



Cool  
Climate  
Oenology &  
Viticulture  
Institute

Brock University

*Targeting wine balance  
using biological deacidification methods  
and by monitoring  
polyphenolic maturity*

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2012 CCOVI Annual Lectures Series

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

# Wine balance



Balance in wine refers to the interaction and harmony between two or more of the wine's constituents

By far the most straightforward balance is that between alcohol/sugar and acidity

Not all wines, of course, have residual sugar, though all have some acidity and of course alcohol

# Wine balance



A wine which has a good acid-sugar/alcohol balance  
tastes neither too sweet nor too acidic:  
  
the alcohol/sugar exists in the right quantity for the  
acid, and vice versa

# Wine balance



- A wine with too little alcohol/sugar for its acid will taste harsh, sharp and acidic
- A wine with too much sugar will taste cloying, sugary and flabby, and will not refresh the palate.

Peter Bell, Finger Lakes

# Balance Between Acidity and Astringency



- the less tannic a wine is, the more acidity it can support
- the higher a red wine is in tannins, the lower should be its acidity
- the combination of high acid and high tannins make for the hardest and most astringent wines

Emile Peynaud, *The Taste of Wine*

# Balance Between Alcohol and Acidity/Astringency



- Too little alcohol will cause acidity and astringency to dominate, making the wine harsh and thin
- Too little acid and astringency will cause a wine to taste overly soft, heavy and flabby



# Balance Between Acidity and Astringency



- a wine tolerates acidity better when its alcohol content is higher
- a considerable amount of tannin is more acceptable if acidity is low and alcohol is high

# Juice and wine acidity



- Juice / Wine acidity

essential parameter of juice and wine that preserves it, shapes its flavors and helps prolong its aftertaste.

Acidity is identifiable by the crisp, sharp character it imparts to a wine

[Glossary of Wine Terms from THE WINE SPECTATOR]



# Juice and wine acidity



## Why are acid & pH important ?

### Acids:

- Wine acidity balances alcohol & residual sugar



- 
- Quality wines are well-balanced wines

# Intro-Juice and wine acidity

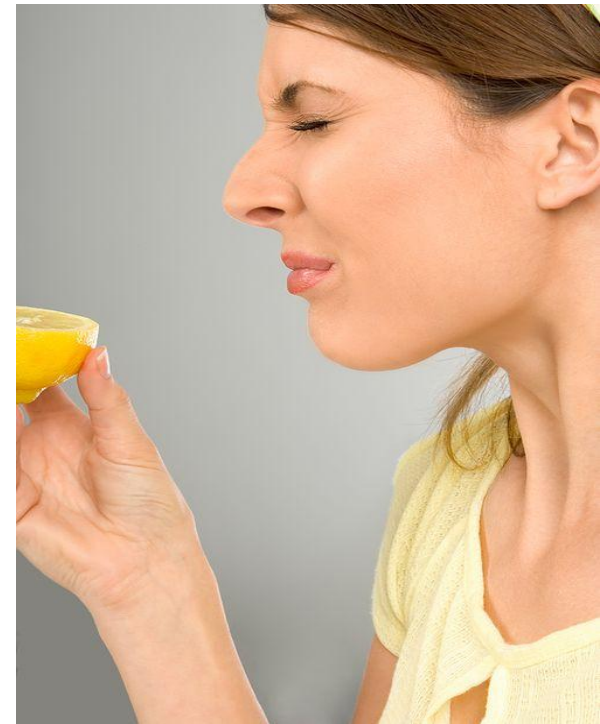


## Why are acid & pH important ?

### Acids:

- A wine with low acidity has a distinctly flat taste, whereas a wine with high acidity has a sour taste

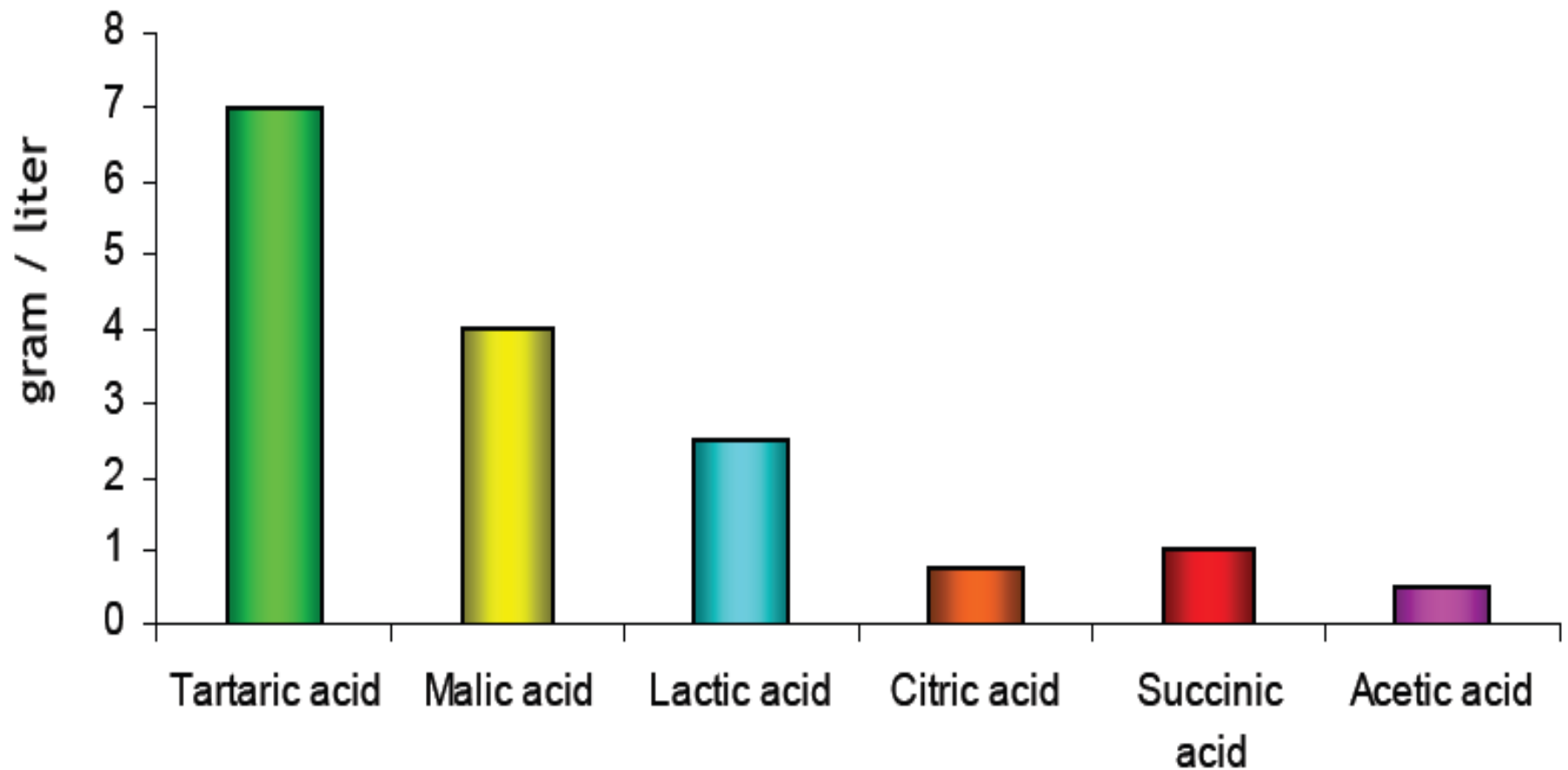
J. R. Munyon, C. W. Nagel (1977)



# Juice and wine acidity



## Acids in wine:



# Juice and wine acidity



## Why are acid & pH important ?

### pH:

- Low pH in juice and wines
  - Increase antimicrobial action of  $\text{SO}_2$
  - Increase colour expression in young red wines
  - Selection of desirable micro-organisms
  - Enhance clarification of juices and wines
  - Enhance expression of fruit character
  - Promote balance of wine colour

# Intro-Juice and wine acidity



## How do we measure acidity?

### pH & titratable acidity:

- pH - the equilibrium measure of hydrogen ion concentration in a juice or wine
- Titratable acidity (TA) measures the total amount of protons available in a juice or wine, expressed as g/L tartaric acid equivalent

# Intro-Juice and wine acidity



## pH:

- is the negative logarithm of the concentration of free Hydrogen ions (protons) in a juice or wine

$$\text{pH} = -\log[\text{H}^+]$$

ie pH 3 is 10x more acidic than pH 4

- the pH of juice can be very different at similar levels of TA depending on the amounts and proportions of tartaric acid, potassium bitartrate, di-potassium tartrate & malic acid

# Deacidification



## Reduction of TA and increase of pH:

- cold year, unripe grapes, cool climate viticulture areas

## Methods of deacidification:

1. Biological
2. Physicochemical



# Biological Methods of Deacidification



## a) Malic acid degradation through alcoholic fermentation

- The standard wine yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is consuming some malic acid,
- but negligible amounts as compared with bacteria
- This yeast species does not have an enzyme for transporting the malique acid into their cells

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



- But malic acid passes through the yeast cellular membrane by simple diffusion where it is metabolized to ethanol, through a malo-ethanolic pathway (Pretorius 2000)
- Low pH also favors malic acid consumption, as only the undissociated form of the acid is able to pass through the cellular membrane (Ramon-Portugal et al. 1999)

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



The undissociated form of malic acid ranges from:

64% at pH 3.2 to

41% at pH 3.6

- Malic acid consumption by yeast should increase at lower pH values and with higher malic acid concentrations

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



- The ability of commercial strains of *S. cerevisiae* to consume malic acid varies from 0 to 40%
- *S. cerevisiae* strain 71B consuming about 30% of malic acid as compared with strain EC1118 (Pilone and Ryan 1996)

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



## b. The yeast strain ML01

- This yeast has been engineered to have an active transport system to enable malic acid to enter the yeast cell and an efficient enzyme system within the cell to convert malic acid to lactic acid
- No MLF using malolactic bacteria needed any more
- speeds the winemaking process

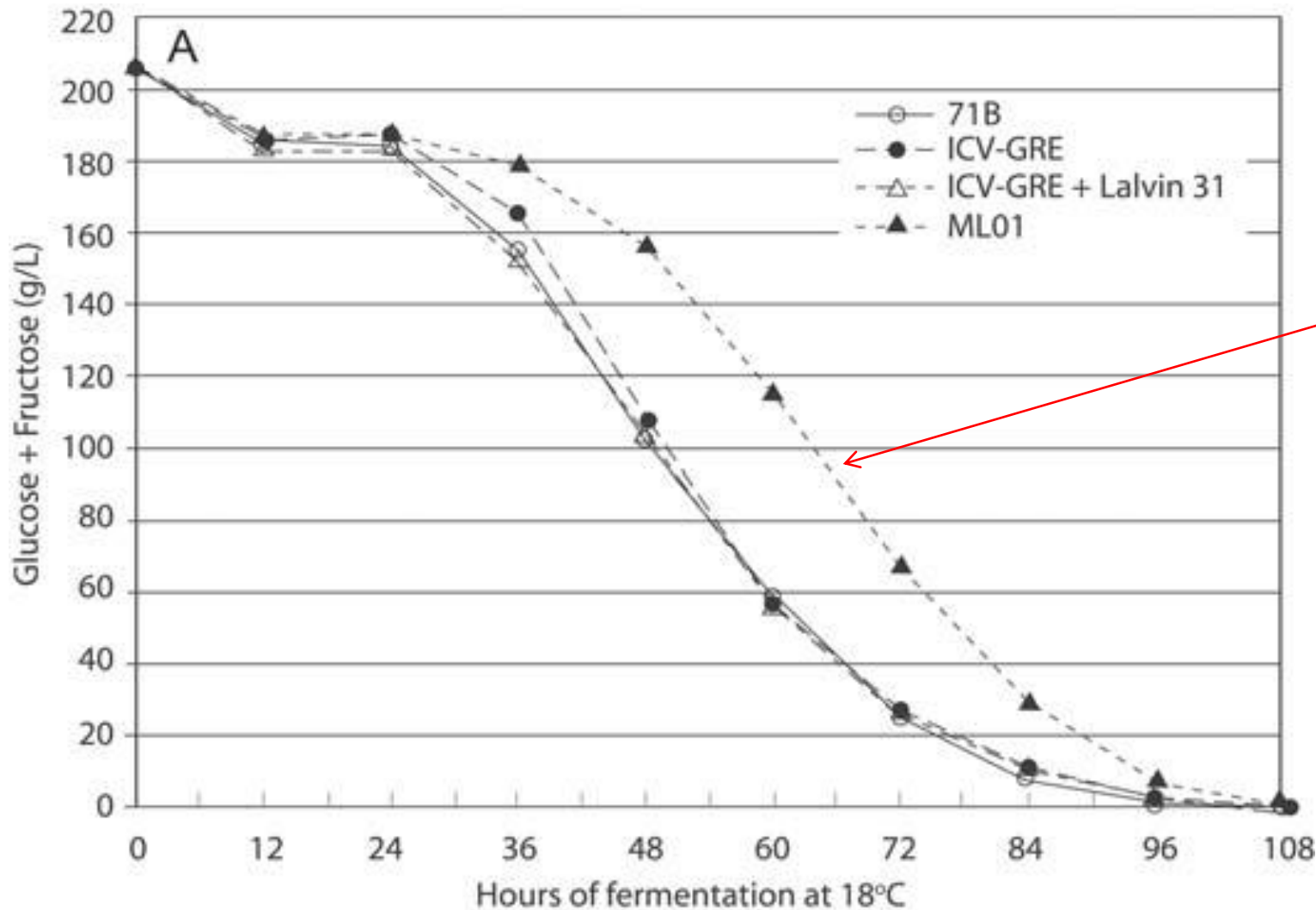
# Biological Methods of Deacidification



## Briefly:

- Contains two type of enzymes
  - 1) A malic acid transporter (from *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*)
  - 2) A malolactic enzyme (from *Oenococcus oeni*)
- Efficiently converts malate to lactate during alcoholic fermentation

