



Common Greek Varieties

Red Varieties

Agiorghitiko [Ah yor yee' ti ko]

Also called Saint George, this variety is most commonly found in Nemea. A low- to medium-yielding variety producing medium- to high-acid wines depending on elevations and soil profiles. Deep red fruits (plum and cherry) and spice. Considered to be one of Greece's best red varietals and biggest producing red variety.

Kotsifali [Ko tsi fah' lee]

Native to Crete. Produces aromatic, rich, full-bodied wines with low acidity and soft tannins. The wines are never deep in color as this is a thin-skinned grape.

Liatiko [Lee ah' ti ko]

Liatiko has a relatively low color intensity, verging on the garnet. The wine is intense, with rich, ripe red fruit and sweet spices. The palate is full, with high levels of alcohol, low and very soft tannins. Long barrel aging is essential usually in large, old oak barrels. It is found all over Crete but the best wines are found in Heraklion, in the PDO Dafnes zone, and in Lasithi, in PDO Sitia.

Limnio [Lim nee o']

Common in northern Greece, where it often appears in blends. Tends to make powerful, structured wines with tangy red fruit and fresh herb qualities and moderate to high acidity.

Mandilaria [Mahn dee lar ya']

A thick-skinned variety from Crete. Produces deeply colored, low-acid and full-bodied wines, often with pronounced tannins. Widely used in blends for the color it brings.

Mavrodaphne [Mav ro tha'f nee]

Yields full-bodied, dense wines. Most often used to make rich dessert-styled versions.

Xinomavro [Ksee no' ma vro]

Considered one of Greece's greatest red varietals and responsible for its most serious reds. Notoriously fickle to grow, it is a late-ripening variety, producing powerful, structured, richly flavored wines with solid tannins. The wines are seldom dark and are sometimes compared to Nebbiolo.

Mavrotragano [Mav ro trah' gah no]

A rare native variety of Santorini which until recently was presumed extinct. Several small producers, mainly Domaine Sigalas, have resurrected the variety, which produces rich extracted red wines with black fruit characteristics and high acidity and velvety tannins.

