

# Similar sounding but different: Syrah, Petite Sirah

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**John Solomon**

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This week I would like to talk about Syrah, Shiraz and Petite Sirah. These grape varieties are often very confusing to wine buyers. Hopefully this week's article will help you understand the differences between Syrah/Shiraz and Petite Sirah, two similar but very different wines.

Let's start with Syrah, also known as Shiraz. This grape produces rich, complex wines that can range from soft to full-bodied depending on the climate and soil they are grown in. The flavor profiles of this wine include black cherry, pepper, and very soft tannins. Syrah also blends very well with Cabernet.

**Petite Sirah does not refer to small syrah grapes - far from it. This grape produces some monster wines. Wines made from petite sirah are huge, full-bodied wines that have lots of body and backbone. The flavor profile of these wines include rich, peppery and full of dark berry characteristics. The tannins are big and chewy. These wines are not as complex as Cabernet but will hold up to a big juicy steak just as well.**

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