

NERELLO MASCALESE

Native Sicilian variety, original of the Catania area from where it spread to the other Sicilian provinces.



Ampelographic characters: this variety has a high degree of variability. It is made up of many biotypes, some of which have been abandoned because of their poor and uneven cluster ripening. The bud has an expanded, cottony, greenish-white apex. The leaves are large, pentagonal and three-lobed. The petiolar sinus is open or closed lyre-shaped, sometimes with overlapping edges. The underside is woolly. The cluster is large, pyramidal, conical or elongated, with one or more wings. The berry is medium and elliptical. The skin is pruinose, thick and consistent and the flesh has a simple and sweet taste.

Cultural aptitude: vine of high vigour with a semi-upright growth habit. It prefers dry environments and not excessively fertile soils, better if clay-limestone.

Training system and pruning: it prefers small training systems such as sapling, double Royal and Guyot.

Bud-burst period: average-early.

Ripening period: average.

Yield: abundant but not constant.

Susceptibility to diseases and adverse conditions: it has good tolerance to various diseases and adverse conditions.

Enological potential: it gives wines of a medium ruby-red colour, with a typical violet scent, with a moderate acidity, tannic and suitable for medium ageing.

Clones in propagation: Nerello Mascalese NF5, RS121.



CULTIVATED AREA IN ITALY

YEAR	1970	1982	1990	2000	2010
HECTARES	14,373	12,738	12,268	4,387	3,767