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



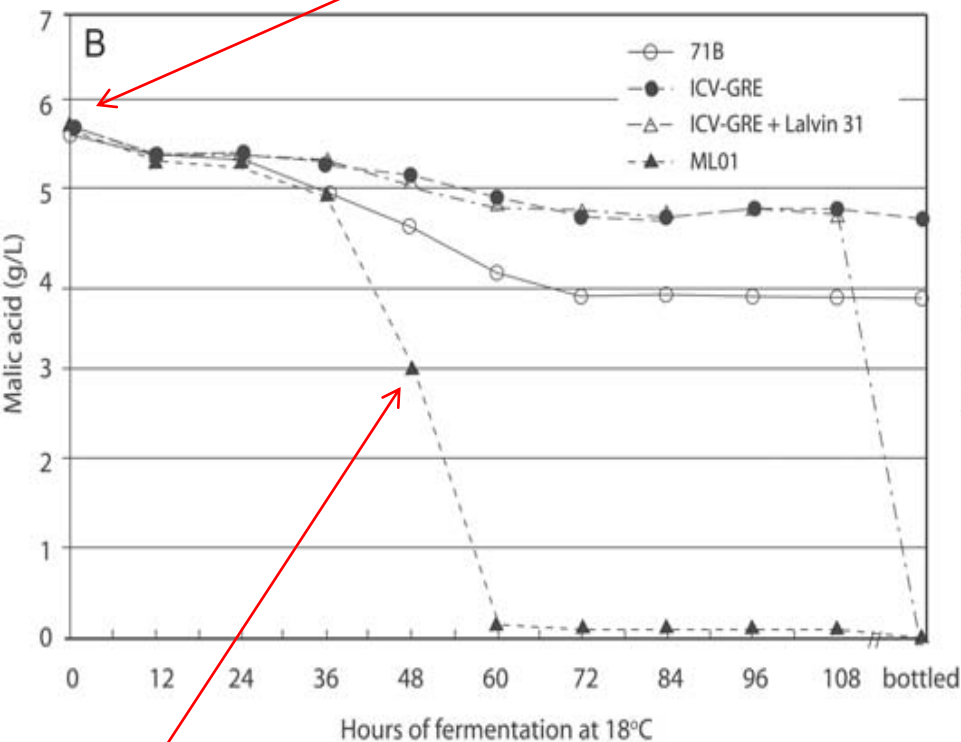
ML01



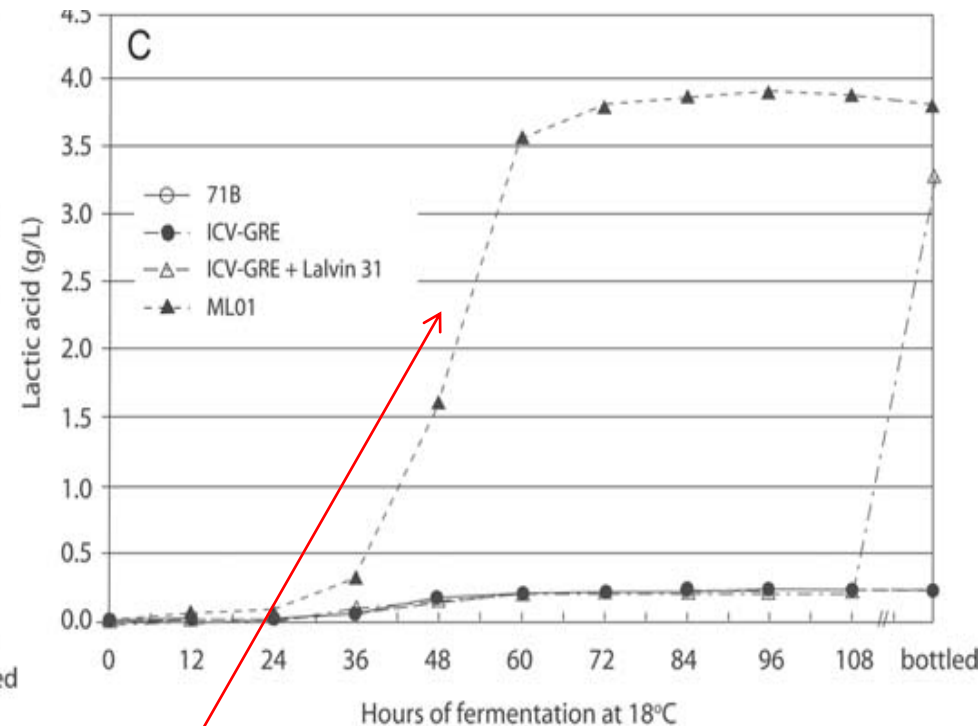
# Biological Methods of Deacidification



Initial Malic acid content = 5.7 g/L



ML01



ML01

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



Initial Malic acid content = 5.7 g/L

**Table 1** Effect of natural yeast (71B and ICV-GRE), genetically enhanced yeast (ML01), and natural malolactic bacteria (Lalvin 31) on Vignoles wine.

| Treatment                  | Glucose + fructose (g/L) | Titrateable acidity <sup>a</sup> (g/L) | Tartaric acid (g/L) | Citric acid (g/L) | L-malic acid (g/L) | L-lactic acid (g/L) | Succinic acid (g/L) | Glycerol (g/L) | Ethanol (% v/v) | Total SO <sub>2</sub> (mg/L) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 71B                        | 0.88 b <sup>b</sup>      | 8.1 b                                  | 1.53 b              | 0.38 c            | 3.81 b             | 0.03 c              | 0.50 a              | 6.06 a         | 12.3 a          | 82 b                         |
| ICV-GRE                    | 0.65 c                   | 8.6 a                                  | 1.56 ab             | 0.41 b            | 4.67 a             | 0.03 c              | 0.43 b              | 5.37 d         | 12.2 b          | 92 ab                        |
| ICV-GRE + L31 <sup>c</sup> | 0.57 c                   | 6.7 d                                  | 1.74 ab             | 0.18 d            | 0.06 c             | 3.11 b              | 0.44 b              | 5.44 c         | 12.3 a          | 73 b                         |
| ML01                       | 1.48 a                   | 7.1 c                                  | 1.81 a              | 0.44 a            | 0.05 c             | 3.64 a              | 0.35 c              | 5.95 b         | 12.0 c          | 121 a                        |

<sup>a</sup>As tartaric acid.

<sup>b</sup>Means within column with the same letter(s) are not significantly different at the  $p \leq 0.05$  level of significance.

<sup>c</sup>ICV-GRE + Lalvin 31.

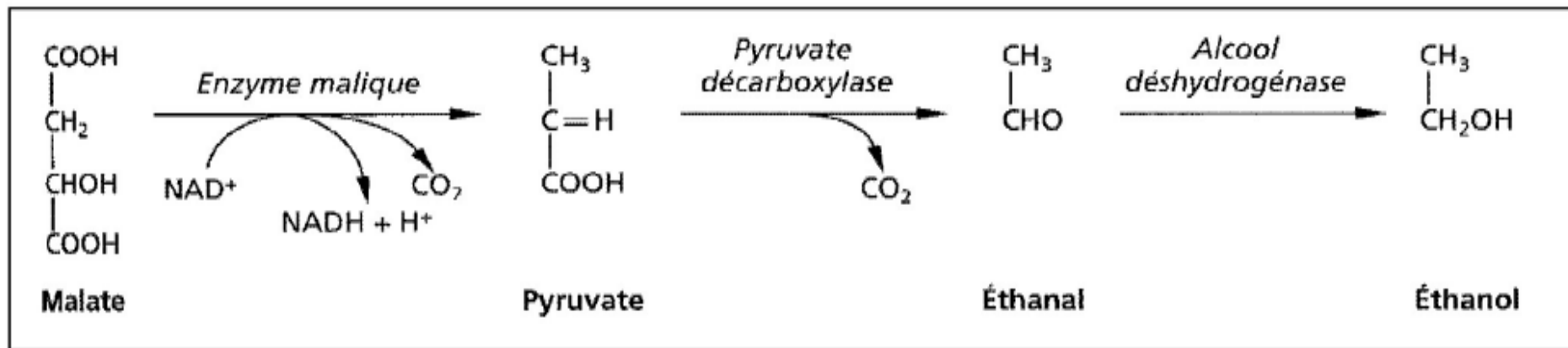
# Biological Methods of Deacidification



c) *Scizosaccharomyces pompe*

Metabolizes malic acid to ethanol - no lactic acid produced

## Malo-Ethanol Fermentation



2.33 g/L malic acid  $\longrightarrow$  0.1% ethanol

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



*shows a* number of attractive properties, such as :

high acid tolerance

SO<sub>2</sub> tolerance

good growing capability under conditions of must and wine

easy cultivation and storage of strains

# Biological Methods of Deacidification

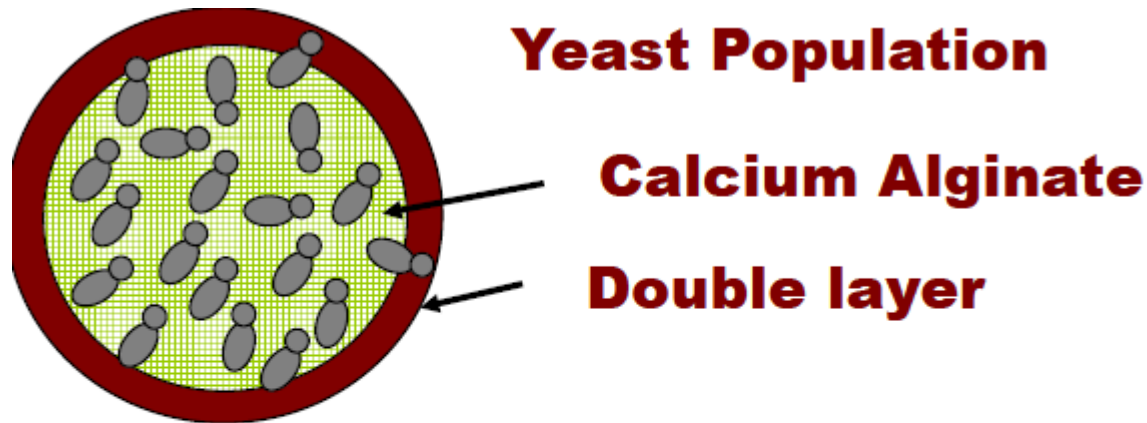


*However*

*S. pombe* was considered a spoilage yeast - can product off odors during late alcoholic fermentation

- $H_2S$  or atypical aroma and flavor (Gallander, 1977)
- Scientists were trying to find solutions for removing *S. pompe* from the must during fermentation / or co-inoculate with *S. cerevisiae*

# Biological Methods of Deacidification - ProMalic



- 2.5 million living yeast cells per gram
- 2 millimeter average diameter of each encapsulated bead

These beads keep the yeast from spreading into the wine, but are permeable enough to let sugar and nutrients in and ethanol and CO<sub>2</sub>, out

# Biological Methods of Deacidification

## - ProMalic



ProMalic is added to the juice at the beginning of the alcoholic fermentation and removed once the desired malic level is achieved

