

# Syrah, sirah: What's in a wine name?

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**Question:** Are syrah and Petite Sirah the same wines?

**Answer:** Interestingly, there isn't anything petite about petite sirah. It has a dense inky quality and intense black fruit flavors. It sometimes can be heavy with mouth-drying tannins and not in balance with fruit flavors. When done right, petite sirah can be lush, powerful and complex.

It is often used as a blending grape, and not commonly a grape varietal used alone; however, with the industry trend toward making bolder red wines, you may see more petite sirah in the future.

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As seen in . . .

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