

Routing rosé freshness



Rosé wines and freshness

Over the past few years, rosé is the only wine colour to have achieved growth in terms of purchasing frequency, volume and value. In 2018, rosé wines already represented 28% of still wine volume, but 33% in terms of value (as a comparison, at the time, white wines made up 21% in volume and 19% in value). These trends warrant special attention being paid to production processes.

Often considered as being one of the most technical of vinification processes, developing rosé wines is subject to very specific requirements, all revolving around the notion of freshness – part and parcel of their threefold essence:

- Visual : aiming to achieve precise colour, despite the vulnerability factor associated with this,
- Olfactory : developing and preserving aromatic freshness in the form of various sensory expressions,
- Taste : highlighting freshness and tension, roundness and limiting bitterness.

These trends warrant special attention being paid to production processes. Affected by the great diversity in wine varieties, the situation is made even more complex by considerations.

The visual aproach in the rosé wine vinification process : a balancing act and priority

Major market share favours rosé wines that have a pale but marked colour, with a trend towards a hue that is increasingly less orangey or yellow. In practice, this dual result is not easy to achieve and comes up against variable raw material (wine variety, maturity, yield) and processing parameters.

Certain stages require particular attention, and this is true across the spectrum of routes:

- High temperatures foster diffusion of the skin's coloured substances: there is a consequent need to harvest grapes that are healthy and cool (<15°C). Moreover, low temperature makes it possible to generally slow down oxidases, which have a catastrophic effect on the vividness of colour. Where this aspect is concerned, the ability to control cool temperatures is vital.
- Be careful to mechanical actions: occurring during the various stages of harvesting, transport, transfer to presses, destemming and crushing, pressing cycle..., these actions affect the integrity of the grapes and foster contact between skins and juice. They play an essential role in extracting colouring material. When harvesting, double-bottom dumpsters are recommended. Pressing must be gentle and selective: use enzymes in the press, adapting the pressing programme (low pressure) to avoid extraction of colour and tannins. The press needs to be inerted when being filled.

- Adding inactivated yeasts rich in glutathione, in the prefermentation phase (grape, juice), provides extra antioxidant protection and significantly reduces yellowing. It is highly recommended for grape varieties such as grenache or cinsault, known for their low levels in glutathione and high levels of phenol acids, or for juice cold stabulation with grape lees.
- Eliminating colour in excess and/or responsible for producing advanced yellowing: selective and innovative fining agents are now available and can be used early on in the process, as is often recommended, or in a more curative way with wines. Some of them, derivatives of chitin, also represent alternatives to products of animal origin, and allergenic or synthetic products.
- Fermentation : remember that loss of colouring intensity is on average around 50% during AF, with significant variations from one tank to the next, depending on yeast, alcohol level, acidity and tannins.
- Stabilisation : certain end-of-process practices are harmful to the colour of rosé wines. This crucial stage could be carried out using gentler tools. In particular, the presence of SO₂ causes discolouration of anthocyanins and undervaluation of redness, which is partially reversible.

2 Maintaining aromatic freshness, across the spectrum

Pre-fermentation, antioxidant operations, as described above, are equally important for maintaining aromatic freshness.

Generally, where grapes are concerned, or during sediment cellaring expressing thiol profiles, microbiological bioprotection and/or sulphiting operations are required to limit risks of triggering fermentation too soon, as well as preventing undesirable microbial developments.

Subsequently, various fermentation routes make it possible to adapt to the harvest's aromatic potential but also achieve the sought-after sensory aim for rosé wines. Controlling aromatic orientation is now possible, not only through choice of yeast, but also via the type of nutrient and the moment it is added, which significantly affect the yeast's aromatic metabolism.

If ageing is desired, the quality of lees must be checked.

3

Freshness on the plate: between acid balance and roundness

Clearly, perception of acidity has a leading role when freshness is being defined and rebalancing should be considered. The aim is also, where rosé wines are concerned, to reduce certain aggressive sensations, without making the wine heavy. There are two approaches:

• using subtractive techniques, such as fining, which eliminate polyphenols that are overreactive at a sensory level;

• using additive techniques, which limit taste reactivity of these substances by mechanisms of interaction with molecules that «enclose» or stabilise them, such as polysaccharides for example. Formulations based on yeast manno-proteins are particularly suitable in such cases.





Dedicated technical routes for each product-aim, in line with my constraint and requirements

The following pages propose various routing possibilities related to the main freshness profiles favoured for rosé wines. These routing processes do not claim to cover all situations, nor need to be followed in their entirety, but they do present technical options from which winemakers can build their own processes and achieve competitive edge, in line with their constraints, requirements and aims.