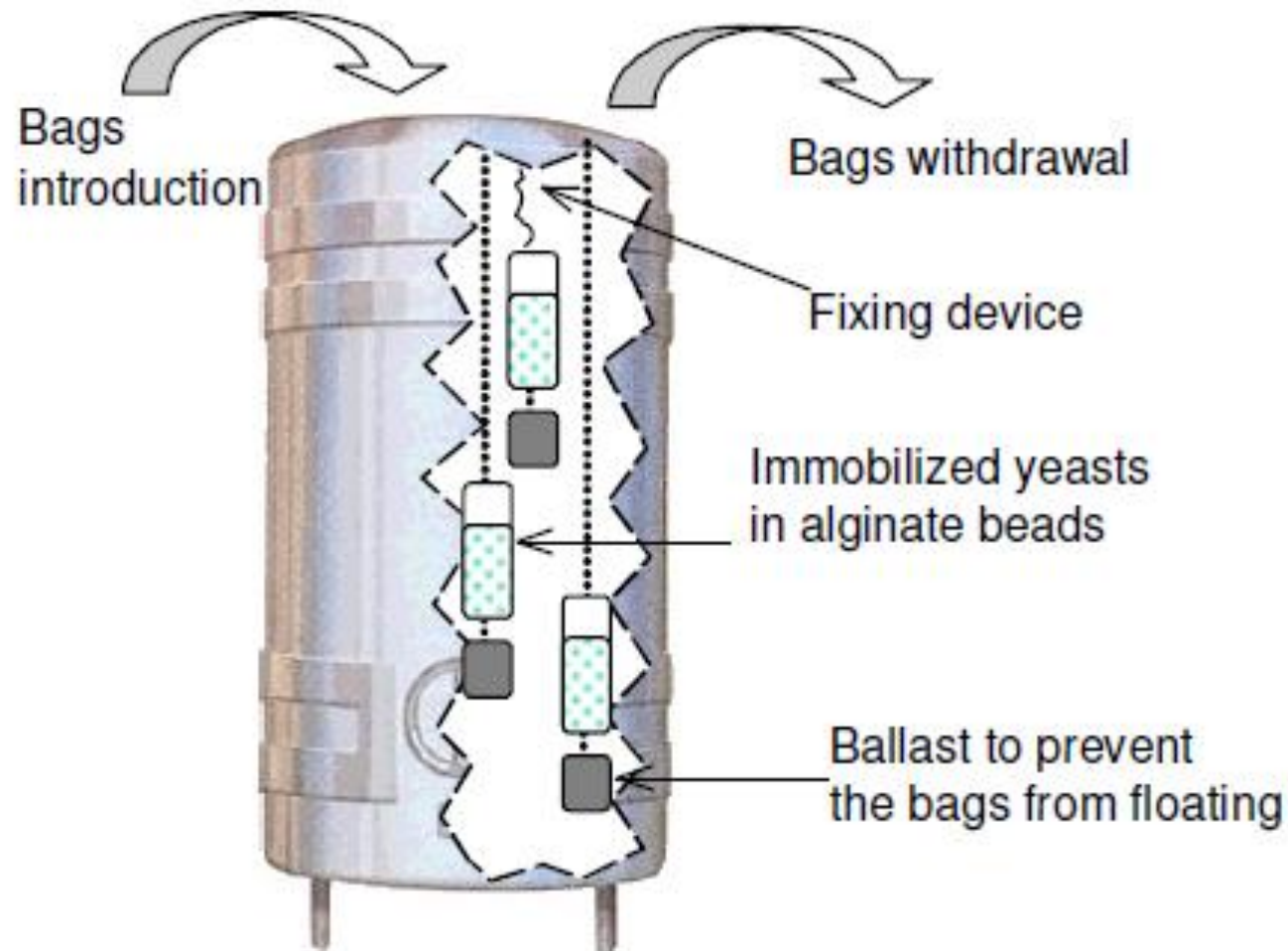
- Can be used up to 5 times (5 different tanks)
- Storage up to 20 months at 4° C



# Biological Methods of Deacidification - ProMalic



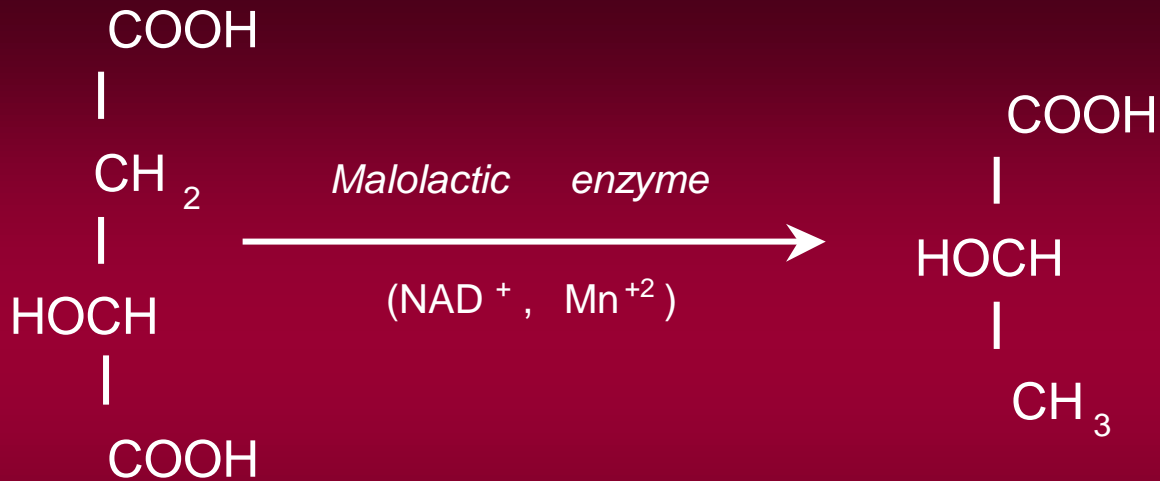
# Biological Methods of Deacidification - ProMalic



# Biological Methods of Deacidification



## d. Malolactic fermentation



**L- malic acid**

**L- lactic acid + CO<sub>2</sub>**

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



## Three reasons for MLF:

- Lowering of acidity (deacidification)
- Creation of aroma compounds
- Microbiological stability

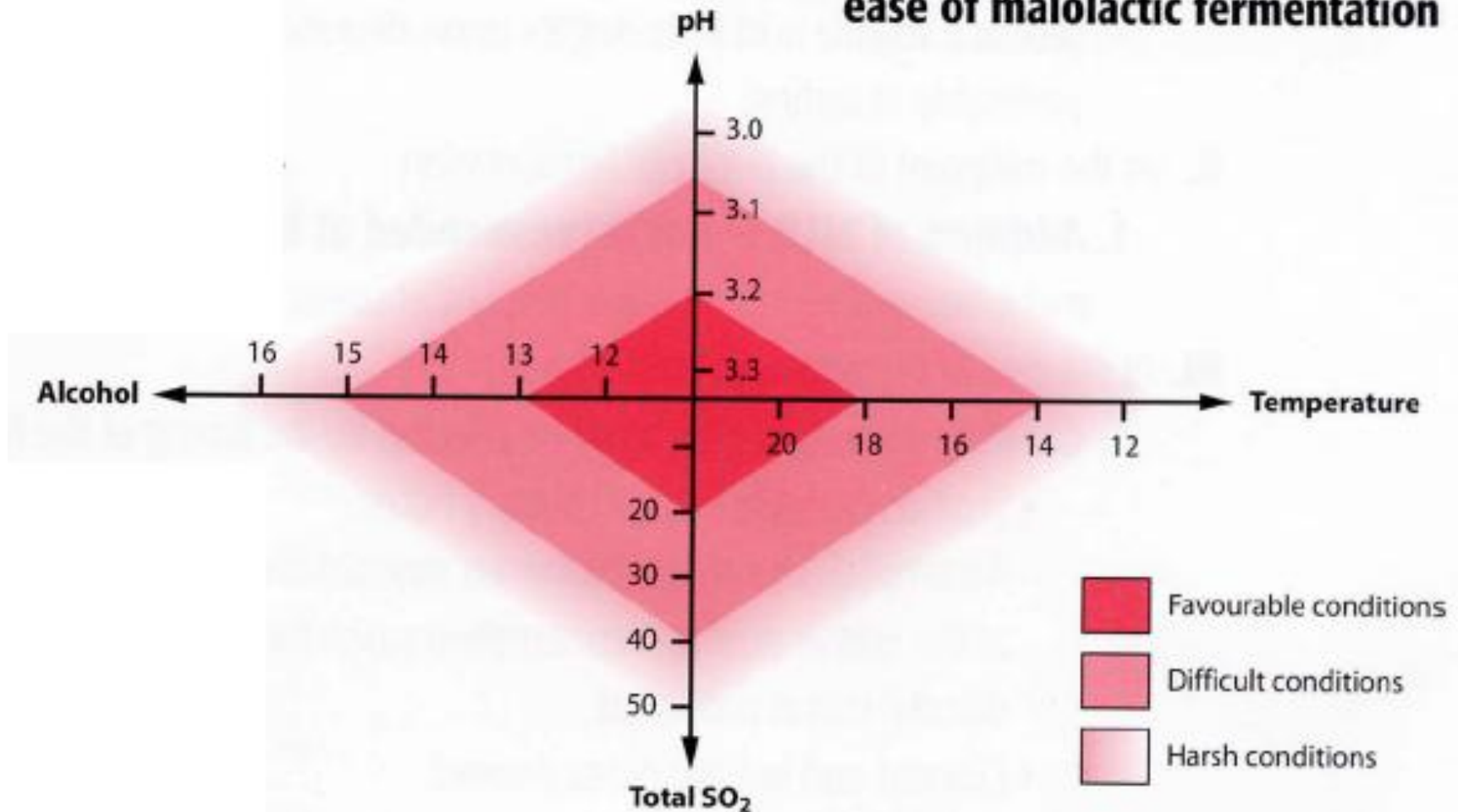
## Commercial starter cultures: *Oenococcus oeni*

- Tolerant to lower pH, Ethanol, SO<sub>2</sub>
- Low temperatures

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



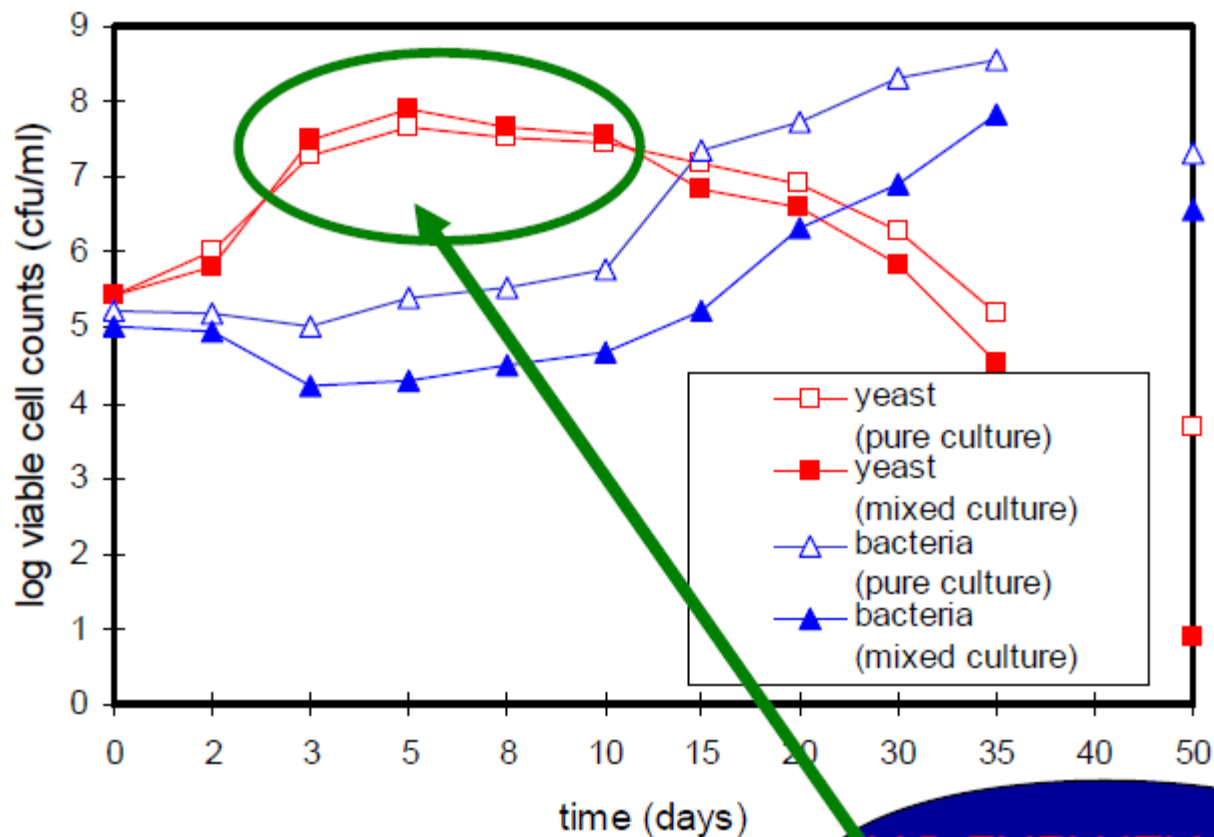
**Figure 1. Factors affecting the relative ease of malolactic fermentation**



# Biological Methods of Deacidification



## Co-inoculation



(King and Beelmann 1986)

