



## Article

# Application of Cool Fermentation Temperatures to Encourage Non-*Saccharomyces* Yeasts to Yield Lower Ethanol Concentrations in Wines

Charles G. Edwards <sup>1,\*</sup> and Jesse J. Aplin <sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup> School of Food Science, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164, USA<sup>2</sup> United States Pharmacopeia, Rockville, MD 20852, USA

\* Correspondence: edwardsc@wsu.edu; Tel.: +1-(509)-335-6612

**Abstract:** Application of cool temperatures were studied to encourage *Metschnikowia pulcherrima* P01A016 and *Meyerozyma guilliermondii* P40D002 prior inoculation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* D254 to lower ultimate ethanol concentrations achieved. Merlot grape must was distributed into 300 L temperature-controlled tanks and inoculated with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts three days before *S. cerevisiae*. For control fermentations, *S. cerevisiae* was inoculated with maximum temperatures set to 25 °C (temperature regime I) while those with *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* were initially set to 15 °C (temperature regime II) or 17.5 °C (temperature regime III) before increasing to 25 °C after adding *S. cerevisiae*. Once fermentations achieved dryness ( $\leq 2$  g/L residual sugar), wines were bottled and stored for six months at 7 °C before sensory analysis. Ethanol reduction by *Mt. pulcherrima* was not observed in wines fermented under II but was by III (0.8% *v/v*). In contrast, musts inoculated with *My. guilliermondii* yielded wines with ethanol concentrations lowered by 0.3% (II) or 0.4% *v/v* (III). Sensory panelists found wines with *Mt. pulcherrima* to express lower sensory scores for ‘hotness’, ‘bitterness’, and ‘ethanol’ flavor with fewer differences noted for *My. guilliermondii*. Reducing final ethanol concentrations of Merlot wines were achieved by *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* using cooler initial fermentation temperatures without adversely affecting final wine quality.

**Keywords:** *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*; *Meyerozyma guilliermondii*; fermentation; ethanol



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## 1. Introduction

Depending on regional legal regulations, wine processing methods such as “saignée” and/or “water-back” may be used by the industry to dilute the concentrations of sugars in grape musts as a means to lower the amounts of ethanol ultimately produced fermentation. As an alternative to dilution, Gonzalez et al. [1] proposed the use of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts which partially consume fermentable sugars to metabolites other than ethanol before inoculation of *S. cerevisiae*. As noted by Skoniecznys et al. [2]), non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts like *Metschnikowia pulcherrima* tend to exhibit poor fermentation characteristics and musts are therefore sequentially inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* to complete fermentation. Using this approach, reported reductions in ethanol have ranged from 0.25% to 3.7% *v/v* depending on yeast species, conditions, and medium [3–13].

To date, much of the research involving non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts has utilized small-scale fermentations ( $\leq 5$  L) and/or synthetic grape juice media which are not always representative of larger, industrial ferments of grape musts [12,14–16]. For instance, oxygen availability becomes less with increases in fermentation volume [17], a factor which would affect the oxidative metabolisms associated with many non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts [4,7,18]. Furthermore, temperature gradients formed under the grape skin caps during larger fermentations [19] would also influence ethanol tolerances of these yeasts given sensitivities to temperature [20,21].

Many studies have focused on factors affecting survival of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts including lower temperatures than those used industrially to conduct fermentation [22–26]. However, few have investigated optimization of growth/metabolism under fermentative conditions. In one report, Maturano et al. [27] noted that of the factors studied, fermentation temperature and timing of inoculation had the largest impact on ethanol reduction of sterilized grape musts using *Hanseniaspora uvarum* and *Candida membranaefaciens* with *S. cerevisiae*. While Aplin et al. [13] utilized 300 L tanks to conduct fermentations of Merlot grape musts with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts, temperatures were initially at 20 °C yet uncontrolled during vinification. Furthermore, Aplin et al. [13] observed reductions in ethanol in those fermentations inoculated with *Mt. pulcherrima* but not *Meyerozyma guilliermondii*, another yeast with commercial potential [12,16]. Conducting grape fermentations at 20 °C, Aplin et al. [13] reported no adverse quality impacts of *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* on wine quality but also very few sensory differences. Likewise, García et al. [10] observed decreased ethanol concentrations in a Spanish white wine applying sequential inoculations of *My. guilliermondii* with *S. cerevisiae* although information regarding impacts on quality were lacking. In this study, the objective was to examine the impact of lower grape must temperatures on the abilities of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts (i.e., *Mt. pulcherrima* and *My. guilliermondii*) towards reducing final ethanol contents of Merlot wines without adversely affecting sensory quality. Here, pilot plant-scale tanks (300 L) will be utilized to produce the wines fermented under different temperature regimes prior to chemical and sensory analyses.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Yeast Strains and Starter Cultures

