It is usually aged in barrels.) 13% ABV  Only in Pack 2
<b>Mosse Moussamoussettes 2021</b>	\$49	Sparkling	Grolleau Noir, Cabernet Franc, Pineau d'Aunis	Direct pressed then fermented in stainless steel and bottled in November 2021. The wine tastes completely dry with a characteristic final note of bitterness from the Pineau d'Aunis. 11.5% ABV  Generally available
<b>Mosse Bangarang Nouveau 2022</b>	\$47	Light Red / Rosé	Pineau d'Aunis, Grolleau Noir, Sauvignon Blanc	The Grolleau Noir was destemmed then macerated for one week to extract some colour then the juice was transferred to tank for fermentation. The other two grape varieties were directly pressed before being transferred to the tank. It was bottled in October 2022. 11% ABV  Generally available

Wine	Retail price	Type	Variety	Notes
<b>Mosse Vermouth Rouge 2020</b>	\$78	Vermouth	Côt (base)	It is made from a base of destemmed Côt (Malbec) from the 2020 vintage. After pressing, spirits which had been macerated with violets, star anise, cinchona bark and ginger were added to the juice, which stopped any continuing fermentation, retaining the natural sugars. it was aged for two years, one year in barrels and one year in tank. 17.5%  Only in Pack 3

### What's coming

We never like to list wines as coming until they have been collected by our shipper – too many things can go wrong which result in delays.

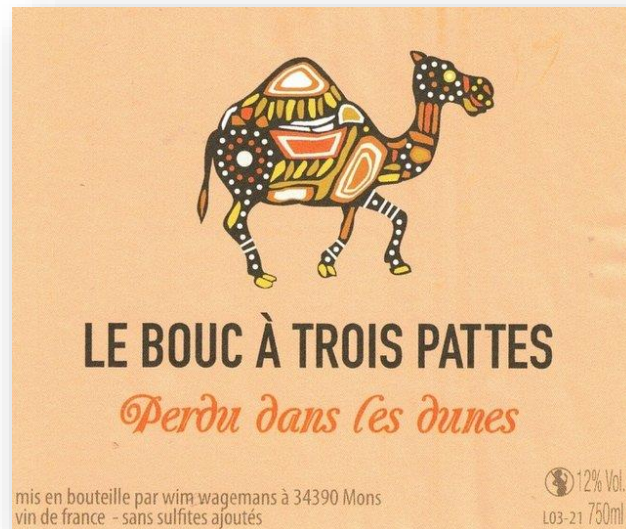
But we can confirm some things we've already mentioned – the arrival of **Domaine du Gringet** (Dominique Belluard's last wines) and **Michel Guignier** (finally some Beaujolais!) later this month followed by what's likely to be a flurry of releases late in April / early May from **Jean-Pierre Robinot** (by allocation / offer only so you need to tell us if you are interested), **Sextant**, **Derain**, and **Geschickt**. There will be more **Octavin** too – although we are yet to send the current offer we've been promising for a month or two now. There have been a few health hiccups which slowed us down in March particularly.

After that we will have wines from **Renaud Bruyère and Adeline Houillon**. It has been some time since we have had wines from them (early last year). We will be allocating/offering these wines and are only mentioning their imminent arrival once so now is the time to tell us if you would like an allocation (which, don't worry, won't be a big financial commitment because it is likely to be an offer of one or two bottles!). If you have requested a **Bruyère-Houillon** allocation since April 2022 we will have a note of your request so there is no need to email us. But if you haven't and would like to be offered something please let us know.

We have also just had collected some new Fanny Sabre wines, which will arrive at the same time as Renaud and Adeline's.

As always, it's wiser to express your interest in advance if there is anything you really don't want to miss out on for any of these wines.

### Pack 1: Autumn Sale Pack (20% discount)



This is an eclectic pack of wines for autumn drinking! There are a number of rosé wines and some light reds including some from the ever-interesting Wim Wagemans of Le Bouc à Trois Pattes and the ever-reliable Domaine Milan.

This pack will give you a chance to explore what happens when clever winemakers make a light rosé out of traditionally “big” varieties such as the Milan Haru Rosé which is based on Grenache, Syrah and Merlot or when they create a pet nat from Grenache mixed with Muscat and Alicante.

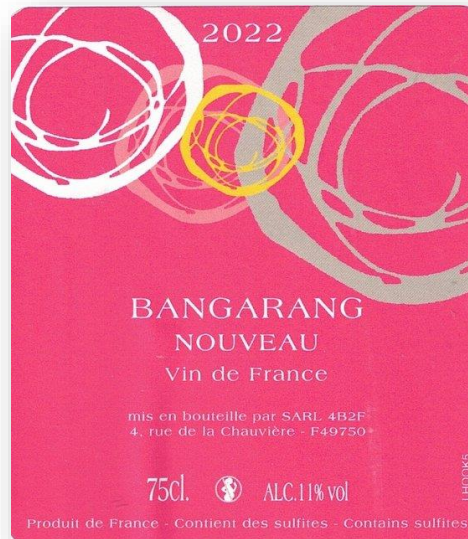
The same applies to the rosé from zero-sulphur producer Julien Peyras which is made from Grenache and Syrah and comes in at only 11.6% alcohol.

We also need to point out that Perdu dans les Dunes from Wim Wagemans is a delicious lightly orange wine made entirely from Clairette. And his Quel Ane de Course is again made from early-picked Carignan.