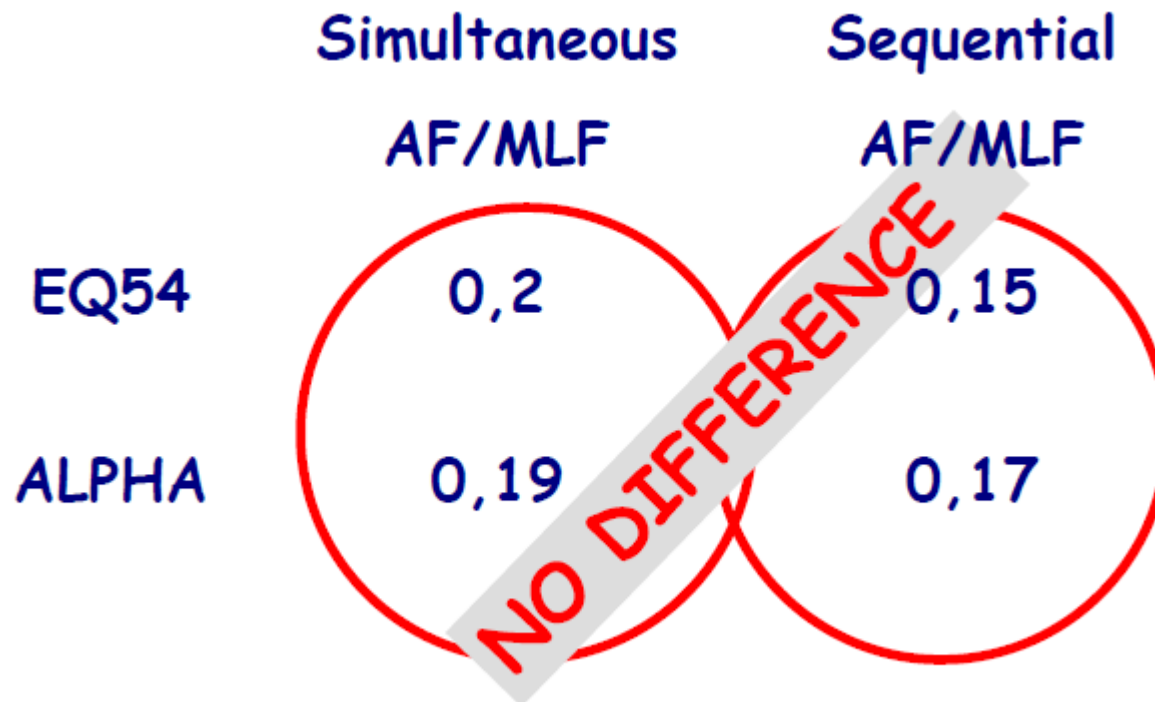


**NO INFLUENCE OF  
*O. oeni* ON AF**

# Biological Methods of Deacidification



## Co-inoculation, no VA difference





# Chemical Methods of Deacidification



## 2. Physicochemical:

### Calcium carbonate double salt precipitation

- reduces simultaneously the tartaric acid and malic acid concentrations

# Chemical Methods of Deacidification



- Conditions to get a 1:1 removal of tartaric:malic
  - 2:1 ratio of malic:tartaric, generally [malic] > [tartaric]
- 2 moles of acid react with 2 moles of calcium carbonate, therefore 1:1 molar relationship

***TARGET : LOWER ACIDITY WHILE KEEPING pH  
RELATIVELY LOW***

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Winemaking trials | Control        |
|                   | Double salt    |
|                   | 71 B           |
|                   | Promalic       |
|                   | Co-inoculation |

Harvest date : 27/09/2011

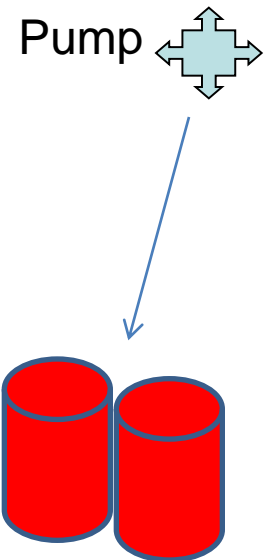
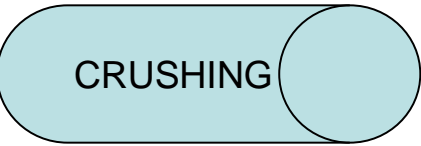
T.A. = 10.7 g/L, pH = 3.46

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



Control sample, BU1 Contr1 and BU2 Contr2

CRUSHING



- SO<sub>2</sub> addition 35 gr/tn
- Enzymes 30 gr/tn
- Inoculation with K1 200 mg/L
- After 6 days separation from the skins
- Racking one week after pressing
- End of F.A. VP41 inoculation

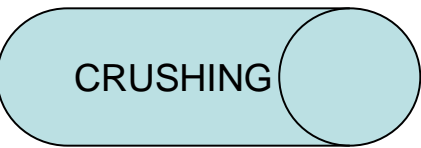
## Conditions

- Temperatures 25 °C
- Punching down 3 times per day

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



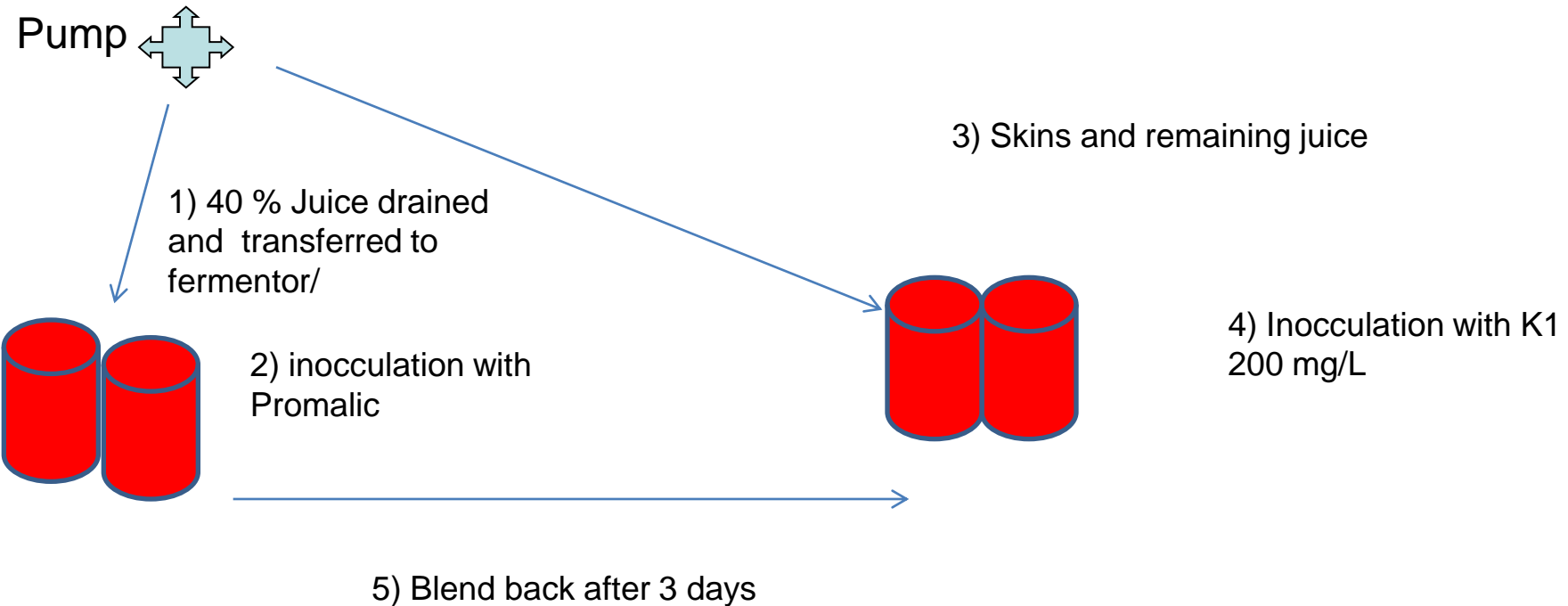
## Promalic, BU3 Prom1 and BU4 Prom2



- SO<sub>2</sub> addition 35 gr/tn
- Enzymes 30 gr/tn

### Conditions

- Temperatures 25 °C
- Punching down 3 times per day



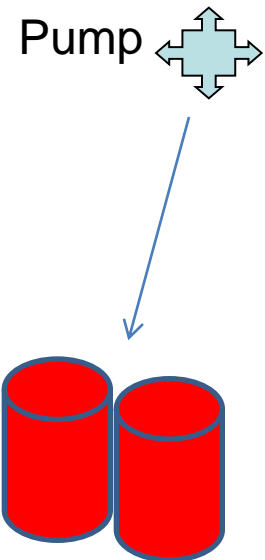
End of F.A. VP41 ino-cculation

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



71B, BU5 71B1 and BU6 71B2

CRUSHING



- SO<sub>2</sub> addition 35 gr/tn
- Enzymes 30 gr/tn
- Inoculation with 71B 200 mg/L
- After 6 days separation from the skins
- Racking one week after pressing
- End of F.A. VP41 inoculation

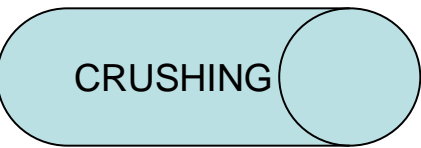
## Conditions

- Temperatures 25 °C
- Punching down 3 times per day

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



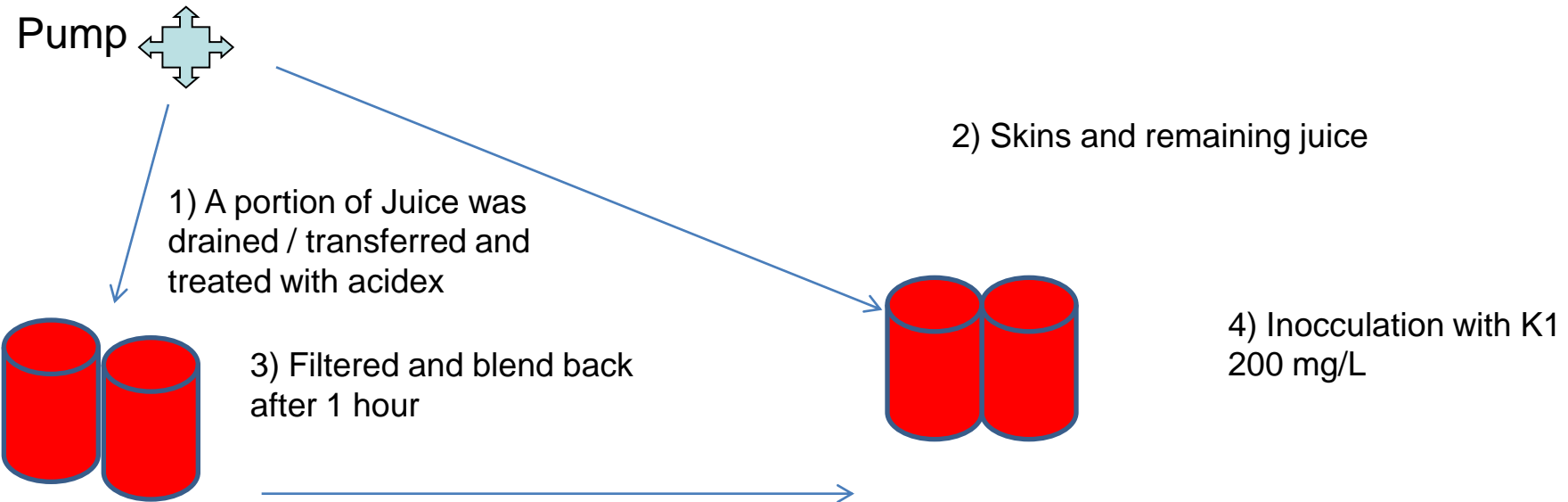
## Double salt, BU7 DS1 and BU8 DS2



- SO<sub>2</sub> addition 35 gr/tn
- Enzymes 30 gr/tn

### Conditions

- Temperatures 25 °C
- Punching down 3 times per day



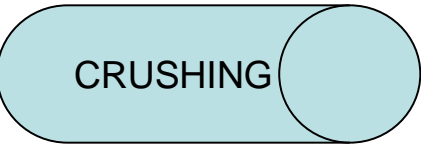
End of F.A. VP41 ino-cculation

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment

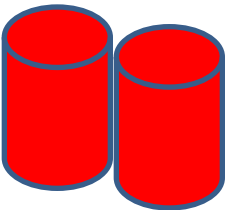
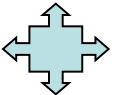


## Co-inoculation, BU9 Coinoc1 and BU10 Coinoc2

CRUSHING



Pump



- SO<sub>2</sub> addition 35 gr/tn
- Enzymes 30 gr/tn
- Inoculation with 71B 200 mg/L
- Next day VP41 ino-c-culation

