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# CABARET NOIR

**General:** Originally referred to as Cabernet Noir, the name was not universally well received, so this is the amended name.

A Valentin Blattner crossing from Cabernet Sauvignon and a resistant partner, this is one of the earliest ripening varieties coming out of this crossing. Whilst it is a fairly early crossing, it has only in recent years been put to much use, and it shows good promise as a very early ripening red variety.

## Resistance:

Downy mildew	++
Powdery mildew	++
Botrytis	+++

**Cluster:** Only moderate in size and carrying a noticeable 'shoulder', the clusters are almost short and cone shaped.

The berry skin is thick and well protected by its natural wax coating, and goes through veraison early.

Typical cluster placement in the canopy often shows a narrow zone of growth.

**Cultivation:** Growth is medium to strong, and noticeably upright, resulting in minimal canopy attentions. Yields are only moderate and as the clusters are placed at a similar height along the canopy, there is an ease in management.

Internode length often are shorter than other varieties.

**Wine:** Often dark and more akin to V. vinifera varieties than some other Piwi, these wines give confidence to cool climate wine makers. Integrates well with oak, and has a pleasant tannin structure. Works well as a single variety wine, where it can show agreeable edges of spiced notes, pepper or cloves.

## Propagation and Distribution:

Volker Freytag



# CABERNET JURA

**General:** As the name suggests this is both a Cabernet Sauvignon x resistant partner; and originally from Canton Jura, Switzerland, the home of Valentin Blattner. This is one of his earlier crossings. As a registered variety from more than 20 years ago, Cabernet Jura has been trialled and grown commercially across much of Europe. As such it is considered by many as an important variety.

## Resistance:

Downy mildew	+++
Powdery mildew	+
Botrytis	+++

**Cluster:** These tend to be cylindrical in shape, frequently being of good fruit set, and can be heavy when compared to other cool climate V. vinifera reds. Individual berries are usually only medium in size, but can be quite elastic in their skin development, and have a protective waxy pellicle. Early ripening and resists botrytis well. High sugars are possible.

**Cultivation:** Upright and robust in structure, the canopy can carry a heavy crop. Whilst the need for much canopy management is only a little, people have observed interesting traits of character. It is both spur pruned, and cane pruned, and can give a good fruit set off almost any spur. Anecdotally people say that it sets a good crop the second time around, if frosted in springtime.

In Switzerland this might be up to 80 % of the original crop. Like some German selections of Pinot Noir it produces capable sparkling wine from heavy crop loads.

**Wine:** Versatile in style and agreeable in nature, many people have produced a range of wines from Cabernet Jura. At approaching 20 tonnes per hectare, it can make pleasant sparkling Rosé wine in the Pfalz, à la methode traditionnelle, whilst in Bordeaux it was an early selected variety for red still wine Piwi trials.

Two outstanding characteristics are its early ripening (with moderate crop loading,) and an unusual ability to produce an aromatic red wine, occasionally quite intensely. Possibly being slightly reminiscent of nutmeg, it can in other wines offer strong rose petal characteristics.

## Propagation and Distribution:

Volker Freytag



# PINOTIN

**General:** A fairly early crossing from Valentin Blattner in Switzerland, Pinotin is thought to be a crossing of a resistant partner and a Pinot Noir clone of a German selection.

The name arises from a humorous take on Pinot and the abbreviated name from Valentin, 'Tino', thus Pinot Tino, or Pinotin.

A popular variety that has shown good promise over many years, it is now grown in many cooler regions for viticulture, including some positive trials in the UK.

## Resistance:

Downy mildew	++
Powdery mildew	++
Botrytis	+++

**Cluster:** Rarely carrying shoulders, the cluster is a long, loose shape with medium size berries. These are dark in colour after an early veraison, and their well-ventilated structure inhibits botrytis. It gives an early to middle season harvest time. Crops can be heavy if grown on rich soils.

**Cultivation:** Moderate growth and inclined to be upright in its shoot development, Pinotin gives an ease in canopy management. It carries a moderate to good degree of resistance to most fungal infections, and especially in cooler regions.

**Wine:** These are characterised by a dark coloured rather 'fruit forward' wine, of a soft tannin nature. The aromatic qualities allow it to be a good blending component, whilst increasingly wine makers are finding some success with barrel aging.

## Propagation and Distribution:

Volker Freytag



# SAUVIGNAC

**General:** Arising from a more recent crossing programme, there are more complex parent influences showing in this variety. Bred with a 'next generation' resistant partner including a high percentage of Sauvignon x Riesling background, Sauvignac is rapidly being accepted by winemakers for its very high *V. vinifera* type characteristics in the wine.

Sauvignac is one of many 'Cal' series of vines recently developed by Valentin Blattner, where it is unusual for being a white. The variety was recently known as 'Cal 6-04'.

A stella variety for many winegrowers and wine lovers.

## Resistance:

Downy mildew	+++
Powdery mildew	++
Botrytis	+++

**Cluster:** Medium sized clusters in general, though the individual berry is larger than some other varieties. When well ripened it shows a noticeable rose colour on berries when exposed to the sun. Mid to late in ripening in cooler climates, but very resistant to botrytis.