- Milan Haru Rosé 2021
- Milan Haru Rouge 2021
- Milan Pet'Nat Rosé 2021
- Julien Peyras Rosé Bohême 2021
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Perdu Dans Les Dunes 2021
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Quel Âne de Course 2021

The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$277 but the pack price is only **\$221.60**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

## Pack 2: Mosse New Arrivals Pack (15% Discount)



This is an amazing collection of the incredibly varied wines from the Mosse family covering pet nats, white, reds and orange wines. The list starts with the ever popular Moussamoussettes pet nat. This year it is quite savoury but beguilingly delicious and, it seems very thirst-quenching. We also have a “Nouveau 2022” a light red-ish / rosé made from Pineau d’Aunis, Grolleau Gris and Sauvignon Blanc that is quite alluring as is the Bisou which is slightly heavier but still in light red territory. With extra aging it also has a little more depth than the flight Bangarang Nouveau.

There are then two white wines namely the Chenin and the La Joute. Chenin is 100% Chenin and La Joute is a blend of Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay. Both are estate-grown vines. The final wine is a very fresh red wine (a true red this one!) made from Cabernet Franc grapes that were nicely ripe when hand-harvested.

- Mosse Moussamoussettes 2021
- Mosse Bangarang Nouveau 2022
- Mosse Bisou 2021
- Mosse Chenin 2021
- Mosse La Joute 2021
- Mosse Cabernet Franc 2020

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$328 but the pack price is only **\$278.80**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.



### Pack 3: As Mixed As It Gets Pack (15% discount)

**Note: 2 packs only**



OK, this is a fairly weird pack, but we thought it would be fun to give two lucky readers access to some of our less common offerings. In this pack we have one bottle of the Mosse Red Vermouth that has just arrived in Australia (and sold out immediately), then two bottles of wine vinegars from La Guinelle that are created under a natural yeast veil in open wooden barrels in the south of France, all made of course starting with natural wines with no added sulphites.

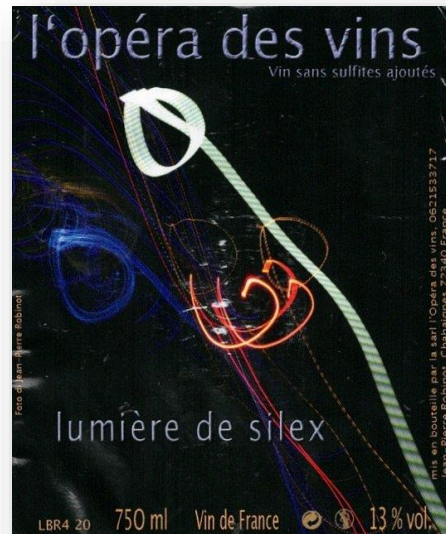
The Guilielmus from Wim Wagemans is an interesting brandy which conforms to all of the rules of the Fine de Languedoc brandy appellation. There is also a bottle of cider from Julien Fremont and one of the wines that we are currently obsessed with, namely the Mosse Bangarang Nouveau.

- Mosse Vermouth Rouge 2020
- La Guinelle Vinaigre de Banyuls 50 cl
- La Guinelle Vinaigre de Chenin 50 cl
- Le Bouc à Trois Pattes Guilielmus
- Julien Fremont Le Cidre Fermier 2020
- Mosse Bangarang Nouveau 2022

**The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$365 but the pack price is only \$310.25. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.**

**Pack 4: Things went a bit pear-shaped Pack (Approx. 13% Discount)**

**Note: 1 Pack Only**



We have a very special wine in this pack, namely an amazing white wine made by the Robinot family using Chenin Blanc grapes grown by Anjou producer Damien Bureau. Unusually we also have set aside two rare wines from Alice Bouvot of l'Octavin, namely Elle Aime 2018 which is a light red based on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and Cigogne Rose 2019, which is macerated Gewurztraminer.

The final three are all serious wines exemplifying interesting features of three regions. The first is an alluring red wine made from the emerging Fer de Sang grape variety which is native to the wild and remote Aveyron district of Central France. Next is the Massale from Philippe Formentin of Opi d'Aqui in the Languedoc which he makes from Grenache Noir, Grenache Gris, Grenache Blanc and Marsanne. And the last is the highly popular Les Follasses white from Michel Gahier in the Jura, which has recently arrived.

- Jean-Pierre Robinot Lumière de Silex 2020
- l'Octavin Elle Aime 2018
- l'Octavin La Cigogne Rose 2019
- Nicolas Carmarans IGP Aveyron Fer de Sang 2020
- Opi d'Aqui Massale 2019
- Michel Gahier Arbois Chardonnay Les Follasses 2020

**The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$455 but the pack price is only \$402.40. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.**

## Pack 5: Digging Deeper into the Archives Pack (Almost 15% Discount)

**Note: 1 pack only**



This is a varied pack with wines mainly from producers whose wines are hard to access due to their popularity. We have a lovely white Bourgogne from the tiny Landré vineyard (0.3 hectares) from Domaine Derain then a majestic orange from the master - Jean-Marc Dreyer.

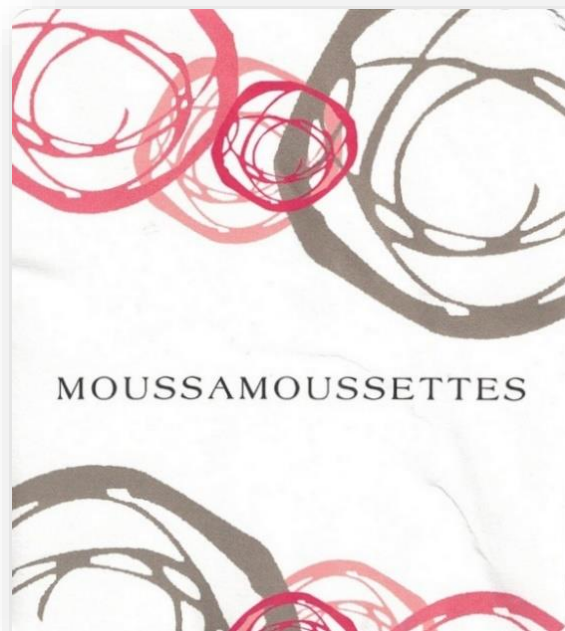
To balance the white from Derain we have included a Bourgogne Rouge from the talented Fanny Sabre and a sparkling from the Loire made by the irrepressible Jean-Pierre Robinot, followed by two light reds from the Mosse family, wines we have written about earlier in the newsletter, to round out a very desirable pack. There is only 1 of this pack!

