

IF YOUR CUSTOMER ASKS FOR. . .

Chianti or a Chianti Classico: This is not a grape - it is a region in Tuscany, Italy and the main grape is Sangiovese, a red grape. This grape is often mixed with other grapes such as Canaiolo, Trebbiano, and Malvasia. Today, even Cabernet Sauvignon is permitted in the mix, because of the “Super Tuscan” winemakers, who broke from the traditional blends as did the USA and other New World producers.

Barbaresco or Barolo: This is not a grape but a region in the Piedmont area of Italy. These are red wines made from Nebbiolo grapes and a red wine. These wines start life with a lot of tannin and are aged gracefully for years. They are usually earthy and may have aromas of figs and nuts.

Pinot Gris: A French white wine grape also known as Pinot Grigio in Italy. This wine varietal ranges in style from light and crisp to rich and spicy.

Shiraz or Syrah: They are the same grape variety, producing a red wine. Shiraz is the name of the grape used in Australia and South Africa and Syrah is the name used in France, USA, and most other places.

Petite Sirah: Don't get confused. Petite Sirah is a grape variety not the same as Shiraz/Syrah. A Petite Sirah is a grape variety in California and frequently is blended with Zinfandel and other grapes.

French Bordeaux: This is a red wine blend not a grape variety, from the Bordeaux region of France. It is generally made from Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc or other grapes. It is usually a very soft and supple wine that is easy to drink.

White Bordeaux: It can be made from Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon, or Muscadelle grapes.

Fumé Blanc: A white wine made from Sauvignon Blanc. In California it might be aged in oak, a practice started by Robert Mondavi in the 1960's.

Sancerre: This is a wine-growing region in the Loire Valley of France. This white wine is made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes, crisp and dry. Red wines from Sancerre are made from Pinot Noir grapes.

Burgundy: This is a region in France and the main grape is Pinot Noir. White Burgundy would be made from the Chardonnay grape.

Pouilly-Fumé: A region in France's Loire Valley that produces a Sauvignon Blanc grape that when made into wine has a smoky, crisp taste. Also the name of the wine varietal.

Pouilly-Fuissé: A town within the Mâconnais region of Burgundy producing a Chardonnay grape.