### Conditions

- Temperatures 25 °C
- Punching down 3 times per day



# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



| Fermentation Monitoring |              |              |              |              |             |             |            |            |              |               |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
|                         | BU 1 (CONT1) | BU 2 (CONT2) | BU 3 (PROM1) | BU 4 (PROM2) | BU 5 (71B1) | BU 6 (71B2) | BU 7 (DS1) | BU 8 (DS2) | BU 9 (COIN1) | BU 10 (COIN2) |
| Date                    | Density      | Density      | Density      | Density      | Density     | Density     | Density    | Density    | Density      | Density       |
| 28/09/2011              | 1.100        | 1.100        | 1.096        | 1.095        | 1.097       | 1.098       | 1.096      | 1.097      | 1.097        | 1.096         |
| 29/09/2011              | 1.100        | 1.087        | 1.083        | 1.111        | 1.095       | 1.115       | 1.086      | 1.089      | 1.092        |               |
| 30/09/2011              | 1.050        | 1.048        | 1.052        | 1.050        | 1.060       | 1.070       | 1.056      | 1.056      | 1.067        | 1.088         |
| 01/10/2011              | 1.025        | 1.024        | 1.033        | 1.030        | 1.054       | 1.053       |            |            |              | 1.064         |
| 02/10/2011              | 1.014        | 1.012        | 1.020        | 1.020        | 1.047       | 1.044       | 1.023      | 1.020      | 1.046        |               |
| 04/10/2011              | 0.999        | 0.999        | 1.009        | 1.008        | 1.031       | 1.026       | 1.006      | 1.007      | 1.030        |               |
| 06/10/2011              | 0.998        | 0.998        | 0.998        | 0.998        | 1.013       | 1.013       | 0.999      | 0.999      | 1.015        | 1.045         |
| 07/10/2011              | 0.998        | 0.997        | 0.997        | 0.997        | 1.010       | 1.011       | 0.998      | 0.998      | 1.012        | 1.037         |
| 09/10/2011              |              |              |              |              | 1.006       | 1.006       |            |            | 1.006        |               |
| 10/10/2011              |              |              |              |              | 1.004       | 1.004       |            |            | 1.004        |               |
| 11/10/2011              |              |              |              |              | 1.008       | 1.002       |            |            | 1.002        | 1.018         |
| 13/10/2011              |              |              |              |              | 1.001       | 1.002       |            |            | 1.001        | 1.009         |
| 14/10/2011              |              |              |              |              | 1.000       | 1.000       |            |            | 0.999        | 1.005         |
| 16/10/2011              | 0.997        | 0.996        | 0.995        | 0.994        | 0.999       | 1.000       | 0.996      | 0.996      | 0.998        | 1.002         |
|                         |              |              |              |              |             |             |            |            |              | 1.000         |
|                         |              |              |              |              |             |             |            |            |              | 0.999         |

71 B, a lazy yeast strain ?

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



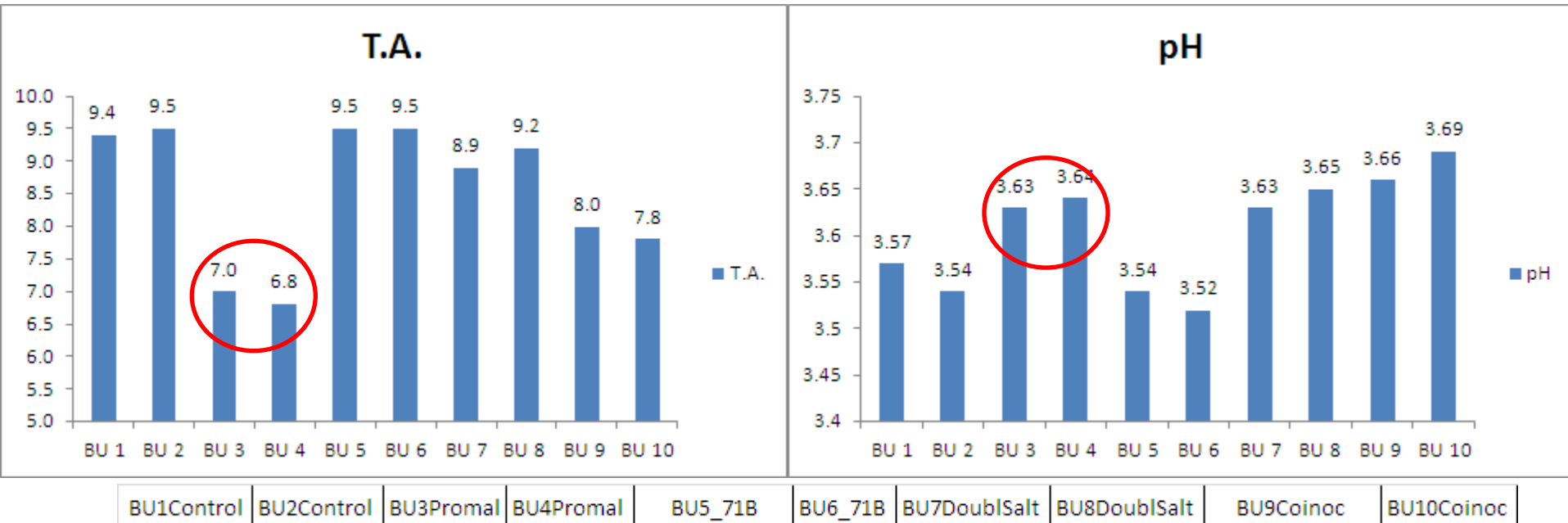
## Malic acid fate

| Date                  | BU1Control | BU2Control | BU3Promal | BU4Promal | BU5_71B | BU6_71B | BU7DoubISalt | BU8DoubISalt | BU9Coinoc | BU10Coinoc |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 30-Sep                | 3.1        | 3.0        | 2.5       | 2.9       | 3.0     | 2.9     | 3.4          | 3.3          | 2.6       | 1.9        |
| 07 Oct / aft press    | 3.1        | 3.0        | 1.9       | 2.1       | 3.0     | 3.0     | 3.4          | 3.3          | 0.3       | 0.1        |
| End of Primary 17 Oct | 3.1        | 3.0        | 1.0       | 0.9       | 3.0     | 3.0     | 3.4          | 3.3          | 0.0       | 0.0        |
| 24-Oct                | 2.4        | 2.2        | 0.5       | 0.6       | 2.2     | 2.3     | 2.5          | 2.5          |           |            |
| 01-Nov                | 0.7        | 0.5        | 0.1       | 0.0       | 0.3     | 0.3     | 0.3          | 0.3          |           |            |
| 08-Nov                | 0.01       | 0.01       | 0.0       | 0.0       | 0.01    | 0.01    | 0.01         | 0.01         |           |            |

21 days faster

- Co-inoculation : achieving faster the biological stability
- The same for Promalic

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



End of F.A.

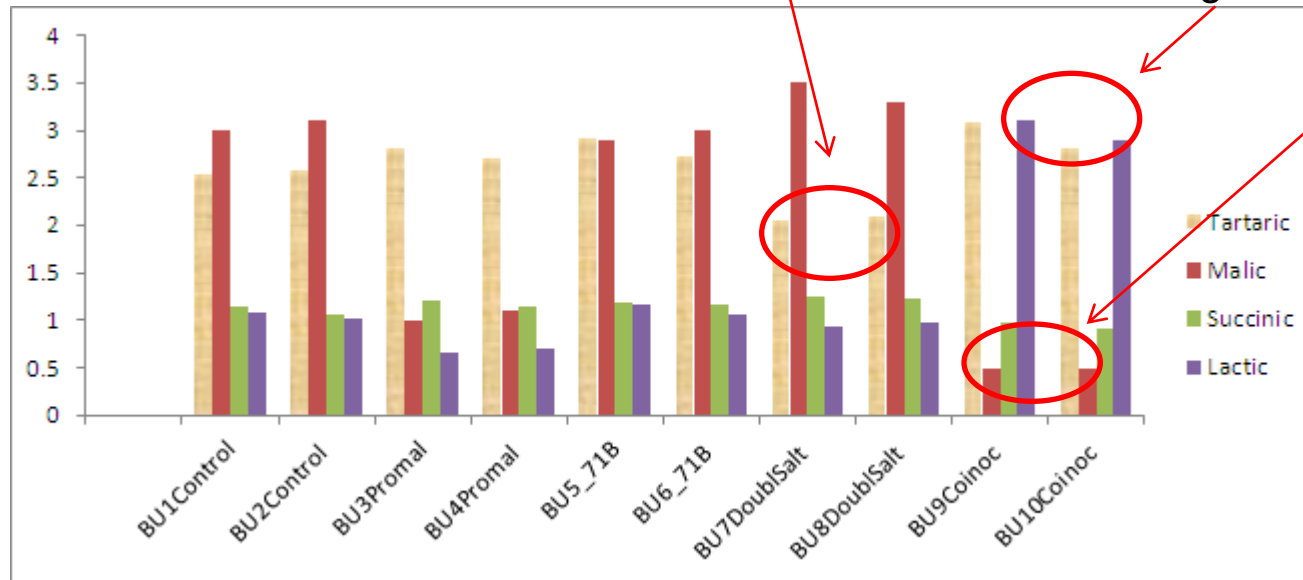
- BU3 and BU4 present low T.A. and adequate pH, the winemaker could add sulfites

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



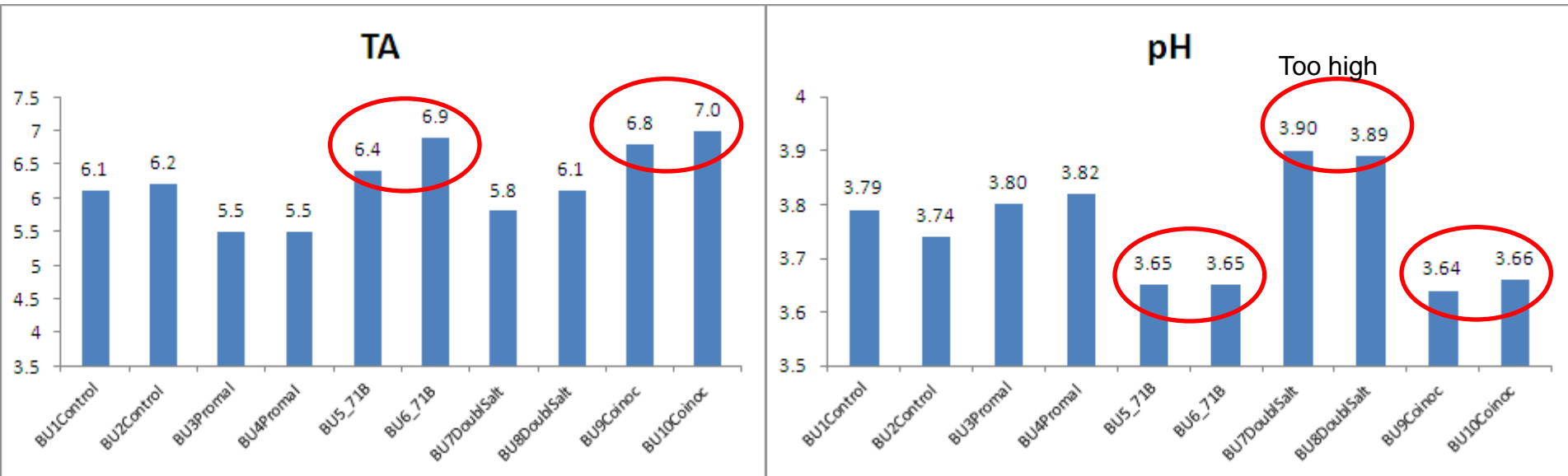
Double Salt samples - lower tartaric

Co-inoculation  
samples – Low Malic,  
High Lactic



End of F. A.

