

Wine Q&A

by Paul Gregutt

Q: What's the difference (if any) between Syrah and Petite Sirah?

A: Big difference. Syrah (also called shiraz) is a peppery red wine grape that provides the core of most great wines from the Rhone Valley of France. It's widely grown in Australia and has also made a name for itself in California and Washington.

Petite sirah (sometimes confusingly spelled petite syrah) is another name for durif, which is a French cross between syrah and peloursin. Petite sirah is quite popular in California, where it produces dark, tannic, somewhat rustic red wines. Among the top producers are...Ursa...Parducci and Concannon.

** Paul Gregutt answers questions weekly. He can be reached at e-mail at wine@seattletimes.com.*