- Domaine Derain Bourgogne Landré 2019
- Jean-Marc Dreyer AOC Alsace Gewurztraminer Origin 2018
- Fanny Sabre Bourgogne Rouge 2018
- Jean-Pierre Robinot Les Années Folles 2020
- Mosse Bangarang Nouveau 2022
- Mosse Bisou 2021

The RRP for this selection of **6** bottles is \$341 but the pack price is only **\$292.70**. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.

**Pack 6: Mainly Bubbles Pack (15% Discount)**

**Note: 3 packs only**



This pack includes four bottles of sparkling wine including 2 bottles of the highly sought-after newly-arrived Mosse Moussamoussettes.

There is a bottle of the Milan Pet Nat Rosé made from Grenache Noir, Muscat and a little Alicante and a sparkling bottle from Julien Peyras made from the unusual, but enticing, combination of Chardonnay and Clairette.

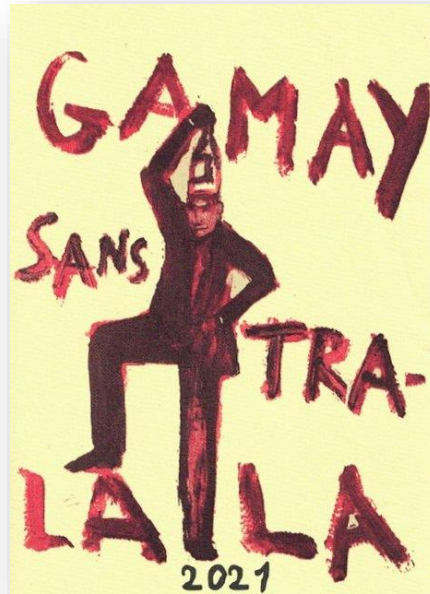
We have rounded the pack out with two light reds from the Mosse family as they are perfect to drink after the sparkling apero.

- Mosse Moussamoussettes 2021 (**2 bottles**)
- Milan Pet'Nat Rosé 2021
- Julien Peyras Les Pétillantes Blanc 2021
- Mosse Bangarang Nouveau 2022
- Mosse Bisou 2021

**The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$305 but the pack price is only \$259.25. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.**

### Pack 7: Mixed Reds Pack (15% Discount)

**Note: 3 packs only**



This pack has five out of the six bottles made from a single grape variety. The Milan Haru is made from 3 varieties, namely Grenache, Syrah and Carignan grown in their Provencal vineyards in full view of the majestic Alpilles mountains.

The first two are made from Grenache (the Abricotier) and Cinsault (Gourmandise). The other two are self-explanatory with a Cabernet Franc from the Mosse family. We should add here that we often find that Cabernet Franc from the Loire Valley is often disappointing due to lack of ripeness giving the Cabernet a “bell pepper” flavour. However, the Mosse grapes always seem to ripen properly to produce beautiful examples of this variety.

- Opi d'Aqui L'Abricotier 2019
- Julien Peyras Gourmandise 2021
- Mosse Cabernet Franc 2020
- Milan Haru Rouge 2021
- Domaine de la Garrelière Touraine Gamay Sans TraLaLa 2021 (**2 bottles**)

**The RRP for this selection of 6 bottles is \$297 but the pack price is only \$252.45. It normally includes freight to most Australian cities but, depending on the destination and freight method we may have to add a small freight charge.**

### A new and exciting newsletter

A new and exciting wine newsletter has appeared as a collaboration between two of our friends, Giorgio de Maria and Libby Travers. Bravely called Il Mensile, this newsletter will cover topics from the wine world with Libby taking on the difficult job of converting ideas in Giorgio's head into text on our screens.

The first edition is available for perusal at [giorgiodemaria.com](http://giorgiodemaria.com). Just click on the Il Mensile option in the main menu and start reading.

They have picked a greattopic for the first edition and one that is close to our hearts, namely the genesis and current state of the Brutal!!! label.



The article provides a very accurate background to how the Brutal!!! label came into existence and how it was eventually taken up by winemakers who were not following the philosophy required for using the label and the difference of opinions about what to do between the four originators of the label.

The article then discusses how two of the originators decide to issue a “gold standard” version of the label and to restrict its use, rather than adopt the laissez-faire approach of the original group.

We will be interested to see if the three producers who we import and who are in the newly approved group, adopt the gold standard. These are Domaine de l’Octavin (Alice Bouvot), Le Bouc à Trois Pattes (Wim Wageman) and Les Temps des Cerises (Axel Prüfer), although Axel has always chosen his own label, only participating by using the name.



## A very interesting podcast about Burgundy geology

We recently listened to a long, but very compelling, podcast about the background to the geology of the most famous winegrowing area of Burgundy, the Côte d'Or, focussing on its two main elements the Côte de Nuits and the Côte de Beaune.



The podcast, hosted by Levi Dalton, is comprised of an introduction to the geology of France followed by an interview with a geologist, Francoise Vannier who did her training at the University of Dijon which is right in the centre of Burgundy proper with Chablis to the north and the Côte d'Or to the south.

