

Zibibbo

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Varietal

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History

Zibibbo or Muscat of Alexandria, a member of the Muscat family, is considered an "ancient vine", and wine experts believe it is one of the oldest genetically unmodified vines still in existence. The grape originated in North Africa, and the name is probably derived from its association with ancient Egypt who used the grape for wine making.

Brought by the Phoenicians to the Sicilian island of Pantelleria, the name Zibibbo comes from the Arab "zabib" meaning raisins. Pantelleria still owns the biggest national production.

The vine thrives in a hot climate and is particularly sensitive to the cold during its flowering season.