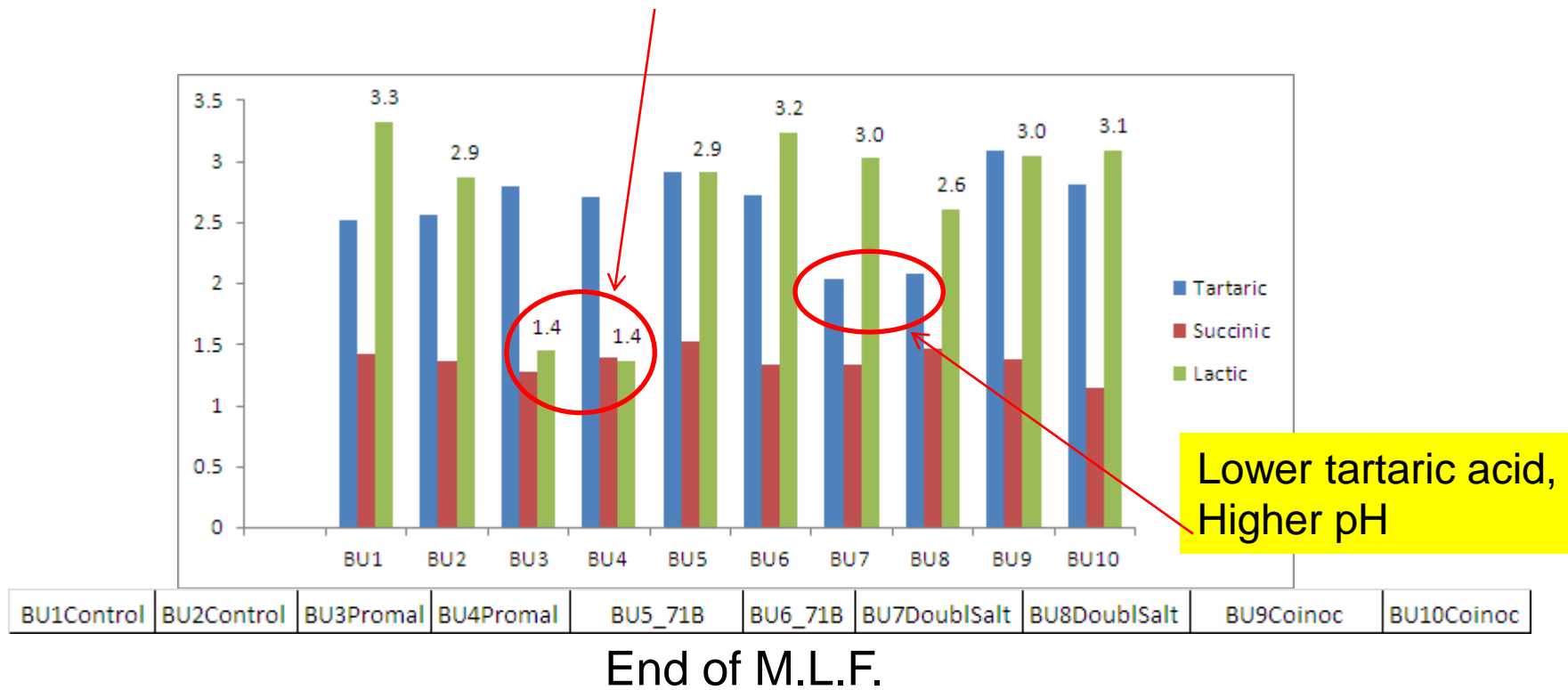
# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



End of M.L.F.

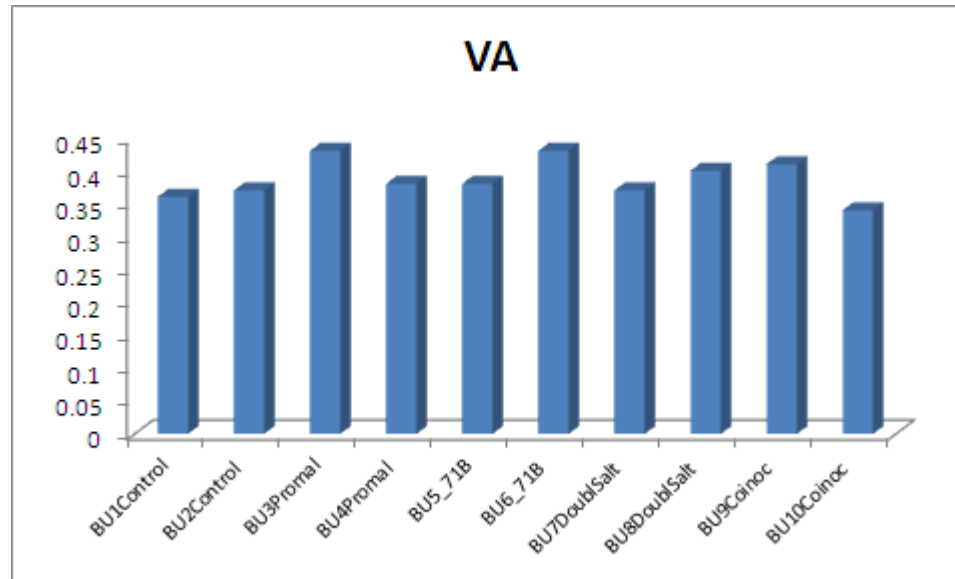
- The samples fermented with 71B and the co-inoculated ones present lower T.A. but adequate pH too !!!

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



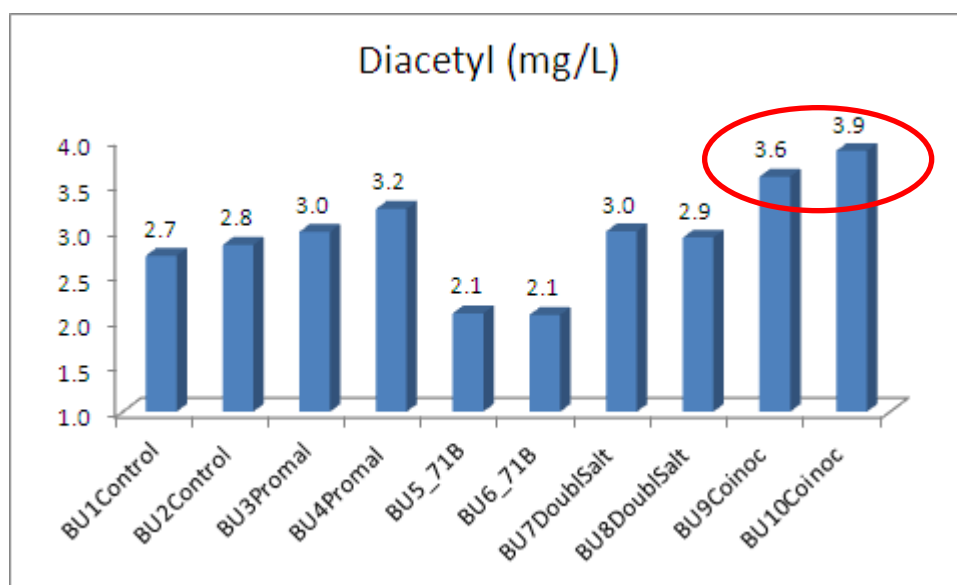
- The very low T.A. of the samples treated with Promalac is explained by the low levels of lactic acid in comparison to all the other samples

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



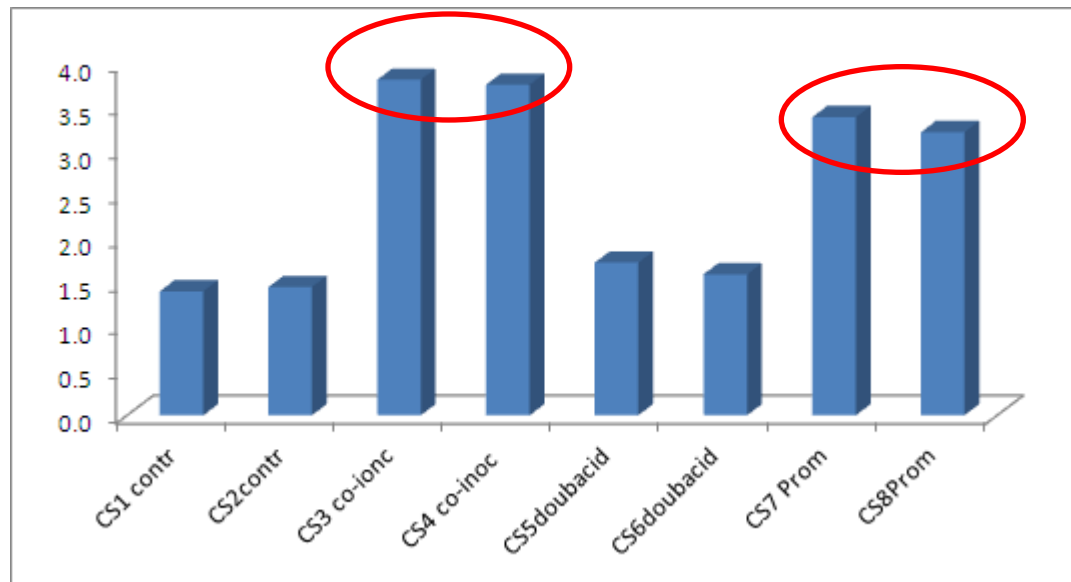
- Practically V.A. is the same between control and co-inoculation

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



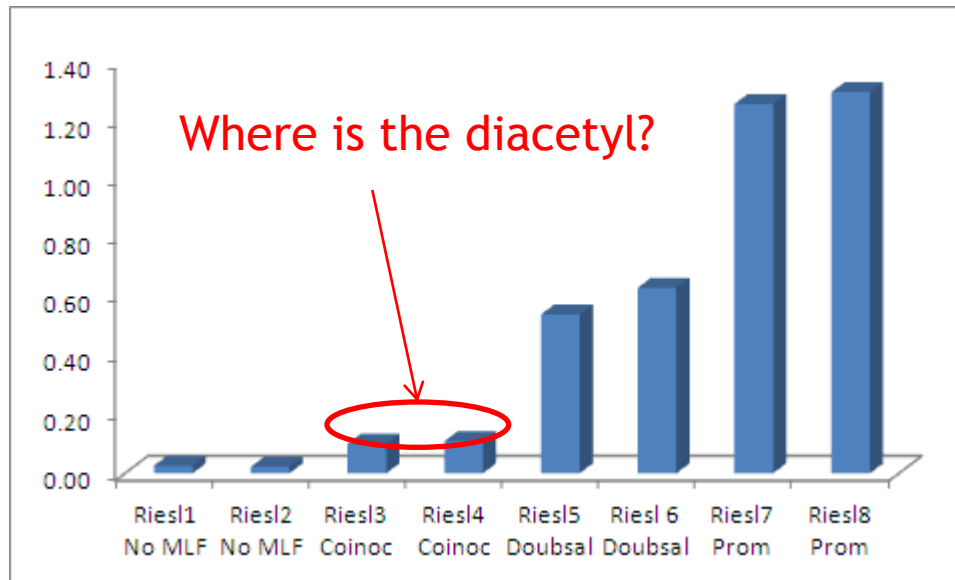


# Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 experiment



- Cabernet Sauvignon, initial pH 3.4

# Riesling2011 experiment



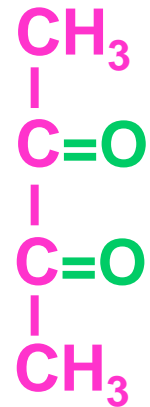
- Riesling, initial pH 2.8

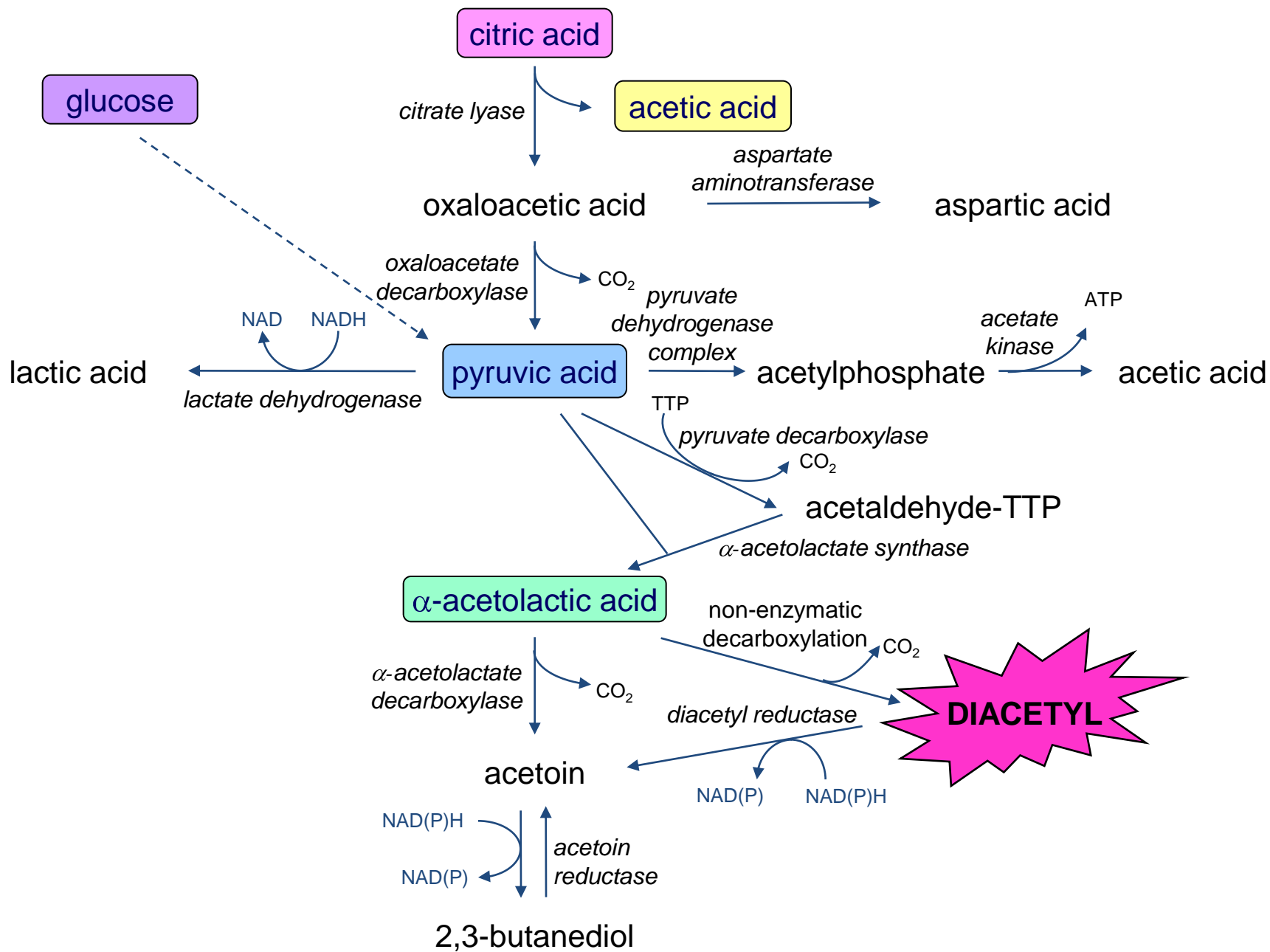
# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



