Get to Know Wine with Paola Donzelli

WORKBOOK Lesson 2



PHASES OF MAKING RED WINE



The Grape Harvest

Grapes clusters are cut and harvested by hand.



Crushing of the Grapes

During the crushing of the grapes, stems are removed to prevent excessive tannins.



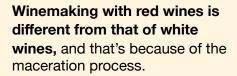
Fermentation & Maceration

The must, along with grapes skins and seeds ferments in a steel tank. The floating mass of skins (the "hat") is kept wet during this phase.



Svinatura and Pressing

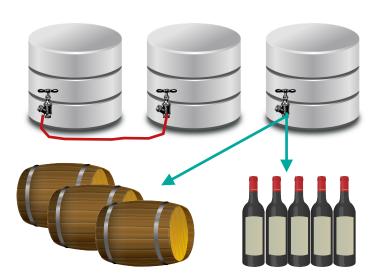
The wine is pressed to remove solids from the must, and the liquid is transferred to a clean stainless steel tank.



What is the maceration process? That's when the phenolic materials of the grape (i.e. tannins, coloring agents and flavor compounds) are leached from the grape skins, seeds and stems into the must (the liquid). These are the elements that create the final color, aroma and tannins in a red wine.

For lighter red wines, the must is kept in contact with the skins (generally) for 4-6 days.

For more complex, tannic red wines, the must is kept in contact with the skins (generally) for 3-4 weeks.



Control & Clarification

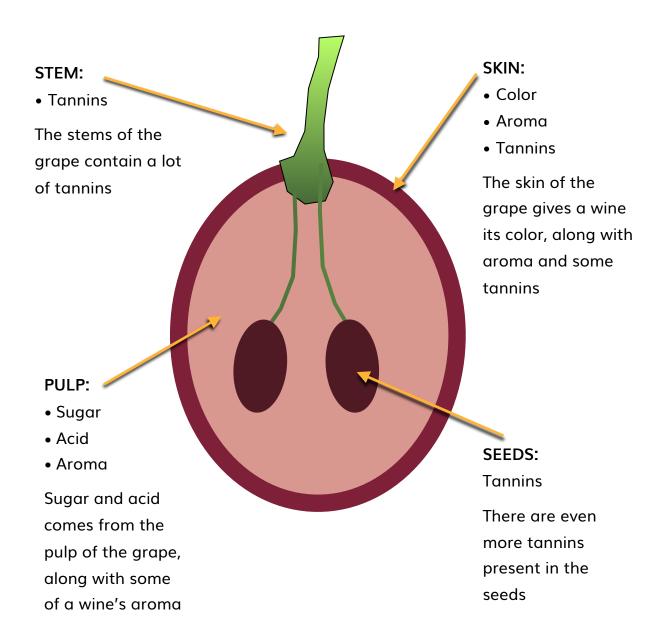
The developing wine is transferred from tank to tank, periodically, to clarify the wine and remove particles and sediment. This is an intense phase for wine-makers.

Aging and/or Bottling

Per the wine maker, wine is bottled directly or is placed in barrels for aging, after which the wine is bottled.

THE AMAZING GRAPE

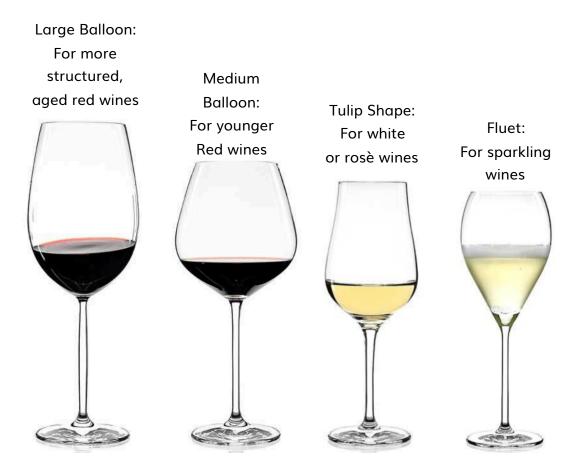
The elements in a wine come from different parts of the grape.



THE WINE GLASS

There are many types and shapes of wine glasses, but in Italy we like to keep things simple. Below you will see four basic types of glasses that might be used by an Italian sommelier during a wine tasting.

The shape of the wine glass determines how well you can smell the bouquet of a wine, and how the wine is "guided" into your mouth. In other words, the shape of the glass helps you to smell and taste the wine better.