In her explanation of the geology of Burgundy she talks about the simple “limestone layering” in Chablis then the much more “faulted” geology as you move further south. The relatively quiet (geologically speaking) of the Jurassic period saw a large lake covering what we now know as Burgundy where the limestone was deposited, and then there was a period of over 100 million years until some massive geological uprisings occurred that created the alps on the other side of France, but these faults “rippled” out as far as Burgundy causing the simple layers to be upthrust creating a more complex geology.

According to Vannier this has brought about interesting geology throughout the wine growing areas of Burgundy, but not necessarily a close relationship between the “best” geology and the Grand Cru and Premier Cru designations.

The introduction to the podcast (there is a link at the end of this article, gives a brief overview of what you can expect to hear:

*Françoise speaks about numerous areas of the Côte d'Or in some depth, including areas within the boundaries of Marsannay, Gevrey-Chambertin, Morey-Saint-Denis, Chambolle-Musigny, Pommard, and Meursault. She dispels common myths about the topic of Burgundy geology, and she gives examples of specific crus to illustrate many of her points. She also provides an examination of how human activity, in the form of quarries, house building, and clos (walled vineyard) construction has altered the Côte*

*d'Or. Lastly, Françoise describes how the Côte d'Or differs from other areas of France which also feature calcium carbonate deposits, such as Champagne and St. Émilien.*

We are pleased that areas such as Pommard and Volnay are included as we have spent a lot of time in the area south of Beaune with Fanny Sabre (Pommard) and Sextant/Domaine Derain (Saint Aubin).

The photo below was taken in Fanny Sabre's Pommard vineyard.



It is a fascinating program and those of you who love Burgundies and who study the various areas will be interested to hear detailed discussions of the geology of appellations such as Volnay, Pommard and Montrachet.

You can access the podcast by clicking on the link below:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/ill-drink-to-that-wine-talk/id538210866?i=1000512755202>



## Some observations about soil

On the Living Wines Web site we have four articles discussing the importance of soil in vineyards and how looking after the soil will produce wine of a higher quality. We also discuss the damaging effects of systemic sprays on the soil and on humans who deploy the sprays or drink the wine produced from sprayed vines.

Since we wrote those articles more information has come to light about how to promote good soil, some of it obvious and some less obvious but nevertheless important. For this brief commentary we have taken three areas of importance.

### Systemic sprays

Systemic sprays are those that are designed to be absorbed into the plant's system and therefore can't be washed off like sprays of old when we were told to wash our fruit to wash off the poisons. With the new generation of sprays this is impossible.

But there is another problem as well. Over the past decade we have learned much more about how our bodies work. One of the most important factors in overall health is the maintenance of healthy levels of gut and intestinal bacteria in our bodies.

So how is the use of sprays in agriculture and gut bacteria in our bodies related? Bear with us!

If you have ever driven through an Australian wine region, you will have noticed how incredibly neat many vineyards are. They have beautiful lawns between the vines and no grass under the vines. The grass has been removed through the use of herbicides in many cases. The vines have also been sprayed with insecticides and fungicides (get rid of insects and to reduce fungal infections) which have also been absorbed into the vines and eventually into the grapes.

Let's take the herbicides as an example. Many herbicides work by interrupting a process in the weeds called the shikimate pathway. This is a seven-step pathway that is used for fundamental growth by algae, bacteria, fungi and plants involving the production of specific enzymes at each of the seven stages. Animals (including us) do not grow via a shikimate pathway hence are supposedly not affected by these sprays.



Spraying in a vineyard

Many herbicides work by interrupting this pathway in the weeds and hence the weeds die. But, as a natural corollary, so do any bacteria or fungi or algae that get in the way, because they grow via the same process.

This means that the bacteria in the soil and the mycorrhizal fungi and worms that are so important for healthy soil are also damaged. So, everything looks great on the surface but underneath the soil is being ravaged by the overuse of these sprays. And, of course, residues from these sprays end up in the wine produced from these vineyards.

This is a rather long-winded way of getting to the crux of the matter. The widespread use of glyphosates in agriculture and, in particular, in viticulture, means that we are ingesting these sprays from our everyday food and from our wine intake.

The producers of these sprays say that they will not harm us because we don't use the shikimate pathway. That's right we don't. However, our gut bacteria does and therefore when we ingest these systemic sprays from our food and wine we kill off our gut bacteria and what follows is a deterioration in our health.

## Soil and bacteria

When people write about the creatures in the soil, they often mention worms, but less often do they mention the bacteria in the soil.

This is a pity because bacteria have a significant effect on soil, both in assisting the quality of the soil but also in actually producing the soil.

In a recent newsletter we wrote about the sinking of the Titanic and the man who has become obsessed with what remains of the ship, deep below the Atlantic Ocean.

