



Merlot Grape

Merlot [mehr-LOH] – Though commonly referred to as simply Merlot, this red-wine grape is really Merlot Noir (there's also a Merlot Blanc variety). The Merlot grape is grown in every wine region but is viewed as simply a grape to be blended with Cabernet Sauvignon or Cabernet Franc in some regions. Merlot wines are rounder and more supple than Cabernet Sauvignons and usually can be enjoyed much earlier. Generally Merlot wines do not age as long as Cabernet Sauvignons. A small amount of Cabernet Sauvignon or Cabernet Franc is often blended with Merlot grapes to give the wine a bit more structure. High quality Merlot wines are medium to dark red in color, rich, and fruity, with characteristics of blackcurrant, cherry and mint.