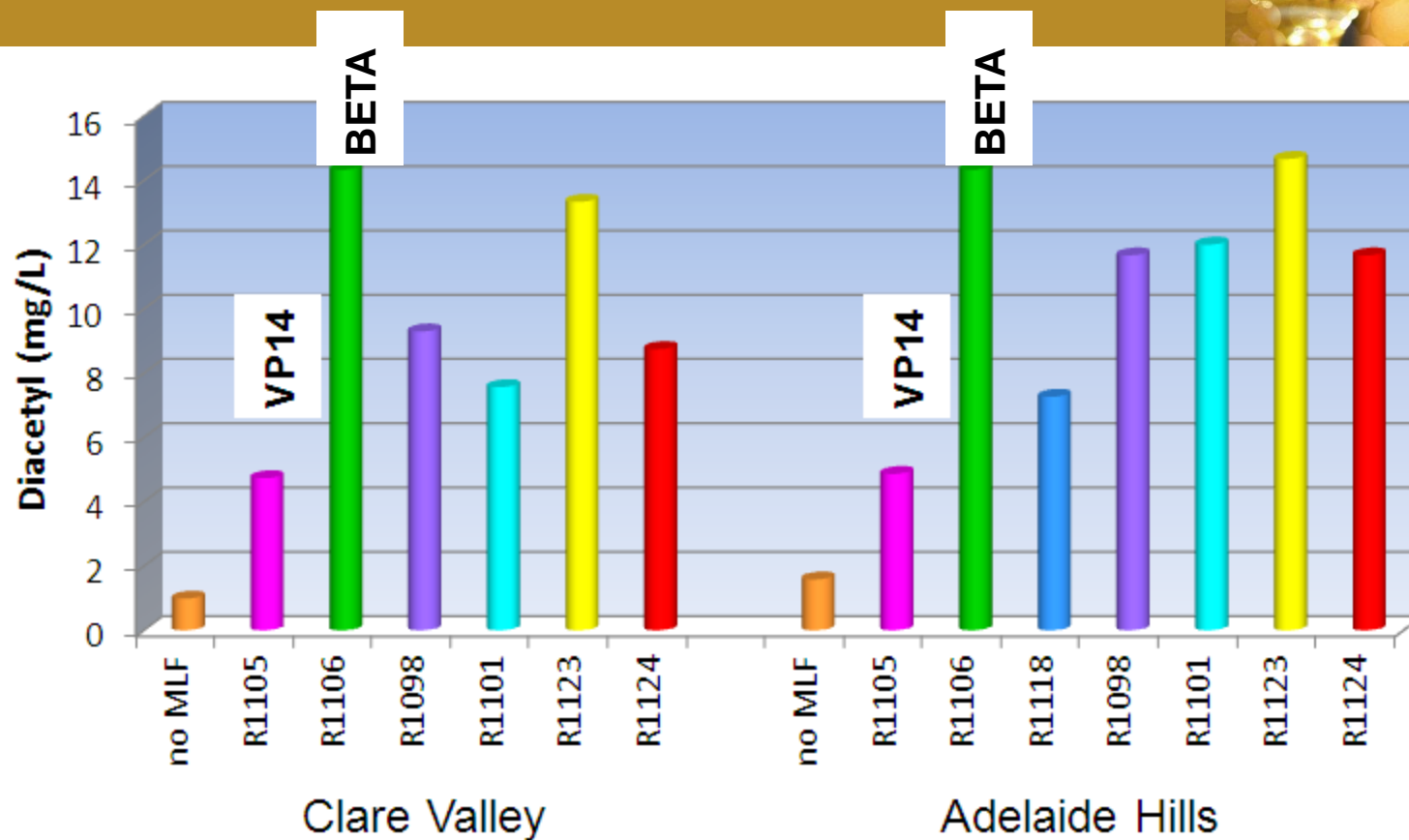
## *Diacetyl*

- *O. oeni* during MLF
- Derived from citric acid metabolism
- Aroma
  - buttery, nutty, butterscotch
- 1 - 4 mg/L = enhance flavour complexity
- > 5 - 7 mg/L = undesirable buttery aroma





# Bacco noir 2011 experiment

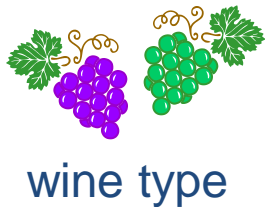


# Diacetyl - management during winemaking

Diacetyl conc<sup>n</sup>



variable



white - lower  
red - higher



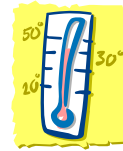
$10^4$  - higher

$10^6$  - lower



longer MLF - higher

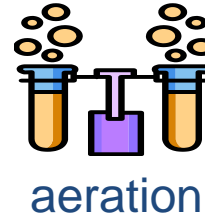
Diacetyl conc<sup>n</sup>



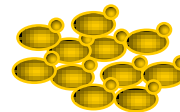
18°C - higher  
25°C - lower



binds to diacetyl  
- sensorially inactive



air - higher  
anaerobic - lower



long contact- lower



lower pH may favour

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment

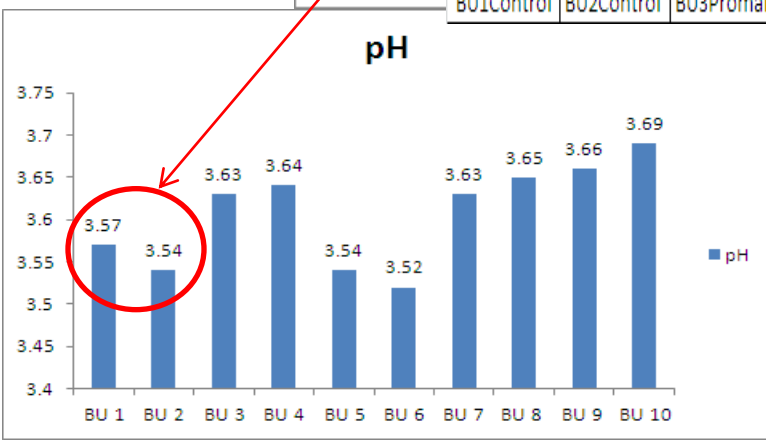
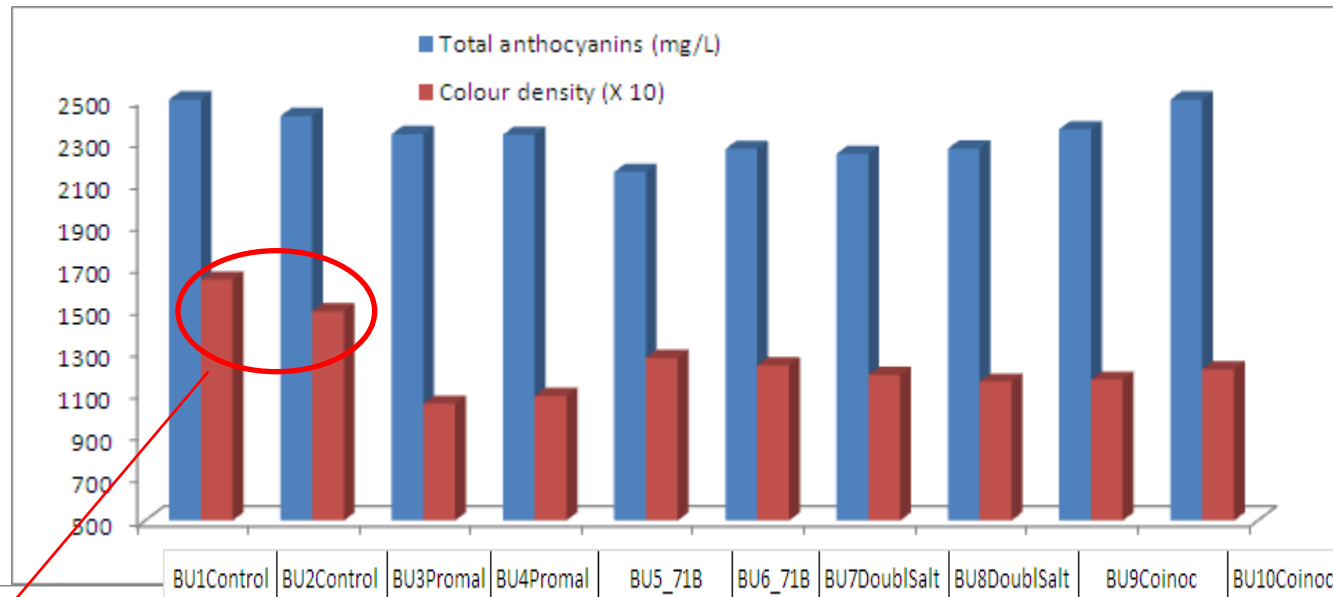


Does co-inoculation enhances diacetyl production and if yes what are the parameters ?

Could it be a method to adopt when not sufficient maturity in order to cover the ‘vegetal’ aromas?

Does the Promalic enhances diacetyl production ?

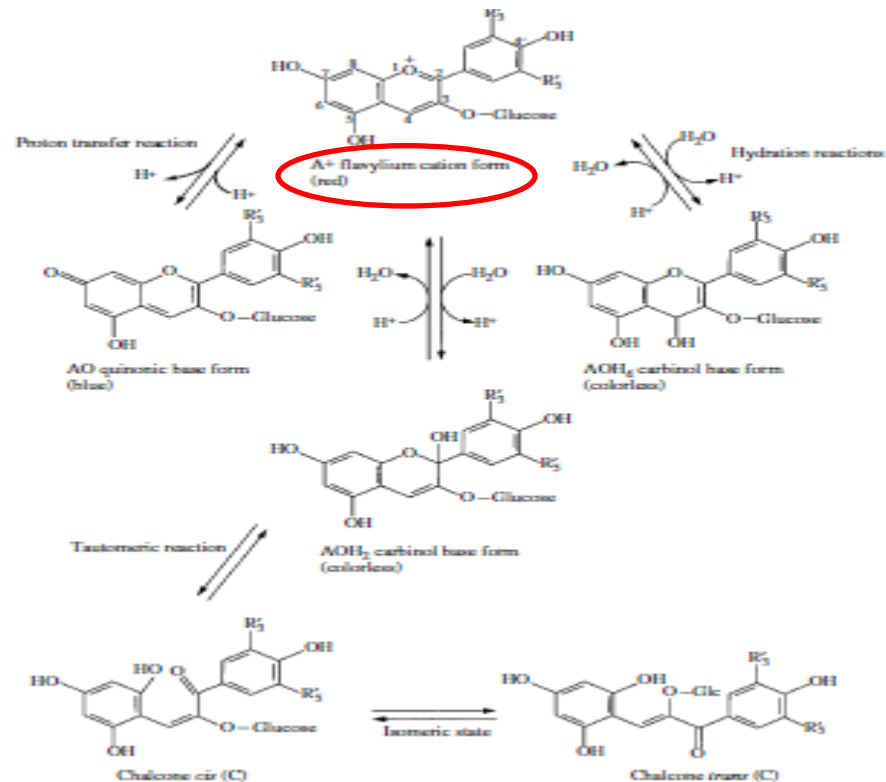
# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



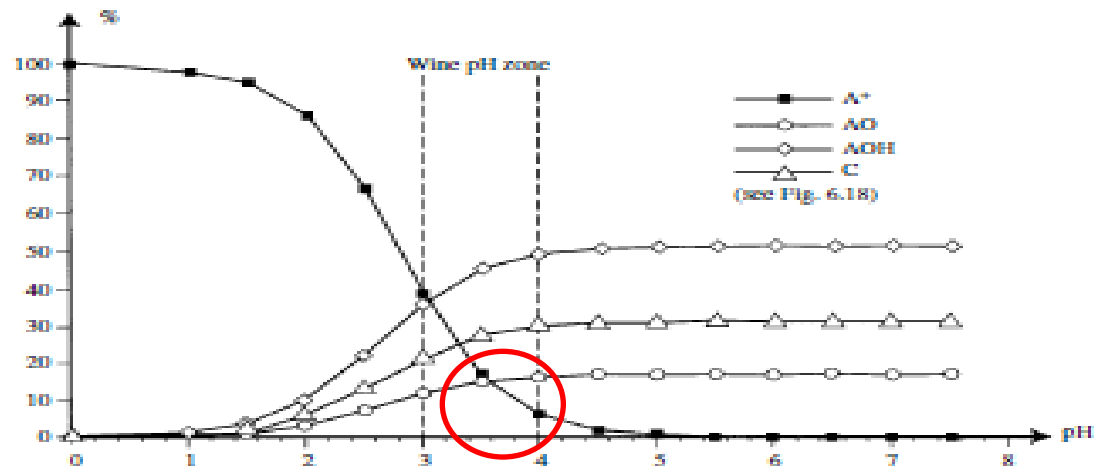
- BU1 and BU2 presented the lowest Ph at the end of F.A.
- Does that explains the higher colour densities?



