

# L L Winemaking 201 - Intermediate

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### **Class Goals**

- To further develop techniques and practices
- Hands on practice and understanding of basic instruments
- Enhance your winemaking experience

### Overview

- Demonstration and discussion of
  - Acid testing
  - pH testing
  - Sulfite testing
  - Sugar testing
- New test kits- pocket labs (AccuVin)

# Total Acidity (TA)

- Measures all the acids in the wine
- Also known as "titratable acidity" because analysis is carried out by titration
- Result has to be interpreted with care because it measures all acids
- United States uses tartaric acid as the unit and is in mg/l
- French use sulfuric acid (battery acid)

### TA - continued

- Of big interest to winemakers at the early stage because it is then that the first adjustment can be made
- Also largely done due to its simplicity
- Grapes tartaric acid & malic acid
  Fermentation produces other acids

# TA

- Testing Procedure
  - Pipette used to measure portion of wine
     Titrate standardized alkaline solution until resultant is neutralized
  - Known as endpoint
  - Endpoint is detected by using an indicator solution

 Indicator solution is a substance that changes color when the acid is neutralalized

# TA

- pH meter is used to detect endpoint giving greater accuracy
  - Titrate until you reach a pH of 8.2
- Especially important when titrating red wines
- When endpoint is reached, take answer and multiply by 0.15 to give TA

TA demonstration using Syringe Acid Test Kit (SACK)

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## Other Types of Acid Tests Kits



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# Now I Know My TA, What Do I Do?

- Acidification addition of acid

   Usually needed for hot climate fruit, usually from California
- Deacidification reduction of acid
  - Usually needed for cooler climate fruit, east coast

### Acidification

- Easier of the two process
  - Just a physical addition of acid
- Tartaric acid natural acid of grapes first choice for acidification lowers pH
- Malic Acid good for other fruits such as apples or cherries raises pH
- Citric acid if used, better post fermentation; can be converted by yeast to acetic acid (VA)

### Acidification example

- We have 5 gal of California Merlot at TA of 0.44mg/l want to be at 0.64mg/l We know that 3.7grams of tartaric acid per gallon would raise acid .1mg/l
- 0.64-0.44 = 0.2mg/l,then take (2 x 3.7)
   = 7.4 grams per gallon to raise TA by
   0.2mg/l
- 7.4 x 5 gallons = 37 grams needed
- Demo high acid wine

### Deacidification

- More difficult due to the fact that acid cannot be physically removed
- Chemically is simple, but not as simple as just adding product
- Actually neutralizing acid by chemical reaction

# **High Acid**

- High Acid (common in cooler growing regions)
- Deacidification many options before fermentation
  - Calcium Carbonate use as early as possible only good for a 0.3 - 0.4 drop
  - Potassium Bicarbonate can be used later on in process but best if early on; better results if used in combination with cold stabilization
  - Amelioration addition of water (refer to hand out)
- Both increase pH so a 0.3-0.4 drop is the biggest you want to go

### Amelioration

The cutting of high acid must with a sugar and water solution.

Formula Step 1:

<u>(Gal(s) of must or juice) x (Starting Acid)</u> = Total Gallons (Desired Acid) Must or Juice

• Step 2:

(Total Gal.)-(Starting Gal.) = Total Gal. H2O Addition

• Step 3:

(Total Gal. H2O Addition) x (1.7)=lbs. of sugar to add to H2O (Result=20.8 Brix Sugar Water)

### Amelioration - continued

- Desired acid must not be greater than 35% without greatly diluting your wine.
- Sugar and water solution will become a larger volume than previously calculated for total gallons of water addition. The sugar will increase the volume by .075 gallons per lb. of sugar
  - We have five gallons of juice at 1.31 TA and want 0.96 TA
- (5gal)(1.31)= 6.82 this will be the total volume we0.96end up with in the end

