

Grašac, leading white grape variety of the Fruška gora wine region?

As a winemaker, I had the opportunity to work with the Grašac variety 10 years ago. My interests and belief that this variety can produce top quality wine was reason enough to promote and write about this variety as the leading variety on Fruška Gora wine region. The first wine I produced under my own label was from this variety.

The aim of this thesis is to show through an overview of the influence of natural and human factors whether the Grašac grape variety should be the leading grape variety for the production of top quality white wines in the Fruška gora wine region.

Grašac is a white grape variety, also known as Riesling Italico, Italijanski Rizling, Welschriesling, Graševina. It has been grown in the area of Fruška gora for centuries, but it was primarily used for the production of inexpensive, large volume wines in this area. By introducing a different approach to viticulture and wine making practices in recent years, it was observed that this variety can give high quality wines. Through this research, various human and natural factors will be presented with the aim to show that the Grašac grape variety has the potential to become the leading white grape variety for wine production in the Fruška gora wine region.

This research will focus on an overview of the history of cultivation of this variety on Fruška Gora, its presence in the vineyard during the past and present time as well as the influence of viticulture and winemaking practices on the quality of grapes and wines produced from Grašac. The focus of the research will also be on the analysis of natural factors like terroir, the aromatic profile of wines made from Grašac from different parts of Fruška gora. Based on these indicators, as well as the chemical analysis and tasting of Fruška gora Grašac wines, an attempt will be made to show whether this variety should be the leading variety for white wines in the Fruška gora wine region. Several sources will be used to accomplish this and they include scientific papers, published opinions of wine experts and wine journalists, magazines, websites, official wine chemical analyses, personal visits and personal field work in some vineyards and wineries at the Fruška gora wine region.

STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS

Section 1 – Introduction

- Review of historical data of Fruška Gora as a wine region; The history of growing the Grašac grape variety at Fruška gora, its origin, synonyms, the presence and distribution of Grašac in Fruška Gora vineyards;
- A brief overview of the viticultural practices and style of wine that was popular a few decades ago and its quality and style in contemporary times.

Section 2 – Terroir of the Fruška gora wine region

- Description of the analyzed features of the topography, soil and climate characteristics of Fruška gora from the aspect of grape production

- The most currently grown grape varieties on Fruška gora, quality and style of wines made from those grapes

Section 3 – Morphological and technological characteristics of the Grašac grape variety

- Description of significant characteristics of the Grašac grape variety
- Description of winemaking technology used in production today obtained from personal visits and direct participation in the production of wine from Grašac
- Styles of wine that are currently produced from the Grašac grape variety
- Chemical analysis of wine and description of the aromatic profile of this wine from different years
- Awards won at prestigious wine competitions

Conclusion:

Based on a review of various historical facts, the characteristics of the variety itself, climatic and soil conditions at the Fruška Gora wine region, wine styles and the current market situation, it is evident that a new era has begun for this variety. Certainly more scientific research is needed on this variety in order to see all its possibilities and potential, both in the vineyard and in the production itself. The current market demand, but above all the high quality of wines that are being produced in recent years as well as their authenticity indicates that Grašac could be the leading white grape variety of the Fruška Gora wine region.

SOURCES:

a) scientific papers:

- Tomić, N., Ninkov, J., Milić, S., Marković, S.B., Tomić, T. (2023): The power of Terroir: Case study of Grašac at the Fruška gora wine region. National conference on the influence of climate change on the use of the genetic potential of vines, Novi Sad, November 8th 2023. (in Serbian)
- Jakšić, D. (2019): Analysis of the grape production and processing sector and wine production, Niš, Center for viticulture and oenology. (in Serbian), Available at: <https://cevvin.rs/publikacije/>
- Puškaš, V., Miljić, U., Antić, I., Buljovčić, M., Živančev, J., Đurišić-Mladenović, N. (2022): Terpene profiling of white wine made of regional grape variety-grašac, The 2nd International Conference on Advanced Production and Processing – ICAPP 2022, Novi Sad, October 20th 2022. (in Serbian)
- Edit, H., Cindrić, P. (2011): Vine varieties, planting material and diseases, Budapest, Agroinform Kiado (in Serbian)
- Pintać, D. (2021). Chemical characterization and biological activity of grape juice and wine from the Fruška Gora wine region. Doctoral thesis, Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences (in Serbian)

b) published opinions of wine experts and wine journalists, magazines, site

c) *personal visits and personal work in some vineyards and wineries in Fruška gora and wineries website*