wine**central**

MERLOT



BLACK FRUITS, SOFT TANNINS & WARM FLAVOURS

Merlot, one of the world's most planted grapes, boasts cherry, plum, blackberry and other dark fruits alongside vanilla and chocolate notes in a supple body void of big, bold tannins.



KEY FLAVOURS



KEY TO INTENSITY SCALES

Guide to each wine variety's intensity notes.

BODY	SWEET	TANNIN	ACIDITY	ALC	
O LIGHT O MEDIUM O FULL	O DRY MEDIUM S WEET	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	MILD O BALANCED O CRISP	C LOW MEDIUM	LOW ALCOHOL <12% MEDIUM 12-13.5% HIGH 13.5+%

HISTORY

Early tales of Merlot talk of it being a 'secondary grape' as most saw it as only having potential when blended. It also used to be referred to as the 'little blackbird' for reasons we still don't know, but the answer most likely lies in the colour of the grape or it being desired by the nearby blackbirds. The middle of the 1900s were a difficult time for Merlot in France in between rots, freezes and a ban on planting the grape but a resurgance was seen in the 1970s in France with the world following suit in the 1980s.

DESCRIPTION

If Merlot was a person they'd be easy going and approachable. With medium body, medium tannins and medium acidity nothing comes jumping out at you but the overall profile is rounded and mellow. Just the kind of person you want a dinner party!

BUYING GUIDE

What does Merlot add to a blend?

Merlot is often found in blends, for example in a Bordeaux Blend alongside Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, and it'll be thrown in the mix to bring dark fruit flavours, soft tannins and light chocolatey flavours. It's a pretty soft, approachable red grape so will help mellow out a wine.

If you prefer a fruitier Merlot ...

Stick to buying from the New World. The grapes are often harvested later to retain fruity flavours and are often more plush with smooth tannins.

If you prefer a more savoury Merlot ...

Think Old World. Here they often harvest Merlot earlier in the season so they can nab it when the acidity is still a little higher and the overall taste is fresher.



WHERE IN THE WORLD

Bordeaux France, Italy, USA, Spain, Chile, Australia, New Zealand



FOOD PAIRING

Mushroom
Braised short ribs
Pork shoulder