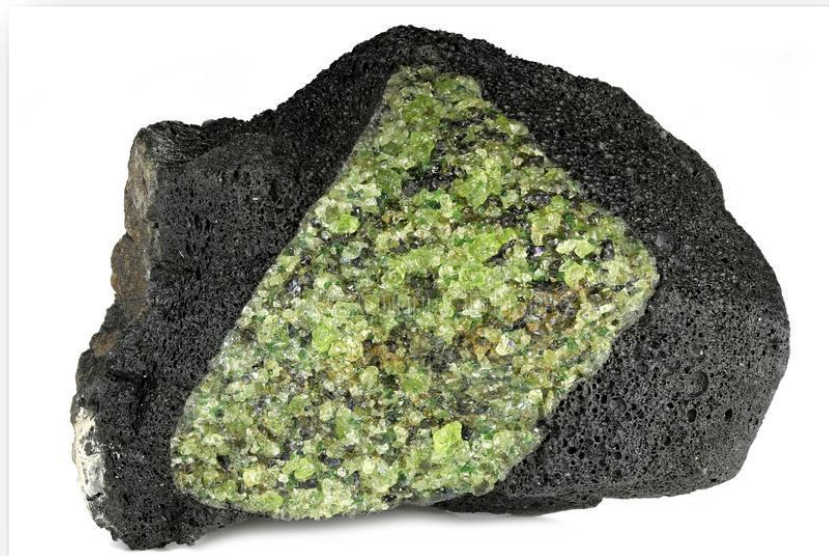
In the article we discussed how the ship is virtually disappearing – it is being eaten away. And the culprits are bacteria!

Now, if there are bacterial types that can eat the Titanic, imagine what they can do on the land? Eating rocks is a task that some bacteria (weathering bacteria) find to be easy. As they chomp away, they can reduce rocks to tiny particles hence producing soil.

For example, in May 2020, scientist Jennifer Frazer wrote an article in the Scientific American magazine as part of the series entitled the “Artful Amoeba” which she called “Scientists Waited Two and a Half Years to See whether Bacteria Can Eat Rock”. And, sure enough, the wait was worth it – the bacteria did convert rocks to soil!

### Olivine weathering

Even very hard rocks can weather away to soil through combination with water and elements from the air.



#### Olivine example

A good example of such weathering (breaking down of a rock) occurs in Tasmania with a rock-forming mineral called olivine (aka chrysolite) which is a key component of rocks such as peridotite, gabbro and basalt.

Olivine is a magnesium and iron silicate ( $\text{MgFeSiO}_4$ ) that can combine with hydrogen from groundwater and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to form magnesium carbonate and silicon dioxide.

The chemical equation is:



You can see on the left side that the olivine in a magnesium iron silicate that combines with hydrogen and carbon dioxide to produce on the right-hand side magnesium carbonate, iron, silicon dioxide and water. The soil that is created will be magnesium rich.

Notice also that there is an added bonus. In an era where we are producing far too much atmospheric carbon dioxide this process takes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (the left of the equation above) and “binds” it to the magnesium in the soil (derived from the olivine) thus reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere!

It is therefore possible to do this on a large scale. All we have to do is grind up olivine-rich rocks such as basalt (we have plenty in Tasmania) and spread them on our paddocks and then let the water and carbon dioxide do their thing and we are capturing carbon dioxide on a large scale. There does, however, need to be analysis of the soil it is being spread over to ensure that the olivine minerals are not limiting existing processes in play in the soil.

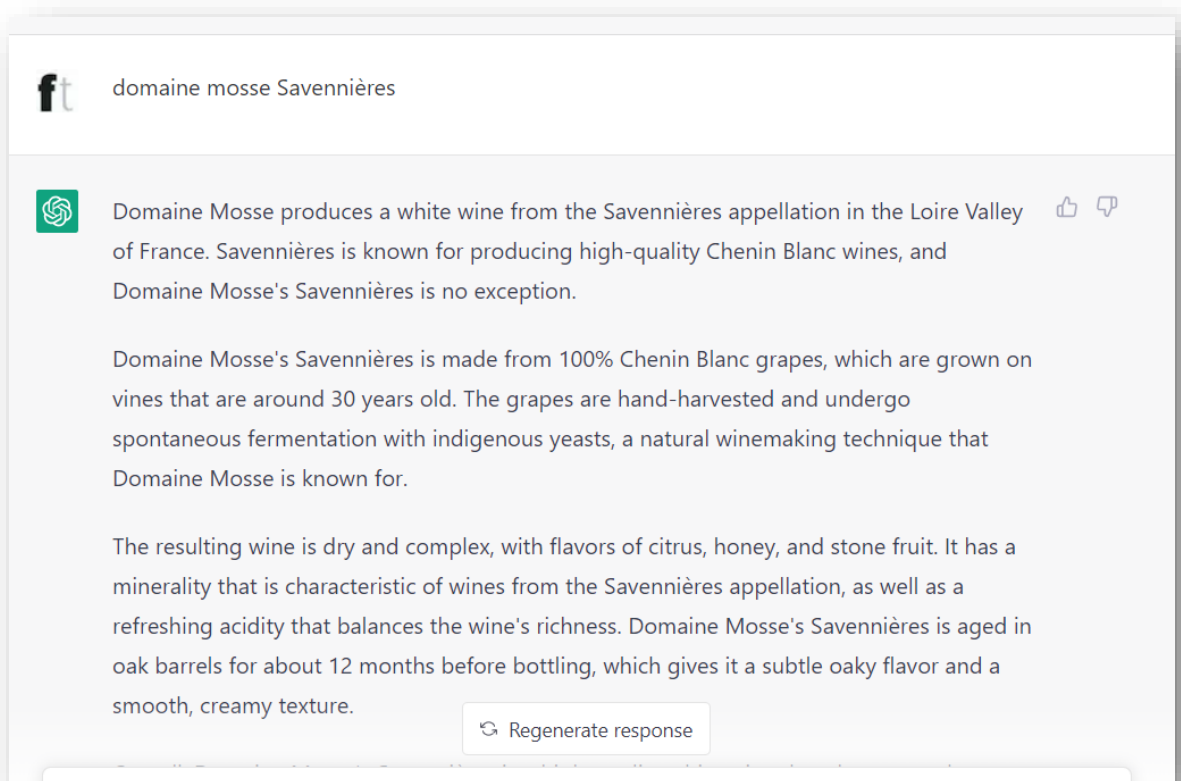
## What is ChatGPT and why all the fuss?

