

21 DAYS TO WINE: DAY 13

LONG OR SHORT FINISH IN WINE TASTING

WINE: The Wolftrap Red Syrah, Mourvèdre Viognier 2017

SCENTS: Cayenne, Coffee

SUPPLIES: A white napkin or piece of white paper (to observe), a clock, watch, or timer

21 DAYS TO WINE

REVIEW

In the last episode we discussed the body of wine:

- How do you define it?
- How wine gets its body?
- The idea of a balanced body in fine wines.

THE FINISH

When you hear a wine described as having a **long finish**, or having a **bright fruity finish** we are talking about the **lasting impression, after you swallow**.

Think of the finish as the follow-through as well as the aftertaste.

CRISP FINISH

Can you still feel the prickly acidity of a young, vibrant wine?

FRUITY OR SPICY FINISH

Is there a lingering flavor of ripe fruit or spices on your palate?

SMOOTH FINISH

Is there a glossy, mild feeling at the back of your throat?

MINERAL FINISH

Do you feel some saltiness, or a rush of salivation? Is it mouthwatering at the end?

WHAT IF THERE IS NO FINISH?

Many wines have little-to-no finish. That's ok! Plenty of wines are made to be enjoyed young. The finish doesn't make the wine, and plenty of delightful wines are easy breezy beautiful.

BALANCE

In fine wines, the finish should be in balance with the aromas and flavors. If a wine has an expansive and complex nose, and a textured, flavorful palate, you would expect the finish to linger.

HOW TO MEASURE THE FINISH

- A medium finish can last up to thirty seconds.
- A long finish, up to one minute.

SYRAH

PRONUNCIATION: **See-Rah**

The Syrah grape, also known as Shiraz, is a popular black (red)-skinned grape the world over. It is not to be confused with Petite Syrah, aka Durif, a hybrid of Syrah and the grape, Peloursin, that is mostly used in Australia, France, California, and Israel and produces very tannic, jammy, plum-scented wines.

The name Shiraz comes from a theory that the grape originated in Persia, in a capital city in what is now modern-day Iran, and where the grape is produced. Viticulturists have since identified the genetic origins of Syrah in France.

HERMITAGE

Syrah was also known as 'Hermitage' in Australia. That name likely originates with a hill town Tain-l'Hermitage in the Northern Rhône, where an hermitage (chapel) was constructed to commemorate the cloister of De Stérimberg, who, according to legend, brought the grape to France from Persia. Hermitage is also an AOC, a protected appellation in the Rhône Valley where some of the most prized Syrah-based wines are produced.

Syrah has distinguishing characteristics of:

- Dark, inky color
- Notes of dark berries, mint, eucalyptus, caraway, and pepper
- A peppery finish

RHÔNE

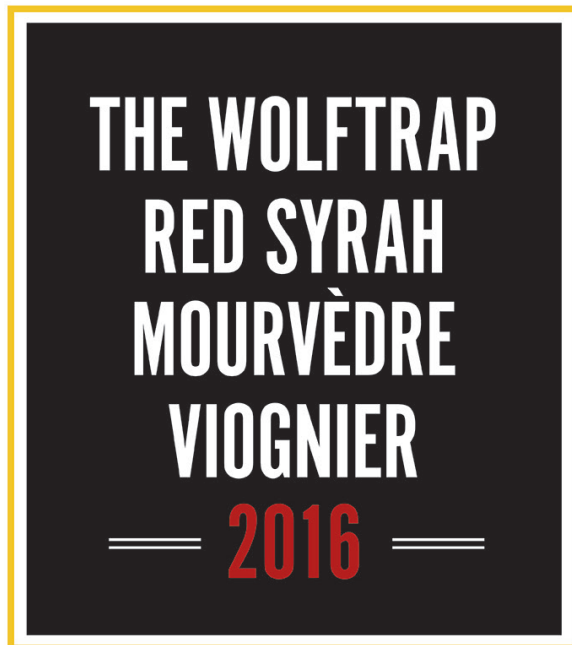
Syrah is one of the main grapes of the northern Rhône. Look for it in AOC: Cornas, Hermitage, and Côte-Rôtie. In the southern Rhône it is an integral blending grape for Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas and Côtes du Rhône, along with Grenache and Mourvedre, in red and rosé wine.

SYRAH AND SHIRAZ AROUND THE WORLD

Look for SHIRAZ in Australia, most notably in the Barossa Valley, where old vines produce dense, tannic, and robust wines.

In Italy, Supertuscan blends have experimented with Syrah in highly prized wines. Lazio and Sicily also produce Syrah, alone and in blends, which results in a fruitier, spicy, mineral wine.

California produces Syrah/Shiraz in a variety of styles, including in Rhône-style blends.



WINE NOTES

WINERY

The Wolftrap Winery was established in 1776, far corner of the Franschhoek Valley in the Western Cape, South Africa.

The name is a reference to a legend of roaming wolves on the property. In the early 1990s the farm bought and restored a vineyard, with a vigorous focus on French grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Grenache, Semillon, and Viognier in addition to Syrah.

WINEMAKING

The Wolftrap Red is a Rhône-style blend of Syrah and Mourvedre, with a tiny percentage of Viognier, which contributes aroma and silkiness.

TASTING NOTES

LOOK: Deep, opaque red color

SMELL: Intense and complex with floral notes of violet, dark berries, licorice and sweet tobacco

TASTE: Silky yet piquant and spicy on the palate with a long, fruity, spicy, slightly green, vegetal finish

DISCUSS

This is a great example of a balanced wine. The aromas are ample as is the palate. It is vibrant, yet long-lasting! Try it with roasted meat, aged salty cheeses, or even a cheeseburger.

Cheers!
ANNIE

my notes