*Metschnikowia pulcherrima* P01A016 and *Meyerozyma guilliermondii* P40D002 were previously isolated from vineyards located at the Irrigated Research and Extension Center, Washington State University (Prosser, WA, USA) as described by Bourret et al. [28]. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* D254 was acquired from Lallemand Inc. (Montréal, QC, Canada). All yeasts were maintained on yeast peptone dextrose (YPD) agar plates incubated at 28 °C.

Starter cultures of non-*Saccharomyces* were prepared in YPD broth (initially 10 mL followed by transfers to 1 L) from single colonies grown on YPD agar. Upon reaching late exponential phase, cells were harvested by centrifugation at 3000× g for 15 min, washed twice with 0.2 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), and resuspended in Merlot grape must diluted 1:1 with sterile water prior to inoculation. Active dry cultures of *S. cerevisiae* were rehydrated as per manufacturer's instructions prior to inoculation.

### 2.2. Fermentations

Merlot grapes were obtained from a commercial vineyard located in south central Washington state in 2018. Vines were trained to a bilateral cordon system, spur pruned, irrigated using regulated deficit practices with 30 lbs of nitrogen per acre applied between bloom and veraison. After crushing/destemming harvested grapes, grape must (145 g/L glucose, 142 g/L fructose, pH 3.43, 2.59 g/L titratable acidity, and 61 mg N/L yeast assimilable nitrogen) was homogeneously distributed into 300 L stainless steel, jacketed fermentation tanks (120 kg/tank). Continuous temperature control and monitoring via probe was achieved using TankNET software (Acrolon Technologies, Inc., Sonoma, CA, USA). Enough potassium metabisulfite (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) was added to each fermenter to achieve 25 mg/L total SO<sub>2</sub>.

On day 0, either *S. cerevisiae* (control) or non-*Saccharomyces* (treatment) were inoculated into duplicate tanks. For control fermentations, *S. cerevisiae* was inoculated as previously described (yielding initial populations of approximately 10<sup>6</sup> to 10<sup>7</sup> cfu/mL) and lids were attached while maximum temperatures were set to 25 ± 1 °C (temperature regime I). For treatment fermentations, either *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* were added at approximately 10<sup>6</sup> cfu/mL and tank lids were not attached while maximum temperatures were set at either 15 ± 1 °C (temperature regime II) or 17.5 ± 1 °C (temperature regime III).

After three days, *S. cerevisiae* was inoculated as previously described, tanks were closed by reattaching the lids, and maximum temperatures raised to 25 °C. For all fermentations, cap management consisted of twice daily punch-downs and two additions of 0.25 g/L Fermaid-K (Lallemand), one 12 h after inoculation of *S. cerevisiae* and another on two days later.

At approximately 0° Brix, fermenting musts were pressed into 100 L stainless steel tanks and stored at ambient temperature (21° ± 2 °C). All wines underwent spontaneous malolactic fermentation prior to addition of potassium metabisulphite (30 mg/L total SO<sub>2</sub>) and storage at 9 °C. After adjustment to 0.4 mg/L molecular SO<sub>2</sub>, wines were sterile-filtered through 0.45 µm polyvinylidene fluoride cartridges (MilliporeSigma, Bellerica, MA, USA) housed in stainless-steel filter housings (Pall, Port Washington, NY, USA) into sterile 750 mL screw-capped bottles previously flushed with N<sub>2</sub> gas. After bottling, the wines were stored at 7 °C for six months prior to chemical and sensory analyses.

