

# TASTE AND TALK - 4

## *Mistaken Identities*

*Since the 1970s much more importance given to grape varieties because of labelling laws  
Previously a rather ramshackle system of labelling by style Hock, Chablis, Hermitage etc.  
Many vineyards were growing varieties with incorrect or unofficial names  
“If my grandfather said these vines are Esparte then that’s what they are”*

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### *Albarino Savagnin*

*Albarino was a 'hot' variety at turn of century*

*Winemakers were looking to diversify*

*Need for a lighter bodied white as a substitute for heavier Chardonnay*

*Suspicious arose and by 2009 it was confirmed that a mistake had been made*

*By that time excellent Savagnin dry white wine was being made*

*288 ha Savagnin grown in 2016, 70+ producers*

*Second wave Albarino only just getting started*

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### *Petit manseng/Gros Manseng*

*Gros Manseng and Petit Manseng are from SW France*

*Used for dry, off-dry and sweet whites, grapes shrivelled on vine*

*Jurancon AOC most famous expression*

*Grapes similar, berry size main difference*

*About 25 Aussie producers*

*Wine Australia announced problem March 2020*

*Most Aussie plantings are Gros*

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## *Carmenere/Merlot*

*Carmenere originally from Bordeaux, rare there now*

*Main plantings now in Chile where for years interplanted  
and confused with Merlot*

*Grown in China under the name Cabernet Gernisch*

*Valued for deep coloured wines*

*Herbaceous flavours, like close relative Cabernet Franc*

*About a dozen Aussie producers*

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## *Carnelian/Sangiovese*

- *Carnelian - bred in California with Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon and Carignan in pedigree*
- *Grown in California, Texas and Hawaii*
- *Not very successful, in decline*
- *Planted in WA late 1990s after nursery mixup*
- *Howard Park (Madfish Brand)*
- *Now replaced or blended*
- *Good rose wines*

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## *Slankamenka/Grillo*

- *Grillo is a white variety from Sicily*
- *Used for base wine for Marsala*
- *Makes crisp dry whites*
- *Some Australian plantings were in fact Slankamenka*
- *Variety from Serbia/Hungary border*
- *Locals say name means smells like shit*
- *Slankamenka all removed*
- *'Real' Grillo now used by 5 Aussie wineries*

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## *Carignan Bonvedro*

- *Carignan (Fr) = Mazuello (Sp)*
- *Bonvedro(Pt) = Parraleta (Sp)*
- *All old plantings of Carignan in Aus probably Bonvedro*
- *Deep colour, light bodied wines*
- *Grown in NW Spain but losing popularity there*
- *Former workhorse variety now becoming more popular in Portugal*



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## *Other Mishaps*

*We have discussed mistakes that lead to widespread plantings of mistaken vines*

*There are no doubt many vineyards with misidentified grapes*

*Prior to 1990s identification was done by examining physical characters - rigorous but not entirely definitive*

*Now DNA evidence gets more precision about identity and parentage*