### Amelioration - continued

- Take (new volume 6.82 gal) (5 gal original volume) = 1.82 gallons this is the total amount of water needed to bring the acid down to .96
- We now need to take that 1.82 gallons of water and adjust it to 20 brix (1.7 pounds/gallon of water = 20° brix)
- So (1.82)\*(1.7) = 3 pounds of sugar needed to be added to the water
  - We stir this all up and will add this to our original 5 gallons in a 7 gallon carboy
    - You will end up with extra sugar water solution in that the sugar will increase the volume by .075 gal per 1 pound
    - Make the sugar water solution in a side container and then add back

### pH

- Defined as the negative of the log to base 10 of the concentration of hydrogen ions, or pH= -log<sub>10</sub>[H<sup>+</sup>]
- However, for winemaking, understanding of basic principles is all that is necessary
- pH on a scale of 0-14, 0 = very acidic, 14 = very alkaline, and 7 is neutral (pure water)

### pH

- Wine falls between 2.8 and 4.0 range in wines is small but a 0.2 difference are important
- For non-scientist pH is a tough concept to grasp
- Is an indication of acidity yet not the same as total acidity
- Works inversely with TA
- Comes from the French *pouvoir hydrogene* means "hydrogen power"

# pН

- Very important because it affects
  - Color
  - Taste
  - Keeping qualities in relation to sulfur dioxide
- Measurement is extremely easy by using a pH meter
- pH meter greatly increases accuracy of TA testing titrate until you reach pH of 8.2

### pH Instruments/Demonstration

- Measures the hydrogen ion concentration
- Uses a probe that is immersed in the liquid
- Probe needs to be restandardized daily
  - Use buffer solutions that are close to the numbers you are looking for

# Sulfur Dioxide

- Most useful of all additives
- Toxic in large doses
- Harmless when used at correct level
- Also found in other foods such as
  - Dried fruit, fruit juices, fresh fruit salads, sausages, peeled potatoes and many others
- Has some disadvantages
  - Allergic reaction with some asthmatics
  - Can bleach color out of red wine, and reduce fruit flavor

### Sulfur Dioxide

- So use sparingly
- Universal additive because of four distinct properties
  - Antioxidant-prevents oxidation
  - Antiseptic-kill bacteria
  - Anti-oxidasic- poison to enzymes that cause oxidation (browning of apples)
  - Refresher- can refresh a slightly oxidized wine

# Sulfur Dioxide

- We use Potassium Metabisulfite as the carrier of sulfur dioxide
- Most important to know and maintain the amount of frees SO<sub>2</sub>
- Takes around 0.3 grams/gallon to achieve 50ppm which is usually a safe level

### How to Test

 Free SO<sub>2</sub> kits uses the ripper method - Simple quick and stable - Usually within (+/-) 2-10ppm of free sulfur Aeration Oxidation Complex test with set up time and need of extensive equipment - Highly accurate within +/- 0.5-2 ppm

### Demonstration of SO<sub>2</sub> test

- Place plastic tip on pipette
- Put in wine and draw up liquid
- Draw liquid until color in vial matches color of wine
- Turn over and read amount of SO<sub>2</sub> present

### Example

5 gallons of wine with a 30 ppm SO<sub>2</sub> reading we want to have 60ppm for before bottling

- Subtract actual ppm from desired ppm
- Using formula we want a 30 ppm addition
- (<u>5gal x 3.785 x 30ppm</u>) = 1g of Kms
   needed 570

# **Sugar Measuring**

- Measurement of sugar using the Balling scale and using brix as a unit of measure
- A measurement of total soluble solids
- Can use a hydrometer or a refractometer
- Hydrometer- measures density of liquid
- Refractometer- uses reflection of light

### Measuring of Residual Sugar

 Cannot use a hydrometer because alcohol is less dense than water and interferes with the reading

- Other options
  - Clinitest- tablets that heat up and measure the amount of reducible sugars
  - Let reaction occur and compare to color chart
- Demonstration using Clinitest

# New Product – Pocket Lab Kits

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# PRESQUE ISLE Image: Wine Cellars Wine School Presents

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