VISUAL EXAMINATION OF WINE

From the Associazione Italiana Sommelier



CLARITY

Filmy
Somewhat clear
Clear
Crystal clear
Brilliant

COLOR

Greenish yellow Straw yellow Golden yellow Amber yellow

Soft Pink Cherry pink Light red Onion peel red

Purple red Ruby red Garnet red Deep, orange red

CONSISTENCY

Watery
Very Fluid
Some Consistency
Consistency
Heavy Consistency

EFFERVESCENCE

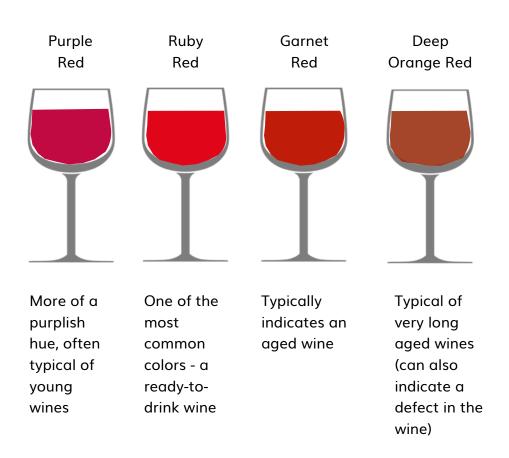
Large bubbles Medium bubbles Fine bubbles

Few bubbles Numerous bubbles Many bubbles

Fading bubbles
Persistent bubbles
Very persistent bubbles

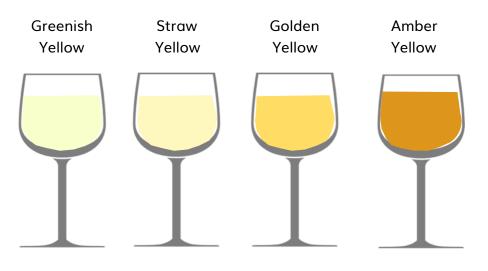
VISUAL ANALYSIS: COLOR





VISUAL ANALYSIS: COLOR



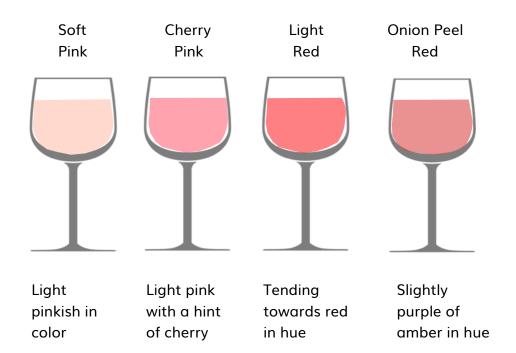


Color influenced by chlorophyll residues in the grapes The most common color, reminiscent of straw

A bright yellow characteristic of late vintages or liqueur wines A deep yellow found in raisin wines (can also be a sign that the wine is too old.)

VISUAL ANALYSIS: COLOR

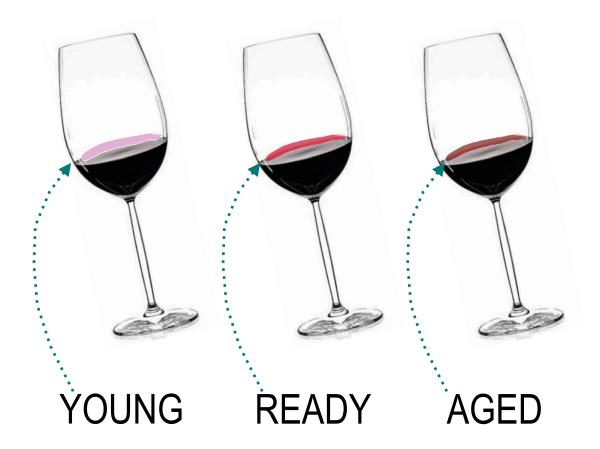




VISUAL ANALYSIS: RIM COLOR

Pour red wine into a glass, then place something white behind the glass - like a white napkin. This will help you to see the rim of the wine - the "edge" where the liquid meets the glass.

- In a young red wine, this rim often has a violet hue.
- In a red wine that is ready to drink, the rim is usually red. (Most red wines fall into this category of rim color.)
- In an aged red wine, the rim usually takes on a deep orange hue.



VISUAL ANALYSIS NOTES