

# *Emerging Varietals* OF CALIFORNIA

**A**lthough best known for Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Zinfandel, California grows more than 110 varieties of winegrapes. Below is a summary of varietals that are enjoying new found popularity. To search for California wines by varietal and blend, visit [www.discovercaliforniawine.com](http://www.discovercaliforniawine.com).

## *White Varietal Wines*

**GEWÜRZTRAMINER** (GEH-VERTZ-TRA-MEE-NER)—Grown generally in cooler climates, Gewürztraminer produces highly perfumed wines with spicy aromas and full flavors which are often compared to lychee nuts, vanilla and ginger. Wine styles ranges from dry to sweet.

**PINOT GRIS/GRIGIO** (PEE-NOH GREE/GREE-GEE-OH)—Depending on the producer and where it's grown, this grape can be something of a chameleon. Often the wines are crisp, sleek and refreshing with delicate lemon flavors, but in some cases, they can be unctuous, spicy and full-bodied.

**RIESLING** (REECE-LING)—Sometimes called White Riesling, this varietal can tolerate colder winegrowing climates. Rieslings are known for their delicate floral and fruit flavors, and depending on the vinification, can be made in a range of styles from bone dry to very sweet.

**VIIGNIER** (VEE-YOHN-YAY)—Traditionally used in blends, Viognier is becoming more popular as a single varietal wine. Usually made in a dry style, this low-acid varietal can be powerful, rich and unctuous with complex fruit and floral aromas and flavors.

## *Red Varietal Wines*

**PETITE SIRAH** (PEH-TEET SEE-RAH)—With sturdy, long-lived vines, Petite Sirah (sometimes seen as Petite Syrah on wine labels) is prized as a blending grape for its dark, inky color and intense tannin. On its own, it's a dark purple, full-bodied and full-flavored wine that can age for ten years with proper cellaring.

**PINOT NOIR** (PEE-NO NWAHR)—Known as a somewhat finicky wine grape, Pinot Noir is planted mostly in the cooler, coastal climates of California. Prized for its smooth, velvety texture and range of aromas and flavors, Pinot Noir produces medium-bodied wines redolent of cherries, berries and spice.

**SYRAH** (SEE-RAH)—Introduced to California in the early 1970's, Syrah is a full-bodied wine known for its deep color and juicy texture. Grown in both cool and warm climates, the wines can be vibrant, elegant and structured or rich, bold and spicy.

**TEMPRANILLO** (TEM-PRAH-NEE-YOH)—One of the primary winegrapes in Spain, Tempranillo produces wines that are hearty, acidic and full bodied. Often described as having characteristics of bright cherries or strawberries, the grape grows well in warm climates.