You may have read about a new method of using the Internet to retrieve information recently called ChatGPT. This system is certainly making its mark and causing ripples everywhere especially in education circles.

What exactly is ChatGPT and what is it capable of delivering and why? Some people think it is just a new form of Google, but that would be missing the point entirely.

We will use an example to illustrate what it is capable of and then tell you why.

Imagine that we have just received a shipment of Domaine Mosse wines and need to add an explanation of the Mosse Savennières wine to our Web site. We might just go to ChatGPT and enter the name of the wine as shown below and then within microseconds the explanation appears:



You can see above next to our Foodtourist prompt that we entered a very brief query for Mosse and the location. The rest is returned by ChatGPT using Artificial Intelligence to determine the best answer. If you read through the answer, you will see that it is quite good, with no obvious errors.

Now let us try a broader topic such as an explanation of natural wine.



natural wine



Natural wine is a term used to describe a type of wine that is made with minimal intervention and with a focus on organic and biodynamic farming practices. Natural winemakers use wild yeasts and little or no added sulfites, and avoid additives and preservatives such as sugar, acid, and tannins.

The goal of natural winemaking is to produce wine that is a pure expression of the grapes and the terroir, or the environmental factors that influence the wine's flavor and aroma. This approach contrasts with conventional winemaking, which often involves the use of chemicals, laboratory-cultivated yeasts, and other interventions to achieve a consistent and predictable product.

Because natural wine is made without the use of many of the additives and stabilizers commonly found in commercial wines, it can have a unique and sometimes unpredictable flavor profile. Some natural wines are cloudy, with a slightly funky aroma, while others are crisp and refreshing.

Natural wine has become increasingly popular in recent years, as consumers have become more interested in sustainable and organic food and beverage options.

Quite a neat summary of natural wines!

And this is what is causing consternation in the education world. Imagine setting an essay about how King Roger assisted an understanding of the world in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century by funding the development of the most sophisticated map ever drawn at that time. A student would simply have to ask ChatGPT.



King Roger of Sicily and map of the world



King Roger II of Sicily was a patron of scholars and artists during the 12th century, and he commissioned a number of important works, including the creation of a remarkable world map known as the Tabula Rogeriana.

The Tabula Rogeriana was created in 1154 by the Arab geographer Muhammad al-Idrisi, who was appointed by King Roger to create a detailed map of the known world. The map was based on extensive research and included information gathered from Greek and Roman sources, as well as from Arab and Persian scholars.

The Tabula Rogeriana was one of the most accurate and detailed maps of the world at the time, and it remained an important reference for centuries. The map was divided into seven climate zones and depicted the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa, as well as parts of the Americas. It also included detailed descriptions of the various regions of the world, as well as information about the cultures and customs of the people who lived there.

King Roger was known for his patronage of the arts and sciences, and he was particularly interested in geography and cartography. He saw the creation of the Tabula Rogeriana as a way to consolidate knowledge about the world and to promote understanding and cooperation between different cultures. The map was a testament to his vision of a cosmopolitan and enlightened society, and it remains a testament to the achievements of medieval scholarship and artistry.

Notice that we asked a very simple question and ChatGPT replied with quite a detailed answer which would certainly be good enough for a student essay.

A couple of things need mentioning here. The first is that ChatGPT is based on a sophisticated Artificial Intelligence (AI) system that has access to most of the information on the Web.

The second is that there is unbelievable computing power behind this system that uses unbelievable amounts of energy. The essay above took literally less than a second to be returned to our screen. This is great for students but not so good for the environment considering the amount of energy used to generate the response.

And it doesn't stop there. There are literally dozens of AI systems appearing on the scene. ChatGPT is just one developed by OpenAI. There is also a group of drawing systems appearing, for example, driven by the same AI principles. One we tried is IMAGES.AI which allows you to type in a brief description of what you would like and it draws a few examples for you.

We typed in "Paris" and this was one of the results.





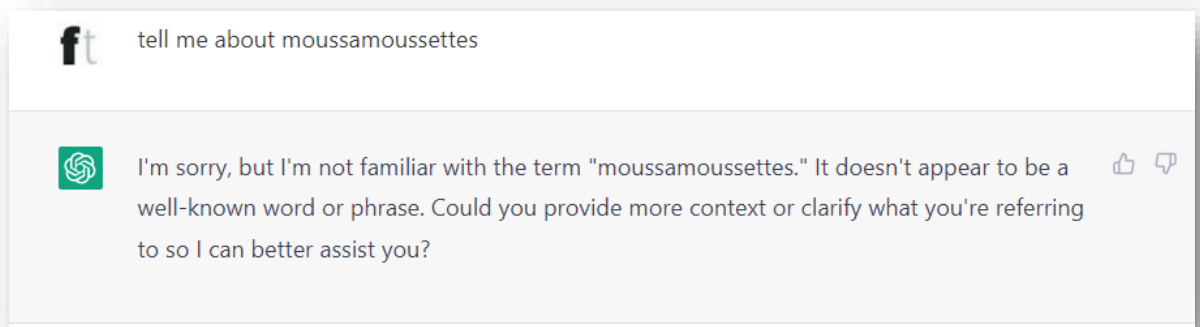
As you can see, the artificial intelligence component of these systems is very good at putting responses together in a meaningful way, allowing you to create essay-style responses which will be very useful in education and businesses.

Let's return to wine writing and consider how ChatGPT might help people write about wine. The examples that we provided at the beginning of this story were relatively straight forward. ChatGPT is very good at responding to requests about a single "thing" such as a wine or a restaurant or a whisky or a car. It is also quite good, say, if we would like a list of ten places to eat in Paris or some other list.

