


producers, for example: Cru du Paradis (30%), Château Viella (20%) and Producteurs Plaimont's Saint-Mont Les Vignes Retrouvées (20%). There were 93 ha (230 acres) in France in 2006.

## ARVESINIADU

*Rare Sardinian white that disappears into blends.*

BERRY COLOUR: 

**PRINCIPAL SYNONYMS:** Argu Ingianau, Arvesimiadu Bianco, Arvu Siniadu, Uva Oschirese

### ORIGINS AND PARENTAGE


Obscure and almost extinct variety from the Italian island of Sardegna. The earliest and only historical reference to this vigorous and late-ripening variety is found in Manca dell'Arca (1780).

### WHERE IT'S GROWN AND WHAT ITS WINE TASTES LIKE

There are very limited plantings in the provinces of Sassari and Campidano in Sardegna, Italy, and the 2000 census recorded just 155 ha (380 acres). Arvesiniadu is generally blended with other Sardinian varieties to produce local whites but, within the IGT Isola dei Nuraghi, Mulas produce both dry and sweet varietal wines.

## ARVINE

*The finest indigenous Valais variety making lively, sometimes intense, whites both dry and sweet.*

BERRY COLOUR: 

**PRINCIPAL SYNONYMS:** Arvena, Arvina, Petite Arvine

### ORIGINS AND PARENTAGE

Arvine is indigenous to the Valais in Switzerland, where it was first mentioned in Sion in 1602 under the dialect name Arvena, which could derive from the old Latin *arvena*, meaning 'just arrived', a name that was possibly given to this variety at its introduction or birth (Vouillamoz and Moriondo 2011).

Since the late nineteenth century, it has often been called Petite Arvine ('small Arvine') to distinguish it from Grosse Arvine ('big Arvine'), a variety that has been shown to be a progeny of RÈZE and a possible grandchild or nephew/niece of Arvine but is no longer cultivated (Vouillamoz and Moriondo 2011). No other close genetic relationships could be uncovered by DNA parentage analysis but it is possible to speculate about some distant ancestors in the Valle d'Aosta, Savoie and north-eastern France.

Arvine has no genetic link with Arvino Nero, a synonym of GAGLIOPPO in Calabria, or with Alvino Verde, a synonym of VERDECA in Campania, but they might all share a common etymology (Vouillamoz and Moriondo 2011).

### OTHER HYPOTHESES

Like many other varieties from the Valais, Arvine is often said to have been introduced by the Romans, and, according to the philologist Jacques André (1953), the name Arvine could derive from Helvola, a variety mentioned by Cato the Censor. This is highly unlikely because there is no botanical evidence that ancient and modern varieties are identical, and also because the historian André Tchernia (1986) has established that Helvola had black berries.

### VITICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Productive, very early budding, late ripening. Prone to wind damage, susceptible to downy mildew, to botrytis bunch rot towards harvest, also to mites. Prefers well-drained sites not subject to water stress. Compact bunches of small berries.

### WHERE IT'S GROWN AND WHAT ITS WINE TASTES LIKE

Arvine is the finest of the Valais varieties and produces wines that are nervy but also have substance, typically with flavours of grapefruit and a mineral saltiness. There were 154 ha (378 acres) in Switzerland in 2009, almost all in the Valais. Recommended producers of dry varietal wines include John and Mike Favre, Mandolé, Domaine des Muses and La Rayettaz, good sweet versions are made by producers such as G rald Besse and La Liaudisaz (Marie-Th r se Chappaz).

In 2010, the French CTPS (Comit  Technique Permanent de la S lection des Plantes Cultiv es) authorized Arvine in France, some years after Michel Chapoutier abandoned his experimental vineyard in the northern Rh ne, and it was included in the official register of varieties in 2011. Before that Angelo Gaja had tried his hand at Arvine in the Langhe in north-west Italy but had severe problems with coulure and broken shoots. Arvine seems happier at home. Nevertheless, there are just a few hectares in the Valle d'Aosta in the far north west of Italy, where Grosjean Fr res and Les Cr tes are making good examples of varietal wines.

## ASHUGHAJI

*Minor Georgian variety producing fresh, aromatic reds.*

BERRY COLOUR: 

**PRINCIPAL SYNONYMS:** Achougage, Ashugazh

### ORIGINS AND PARENTAGE

Ashughaji is indigenous to Apkhazeti, north-western Georgia.

### VITICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Compact bunches of medium-sized berries producing slightly pink juice. Mid budding, late ripening, low yielding.

### WHERE IT'S GROWN AND WHAT ITS WINE TASTES LIKE

Ashughaji produces deeply coloured, aromatic, dry red wines with high acidity and is grown mainly in Apkhazeti, north-western Georgia.