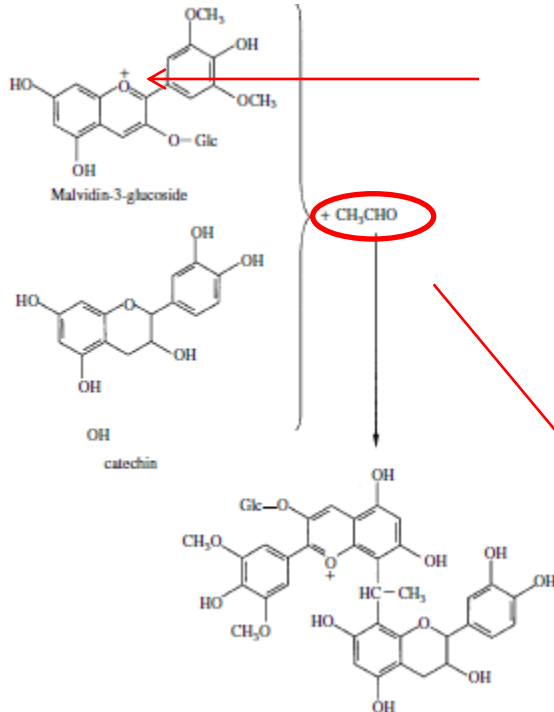
# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



# Bacco noir 2011 experiment



- Flavylium form is the most reactive with the tannins

- Better colour stability, higher colour density

?

# Bacco noir 2011 experiment

## Conclusions



- Using Biological deacidification could achieve lower T.A. while the pH remains adequate
- Co-inoculation seems to enhance diacetyl production depending on the pH
- Co-inoculation saves time (the wine turned biologically stable 21 days before)
- Co-inoculation does not enhance acetic acid production
- Promalic could be used to degrade malic acid to ethanol and thus lower significantly the T.A.
- More research is needed as also repetition of the experiments

# Measuring polyphenols on grapes 2011 experiment



Tannins and anthocyanin are responsible for positive tasting characteristics, but also for negative aspects too

Body, structure, roundness and on the other hand, bitterness, roughness, harshness, astringency

Overall organoleptic impression is based on a harmonious balance between these two types of sensations, related to

- the type
- concentration of tannins and anthos
- pH and T.A. levels
- As also on ethanol levels

# Measuring polyphenols on grapes 2011 experiment



One of their properties is to react with glycoproteins in saliva (mucine) and proteins in the mouth wall, modifying their condition and lubricant properties

A study of the reaction of the B3 procyanidins with synthetic, proline-rich proteins showed that three dimers were strongly bonded to the protein chains (Simon *et al.*, 2003)

# Measuring polyphenols on grapes 2011 experiment

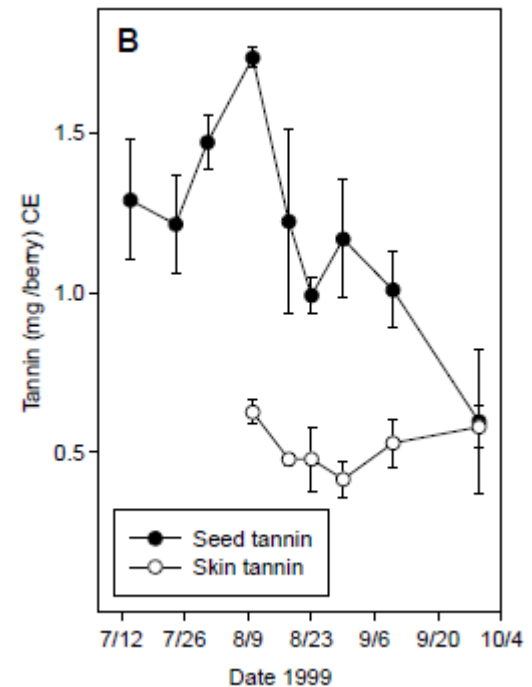
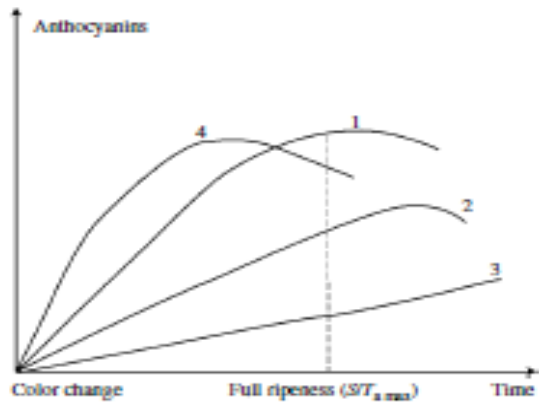


Mainly 2 factors affects the levels of anthos and tannins in red wines

Phenolic maturity

Maceration – extraction during winemaking

# Measuring polyphenols on grapes 2011 experiment



Anthos evolution during maturity  
In various vineyards of Merlot

Tannins evolution during  
maturity in Cabernet Sauvignon



# Measuring polyphenols on grapes 2011 experiment



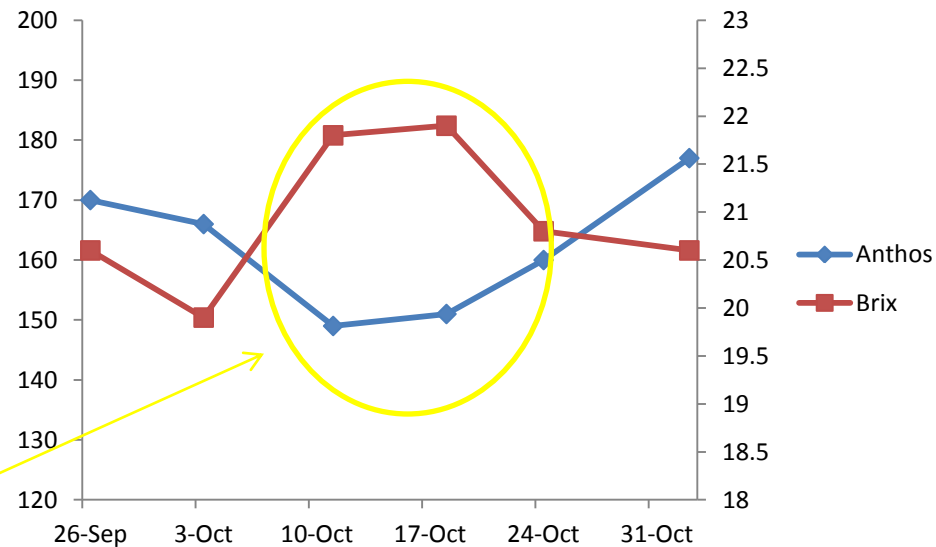
## CCOVI - Grape Pre-Harvest Sampling Data 2011

Site 1

Location : East of Canal

Soil : Sandy and loamy

Variety : Cabernet Sauvignon



Higher Brix levels

does not correspond to higher anthos levels

# Measuring polyphenols on grapes 2011 experiment



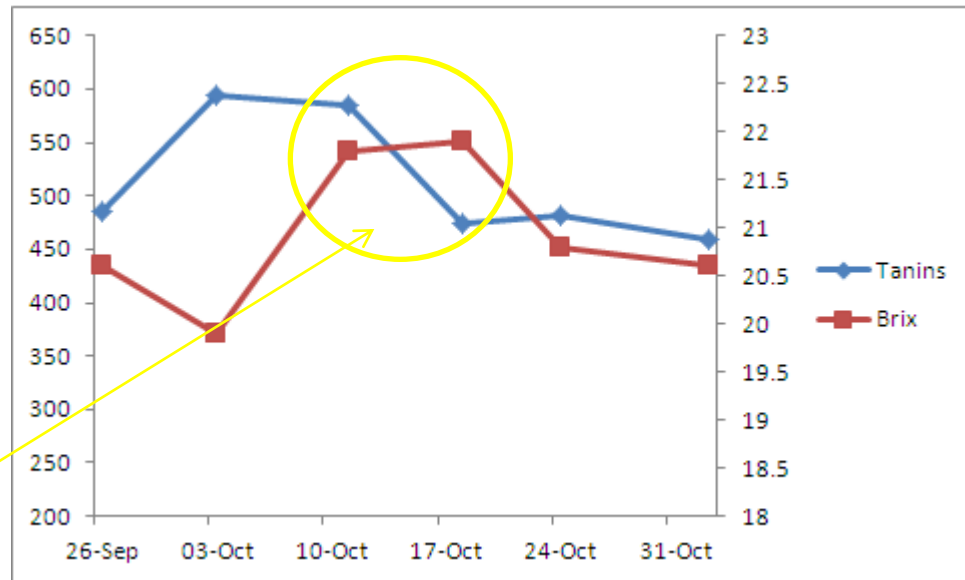
## CCOVI - Grape Pre-Harvest Sampling Data 2011

Site 1

Location : East of Canal

Soil : Sandy and loamy

Variety : Cabernet Sauvignon



Grapes start being ready for harvest

# Measuring polyphenols on grapes 2011 experiment



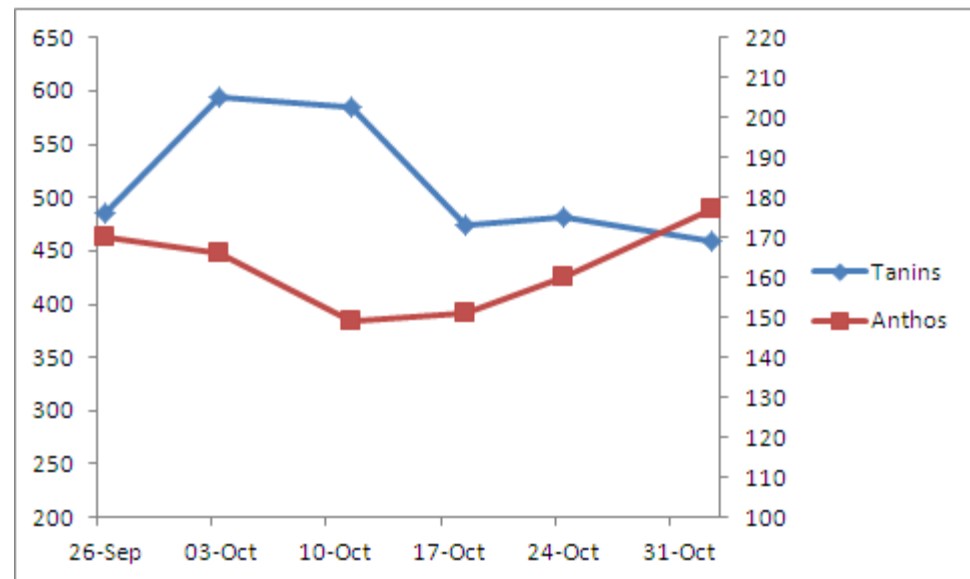
## CCOVI - Grape Pre-Harvest Sampling Data 2011

Site 1

Location : East of Canal

Soil : Sandy and loamy

Variety : Cabernet Sauvignon



# Conclusion



Wine balance is a very complicated task for the winemaker

Acquiring knowledge will improve Ontario wines

Further experimentation at CCOVI will be done for the biological deacidification methods

as also for the phenolic content of grapes and wines (phenolic maturity, winemaking at different maturity levels, study of various maceration methods

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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LALLEMAND

STRATUS

CAVE SPRINGS

CCOVI TEAM