

Blanche = Mondeuse Noire × Viognier is rejected by DNA analysis. In this case, Viognier is a progeny of Mondeuse Blanche and a half-sibling of Syrah.

Conversely, if MONDEUSE NOIRE is a progeny of MONDEUSE BLANCHE through a natural cross-pollination with an unknown and probably extinct variety, then Mondeuse Noire is a half-sibling of Syrah (option B on p 1025). In this case, VIOGNIER may either be the parent of Mondeuse Blanche, and a grandparent of Syrah and Mondeuse Noire, or Viognier could be a progeny of Mondeuse Blanche as well, and thus a half-sibling of both Mondeuse Noire and Syrah (option C), the other parents of Viognier and Mondeuse Noire being distinct, unknown and probably extinct.

As a consequence, Syrah is either a grandchild or a half-sibling of both MONDEUSE NOIRE and VIOGNIER, which explains why Mondeuse Noire was called Grosse Syrah in the Drôme region, and why all four varieties were clustered in the Sérine ampelographic group (see p XXVII; Bisson 2009).

SYRAH'S MOST COMPLETE FAMILY TREE Keeping in mind that other pedigree reconstructions are theoretically possible for the reasons explained above, we propose the most plausible and comprehensive family tree for Syrah (see diagram 3 below): it is a natural progeny of MONDEUSE BLANCHE and DUREZA, a half-sibling of VIOGNIER, a grandchild of MONDEUSE NOIRE, a niece/nephew of TEROLDEGO and a great-grandchild of PINOT.

SYRAH PEDIGREE DIAGRAM 3

The discovery of the natural parents of SYRAH has put a stop to rumours about its eastern origins, and the family tie with PINOT challenges the view that they were introduced independently to Europe. Given the numerous connections via unknown (and probably extinct) varieties (?), inverse relationships are also possible and this diagram illustrates only one possible pedigree reconstruction (see p x).