**Cultivation:** To date it is showing a good versatility for its use in differing soil types. Yields are consistent across the canopy and growth is very regular. The shoots show good lignification later in the season, and hold good over-wintering potential. Yields are naturally moderate, but commercially sized when grown in the Pfalz, Germany. Fungal resistance is better than average overall, as compared to many Piwi, and the variety carries many advantages over earlier crossings. Some occasions of shrivelled but undamaged botrytis effected clusters have been found, where the infection starts at an already very high sugar level.

**Wine:** As a fairly recently developed variety, many people are making a range of wine styles in their attempts to learn where this varieties attributes lie. In general it performs well, and indeed even 10 year old wines have aged very favourably. (The oldest wines ever made from early experimental days.)

Wines overall show a graceful structure, whilst also carrying good blending characteristics. There being no noticeable non *V. vinifera* characteristics in this crossing.

## Propagation and Distribution:

Volker Freytag



# CABERNET BLANC

**General:** Cabernet Blanc comes from a crossing between Cabernet Sauvignon and a breeding partner of a complex resistant based parentage. It was bred in 1991 by the Swiss breeder Valentin Blattner. Since 2014 the variety has been registered with the wine grape variety cultivar list in Europe.

It is considered by many to hold some of the best potential for a new resistant variety, and is now grown extensively throughout Europe.

## Resistance:

Downy mildew	++
Powdery mildew	++
Botrytis	+++

**Cluster:** This is characterised by an unusual large and loose cluster, with occasional variations in berry size.

The free hanging individual berries offer excellent ventilation, and this markedly inhibits botrytis development.

**Cultivation:** Commonly noted for a vigorous and upright growth in the canopy, the leaves are also large in size.

A ripeness period is to be expected mid to late in the season, depending on variable pruning and crop loading regimes. To assist in ensuring a better fruit set it is recommended to plant Cabernet Blanc at 1.25m spacing. In the Pfalz, Germany, cropping at up to 12 tonnes per hectare is not uncommon.

**Wine:** As a variety that holds much attraction to winemakers, there are many styles of wine that have been successfully made from Cabernet Blanc. This variety clearly shows its Sauvignon heritage in still table wines, where in the right hands it can hold an almost NZ style of vibrancy in flavour. It also adapts well to both sparkling wine making as well as oak handling.

Aging potential has shown itself to be good.

## Propagation and Distribution:

Volker Freytag



# VB 32-7

**General:** A variety noted for its rapid and earlier ripening, it holds a strong genetic influence from its continentally evolved *V. amurensis* parenting.

It carries many similar characteristics to its sibling variety 'Petite Milo', a commercial success as selected for use in Western Canada's 'Gulf Islands', where it, Petite Milo, also shows an unusually early ripening. (Often being picked at 25 brix, but before the end of September.) VB 32-7 is another Valentin Blattner crossing from Switzerland which is occasionally called, 'Ravel Blanc' or 'Sauvignon Soyhieres'.

## Resistance:

Downy mildew	+++
Powdery mildew	++
Botrytis	+++

**Cluster:** Most noticeably inclined to three or four clusters to a shoot, yet they are quite small in size, in part from having small berries, where yields overall are less than many new crossings. However, the higher than usual level of ripeness gives this variety many benefits in blending potential.

This variety carries a good overall robust resistance to fungal infections, and it therefore carries the chance for a longer 'hang time' for the bunches.

**Cultivation:** Inclined to strong growth whilst given to perhaps an undisciplined or pendulous form of loose shoot direction.

The leaf accumulation can be dense in growth, but leaf plucking will allow the grapes to develop a more honeyed character by being exposed to the sun.

**Wine:** As could be expected from a variety that includes Cabernet Sauvignon in its background, there are hints of a Sauvignon type of family resemblance, but with riper notes. When picked a little earlier this variety has also given good service for makers of sparkling wine in cool climates.

## Propagation and Distribution:

Volker Freytag



# RINÓT

**General:** A modern crossing coming from the Moravian district in the Czech Republic, Rinot has been developed by Doz. Ing. Milos Michlovsky and colleagues.

The crossing carries characteristics from Merzling × (Seyve Villard × Pinot Gris), where the resistant genetic is the similar, and well regarded genetic that was put to use in the creation of Solaris. It imparts an early ripening and shows itself well with fruit forward and pleasant ,drink young' fruity wines.

## Resistance:

Downy mildew	++
Powdery mildew	++
Botrytis	+++

**Cluster:** This shows a loose and long form of growing, allowing a high degree of ventilation in the cluster.

The berry size is medium in general, and has a thicker skin than many other varieties.

**Cultivation:** First grown in the Pfalz at the Freytag ,sortengarten', it has only been seen there to produce fruit from 2016. These few years shows a robust resistance to fungal infections, in both green growing tissue and later ripening grapes. There is a feeling that this lends itself well to a later harvest time, whilst allowing the acids to soften.

**Wine:** Wines so far carry some aroma notes of apples and pears, with a citrus contribution. The wine has been a pleasant ,mid-bodied' style, with a balanced but supporting acid structure.

Whilst holding some characteristics as found from well-developed fruit, it is thought that this might carry through in UK grown vines, where a little extra ,hang time' is thought possible on account of the clusters notable loose structure.

## Propagation and Distribution:

Volker Freytag

