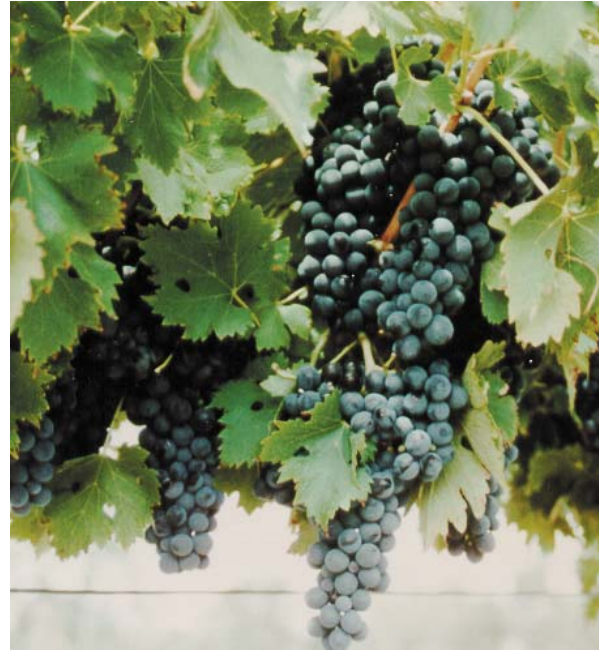


# Cienna

*Cienna is one of three new wine grape varieties developed by CSIRO and granted Plant Breeder's Rights in January 2000.*

The other varieties are Tyrian and Rubienne.

The name Cienna is a variant of the word Sienna, derived from its association with colour where it represents 'reddish hue' and was chosen after extensive consultation with industry representatives and marketers.



## History

The variety Cienna is the product of a cross between the Spanish wine variety Sumoll and the classic French variety Cabernet Sauvignon.

The original pollination was made in 1972 by the late Alan Antcliff. A large team of people have contributed to the development of Tyrian, led by Peter Clingeffer (viticulturist) and George Kerridge (winemaker).

The aim of the program was to produce high quality red wine grapes suited to Australian conditions. Each of the new varieties was selected from a much larger population of seedlings against selection criteria including good (grape juice) sugar to acid ratios, low pH, good colour and flavour and adequate yields.

The research included an extensive evaluation of the varieties in three wine growing regions; Coonawarra (South Australia), Avoca (Central Victoria) and Sunraysia (Northern Victoria). This was followed by a period of commercial evaluation involving progressive wine companies.





## Features

Cienna grapes generally ripen at the same time as Cabernet Sauvignon. At Merbein it produces higher yields than Cabernet Sauvignon and has shown good rain tolerance in all regions.

Cienna produces juice sugar levels that are comparable or higher than Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cienna wine made from grapes grown in the three regions had a titratable acidity similar to or higher than Cabernet Sauvignon, a lower wine pH and a higher colour density.

Sensory evaluation of the wine from each of the three regions was carried out by experienced industry tasting panels over several seasons. Cienna wine from each region scored equal to or slightly better than Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cienna wine can be described as having medium to dark colour, with herbaceous berry aromas and cherry flavours and good tannin structure.

CSIRO's wine grape breeding program can be contacted by ringing Peter Clingeffer or Rob Walker on (03) 5051 3100 or by emailing [peter.clingeffer@csiro.au](mailto:peter.clingeffer@csiro.au) or [rob.walker@csiro.au](mailto:rob.walker@csiro.au).

### For further information contact:

CSIRO Enquiries  
Bag 10 Clayton South VIC 3169

Phone: 1300 363 400 (National local call)  
+61 3 95452176 (International phone)

Fax: +61 3 9545 2175

Email: [enquiries@csiro.au](mailto:enquiries@csiro.au)

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