Routing Rosé Freshness

The perceived quality of a rosé wine is largely based on the freshness that characterizes it on three levels: visual, aromatic and gustatory. However, various aspects of this freshness are available to the winemaker through technical choices that guarantee quality and differentiation of the rosé wines.



Freshness



Steps common to the different styles of rosés wines
Steps specific to the style of rosé wine evoked by this colour





Low SO2 Solutions Low SO2

Routing Low SO₂ Solutions

Knowing that freshness is the key word for rosé wines, it is all the more perilous to consider not using sulphites, thus running the risk of making the wine more vulnerable to both oxidation and microbial deterioration. Nevertheless, there are technical tools which, combined with increased care and monitoring, help to reduce the sulphite content of rosé wines.





Steps common to the difeerent styles of rosé wines
Steps specific to the style of rosé wine evoked by this colour





Routing Rosés as bases for sparkling wines

The production of a sparkling wine, whether rosé or not, must be motivated by the desire to create a product. It is then necessary to define the profile and make the necessary choices, as soon as the harvest is done: grape variety, level of ripeness, and to remain clear-sighted with regard to the sanitary state. Certain oenological choices are then specific to these wines intended for the secondary fermentation.





Steps common to the difeerent styles of rosé wines
Steps specific to the style of rosé wine evoked by this colour





BIO Itinéraire BIO EU et NOP

Organic and/or NOP vinification imposes additional constraints on the rosé winemaker. Some alternatives compatible with these regulations are available.



* Cannot be used in NOP « made with... »



Steps common to the difeerent styles of rosé wines Steps specific to the style of rosé wine evoked by this colour





Some key solutions for rosé wines



FULLPROTECT[™] ET GLUTAROM EXTRA ™

Protecting aromas and colour of musts and rosé wines

FULLPROTECT[™] is based on the synergy between the global reducing power of the inactivated yeast, its capacity to stabilise aromatic substances and pigments via links with polysaccharides and the antioxidant action of a tannin. GLUTAROM EXTRA [™] features a guaranteed, high level of reduced glutathione, a powerful nucleophile which limits secondary oxidations of colour and aromas. In rosé vinification, these two solutions are essential for preserving freshness.



ESSENTIAL ANTIOXIDANT ™

An extremely pure gallic tannin with a high antioxidant capacity

Selected in partnership with INRAE, Supagro Montpellier and the University of Montpellier, ESSENTIAL ANTIOXIDANT [™] contains polyphenols that are very easily oxidized: it «sacrifices» itself to preserve the aromas and their precursors, while also allowing better inhibition of laccase activity. Does not add bitterness at recommended doses.



IOC CALYPSO ™

Révéler et protéger les arômes au cours d'une stabulation sur bourbes

IOC CalypsoTM is a *Metschnikowia pulcherrima* yeast, selected for its specific enzymatic activity. Used during cold stabulation on lees IOC CALYPSOTM is an innovative bio-protection tool specifically developed to limit the use of SO₂. It has a specific enzymatic activity that reveals the aromatic precursors during stabulation in juices. It preserves the released aromas and the color of the wines from oxidation or from an early start to fermentation, to which the juices are particularly sensitive during cold stabulation.

Qi FINE ™ ET Qi UP XC ™

Chitosan-based innovations for clarifications which protect musts and wines

These static (Qi FINE [™]) or floatation (Qi UP XC [™]) fining aids both beneit from chitosan's antiradical (and consequently antioxidant) action, as well as its substancial capacities for interacting with oxidisable and oxidised polyphenols on account of its high load density. They therefore contribute towards preserving aromatic and visual freshnesss, but also foster a less aggressive tannic structure.

ACTIPROTECT ROSÉ ™

Protecting yeasts in order to bring out the aromas of rosé wines

As a latest-generation protective agent ACTIPROTECT ROSÉ ™ comes from a yeast strain selected for its exceptional capacity for producing sterols, autolysed in line with a dedicated process to concentrate these sterols and assembled with an inactivated yeast that is particularly rich in minerals and vitamins. This unique composition gives it a peerless capacity to strengthen the membrane of active yeasts during the rehydration process. The plasma membrane thus optimises membrane exchanges of must towards the cell, in particular of aromatic precursors. The yeast can then bring out the whole aromatic potential of the rosé must, without in any way jeopardising fermentation, including in stressful conditions (highly clarified must and low temperature).



IOC BE FRUIT ™ ET IOC BE THIOLS ™

The IOC BE TM yeasts, which are unable to produce $SO_{2'}$ are derived from an innovative marker-assisted cross-breeding technology. They benefit from the oenological and sensory heritage of high-quality yeasts, deeply characterized in terms of their aromatic contribution and conditions of use. The IOC BE TM yeasts thus combine these powerful organoleptic enhancement capacities with the inability to produce SO_2 . They also produce very little ethanal and very rarely H₂S.

