



Lodi Wine Laboratories

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Reducing Sugars Using Clinitest Tablets

The Clinitest tablet is a standardized self-driven method for quantitative determination of sugar by copper reduction. The Clinitest Reagent Tablets contain copper sulfate which reacts with reducing substances in wine converting cupric sulfate to cuprous oxide. This results in a color monitoring fermentation progress but will react with phenolic content in wine from red pigmentation to barrel phenolics. Fermentable sugars, glucose and fructose, determined by enzymatic analysis, will confirm dryness.

The following instructions adapt the Clinitest urine procedure included with kits to determine reducing sugar in wine. Please read the Clinitest information sheet for additional explanation of the chemistry and for hazard information before proceeding with this adapted procedure.

TEST FOR REDUCING SUGAR:

1. Place 0.5ml (ten drops) of wine in test tube.
2. Drop one reagent tablet into test tube. **OBSERVE REACTION** to see if the color development will “pass through” the orange shade of 1% and turn brownish.
3. If color pass through is noted during boiling, shake tube gently and match to the color chart fifteen seconds after boiling has stopped. If no pass through is noted, the sugar content is over one 1% and sample must be diluted.

For samples of 1% to 5% sugar, use 0.1ml (two drops) of wine and 0.4ml (eight drops) of water. Multiply % sugar reading from color chart x five to compensate for dilution.

Use color chart from the Clinitest instructions for Two-Drop Method with following % reducing sugar scale:

