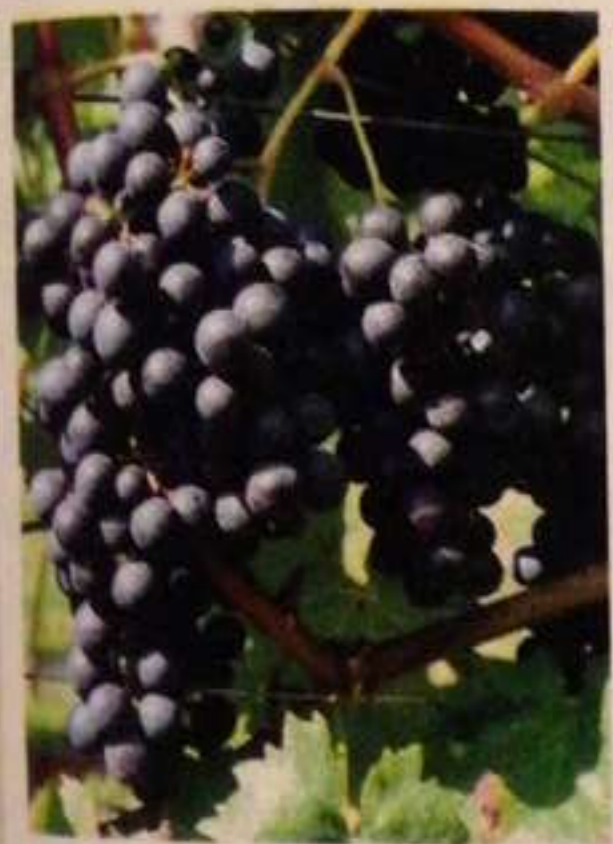


Grape varieties

with Julia Harding MW

Lagrein



After nearly five centuries isolated in its northern Italian birthplace, Lagrein has started to travel and has found a welcoming home in Australia, although it can also be found in cool spots in California. An offspring of Teroldego, it probably originated in Val Lagarina in Trentino, but is now most widely planted in the Alto Adige/Südtirol, where there were about 420ha in 2010. Here it needs a warm site to ripen fully but on the other side of the world, it thrives in

areas that are too cool for Cabernet, such as at 600m in Victoria's Macedon Ranges. Lagrein produces deep coloured wines, with lively aromas and mouthfilling flavours of red and dark berries, sometimes a note of iodine or a floral touch, and tannins more at the front of the mouth, occasionally rustic. The best examples are fresh, exuberant and have an Italian bite balanced by generous fruit, and become much more complex after a few years in bottle (try Alois Lageder's Lindenburg 2008). In Italy it is sometimes blended with Schiava Grossa and may be made as a rosé – Rosato or Kretzer. Red wines may be labelled Lagrein Dunkel. **Try:** Cobaw Ridge, Domaine Day, Franz Haas, Heartland (a blend with Dolcetto), J Hofstätter, Alois Lageder, Tiefenbrunner. **Wine Grapes** by Jancis Robinson MW, Julia Harding MW and José Vouillamoz is published by Allen Lane (£76.80 from Amazon UK). www.JancisRobinson.com

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