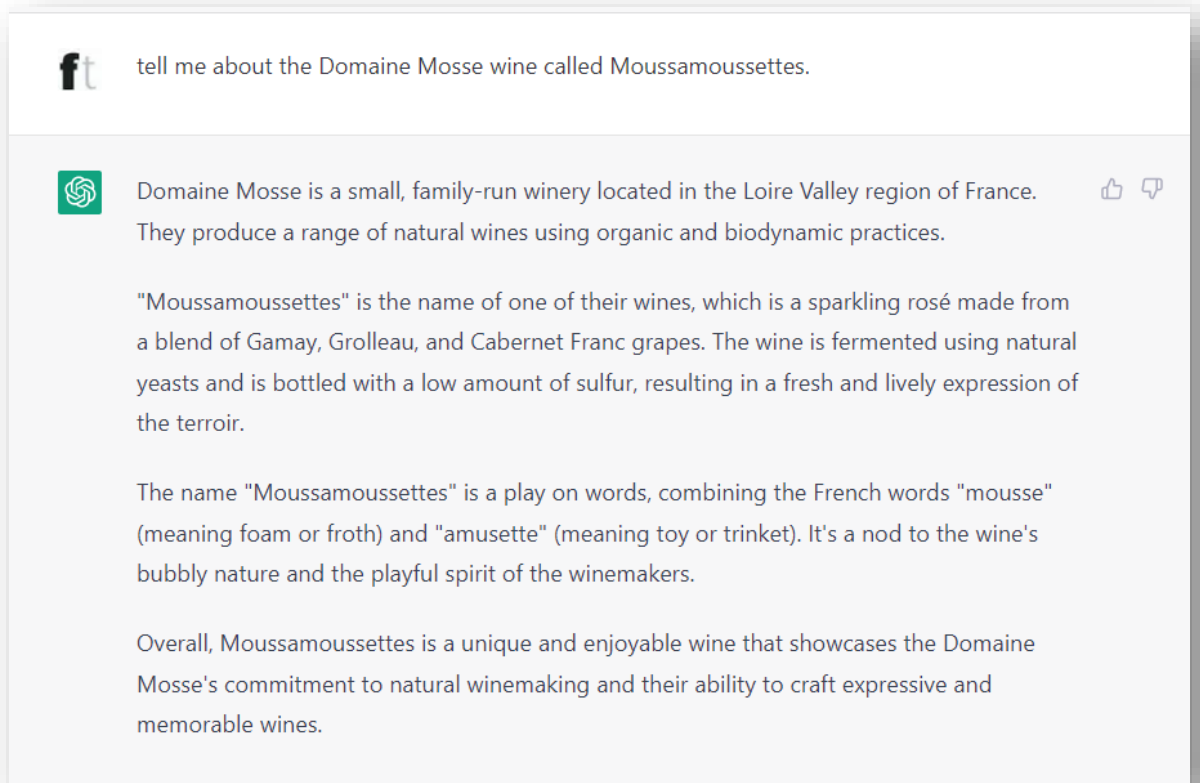
Where it starts to falter is when we ask it for a response that requires a judgemental combination of information or a very narrow, specialised topic.

Let's try the latter.





Notice that it has no idea how to answer the question. However, when we add some context it is able to provide an answer but it doesn't dive into an explanation that many would be expecting, namely the fact that it is a pet-nat!



By the way, in order to use ChatGPT you need to register by creating a username.

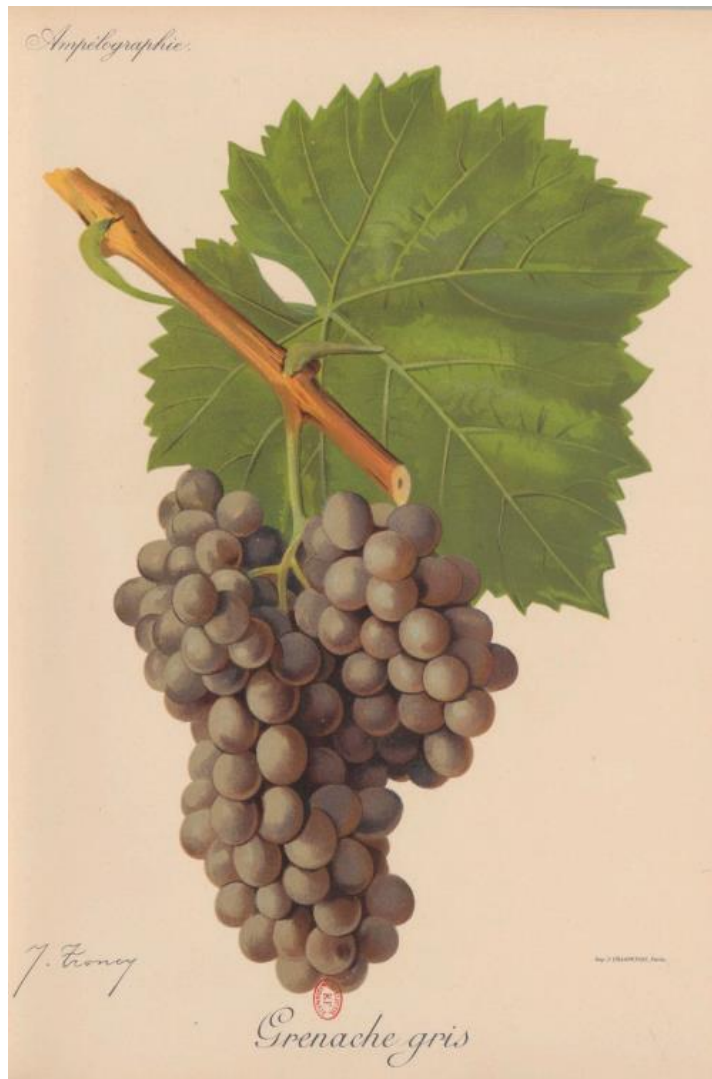
## Grape variety: Grenache Gris

Grenache Gris is widely used in southern France and in Spain but it doesn't generate much interest because it is usually used as a blending grape.

Grenache has been known in these areas for a long time with Cervantes, the author of the famous Don Quixote, mentioning the grape in his story El licenciado Vidriera, which he published in 1613. Here he refers to "the sweetness and gentleness" of Grenache (garnacha in Spanish).

In their famous Ampélographie published in 1905, Viala and Vermorel give prominence to Grenache under a number of variations of the name and place it in Spain and also in the area around Banyuls and Collioure in Roussillon. They also mention Grenache Gris and how it is more susceptible to the rot which is called *pourriture* in French.

After devoting 7 full pages to their description of Grenache Noir, they also give a separate section with a separate heading to Grenache Gris. They even devote one of their beautiful drawings to this variety.



Grenache Gris drawing from Ampélographie

This variety plays an important part in the production of sweet wines in the Banyuls area of Roussillon.

The leaves of this grape variety can be seen in the photo below.



Photo courtesy: [Vitis International Variety Catalogue](#)

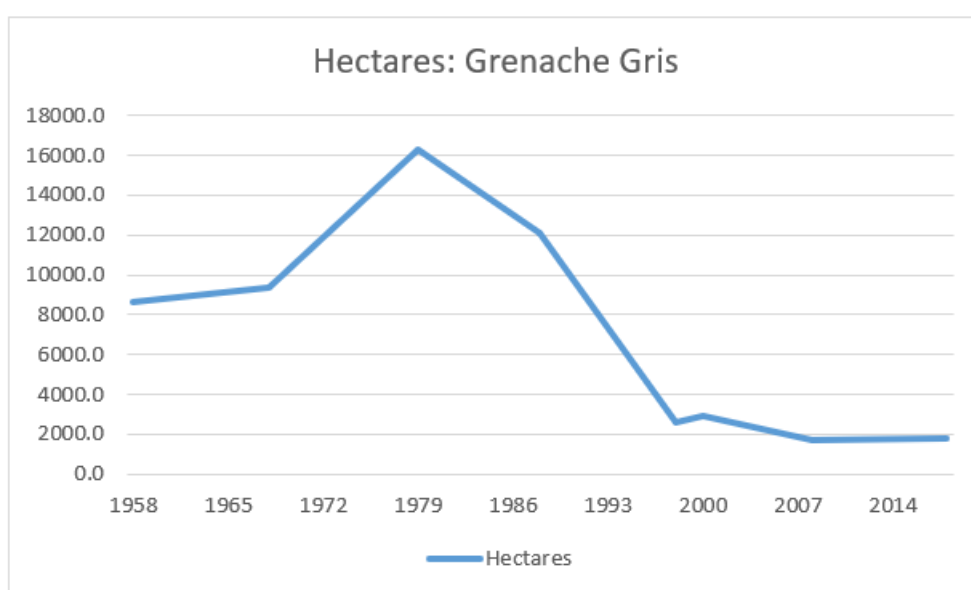
Notice the very distinctive five lobes on the leaf (especially the example on the left above), with the Apiculus lobe (the one in the middle) that is quite distinctive.

The grapes form loose clusters (as can be seen in the photo below). You can see in the photo that the grapes are not as dark-coloured as Grenache Noir and not as white as Grenache Blanc, but rather have a “grey” to light purple colour.



Photo courtesy: Vitis International Variety Catalogue

As can be seen in the graph below, the area planted to Grenache Gris in France rose steadily between the early 1950s and 1979 and then suffered a steady decline thereafter.



We said in the first paragraph of this excursion into the Grenache Gris grape variety that it is found in the Catalan area of France. This covers the Roussillon département near the Spanish border. We therefore had a look at the official document for the wines of the Cotes du Roussillon appellation to find what grape varieties are authorised for the wines bearing the appellation name.

The picture below is taken directly from the official document and shows the approved encépagement (grape varieties) for red, white (vin blancs) and rosé wines.

APPELLATION D'ORIGINE CONTRÔLÉE, COULEUR DES VINS	ENCÉPAGEMENT
Vins rouges	- cépages principaux : carignan N, grenache N, mourvèdre N, syrah N ; - cépages accessoires : cinsaut N, lledoner pelut N,
Vins rosés	- cépages principaux : grenache N, syrah N, grenache gris - cépages accessoires : carignan N, mourvèdre N, cinsaut N, lledoner pelut N, macabeu B
Vins blancs	- cépages principaux : grenache blanc B, macabeu B, tourbat B (dénommé localement malvoisie du Roussillon), - cépages complémentaires : grenache gris G, marsanne B, roussanne B, vermentino B -cépages accessoires : viognier B, carignan B

Notice that Grenache Gris is approved as a Principal grape (cépages principaux) for rosé wines and an Accessory grape (complémentaires) for white wines (vins blancs).

## **WARNING**

Under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1990* it is an offence:

**for liquor to be delivered to a person under the age of 18 years.**

*Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units*

**for a person under the age of 18 years to purchase liquor.**

*Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units*

Because of the above penalties we are required by the Tasmanian Government to collect your date of birth from you when ordering via the Internet. We apologise for this imposition. In the past we have been able to accept a declaration that you are over 18.