### 2.3. Analytical Analyses

Yeast culturabilities were monitored throughout fermentation and storage by spiral plating (Autoplate 4000, Spiral Biotech, Bethesda, MD, USA) using Wallenstein Laboratory agar (WL, Becton, Dickinson, and Company, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) for total yeast populations and lysine agar (Oxoid, Hampshire, England) for non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts. All plates were incubated for two to four days at 28 °C prior to counting. Populations of *S. cerevisiae* were estimated based on the difference between plate counts on those two media.

Glucose, fructose, ethanol, glycerol, and organic acids were quantified with an Agilent 1100 HPLC system (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) equipped with a refractive index detector according to Eyéghé-Bickong et al. [29] with some modifications. Samples were filtered through 0.45 µm polyethersulfone membranes (MilliporeSigma) into crimp-top vials prior to analysis. Separation was accomplished by an Aminex HPX-87H column (300 × 7.8 mm, BIO-RAD, Hercules, CA, USA) equilibrated to 60 °C using 0.005 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> as the mobile phase at 0.6 mL/min. During fermentation, soluble solids (° Brix) were measured with a portable density meter (DMA35, Anton-Paar, Graz, Austria).

### 2.4. Sensory Analyses

To determine if there were perceivable differences between the treatment tank replicates (2), a difference from control test was completed. Experienced panelists (n = 8) were recruited to evaluate the samples and wines from replicate tanks showing no differences were pooled. To reduce fatigue, panelists were provided with water and unsalted crackers and were required to wait 2 min between samples.

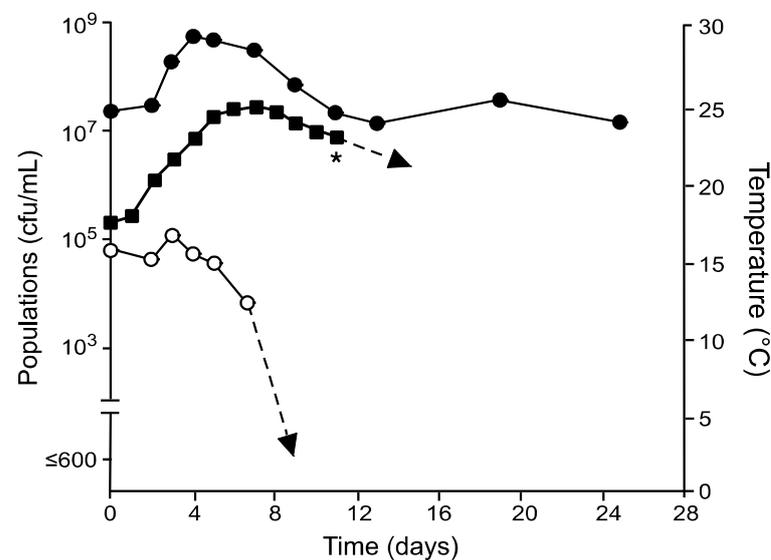
Sensory analysis wines was conducted after six months of storage in bottles at 7 °C. Wines were then evaluated by a trained panel consisting of students and staff (n = 10, 5 females, 5 males, aged 22 to 36 with a mean of 29) recruited from Washington State University. Panelists received 12 h of training across six weeks using feedback calibration through Compusense Cloud 8.8 sensory acquisition software (Compusense, Guelph, Ontario, Canada). During the first training session, panelists were instructed to remove the lid from the wine glass and preform three short, sharp sniffs, allowing 30 s to pass in between evaluations. For tasting, panelists were instructed to take the sample into the mouth, swish for 10 to 15 s, expectorate, wait for 30 s, then start evaluating, reporting the highest intensity for each attribute experienced. Samples (40 mL) were presented to panelists in three-digit coded ISO standard, covered wine glasses (in triplicate) at room temperature in individual tasting booths under white light at the Washington State University Sensory Evaluation Facility. Responses were collected using a 15 cm, unstructured line scale with anchor points 'low' (10% of the scale) and 'high' (90% of the scale) using Compusense software.

### 2.5. Statistical Analyses

Statistical analyses for chemical analysis were performed by ANOVA while mean separations were accomplished by Fisher's least significant difference (LSD) using XLSTAT (Addinsoft, New York, NY, USA). For sensory data, three-way ANOVA was used to analyze panelist, treatment, and replicate interactions while means were separated using Fisher's LSD. Differences were considered significant when  $p < 0.05$ . Principal component analysis (PCA) of covariance for panel data was performed using XLSTAT.

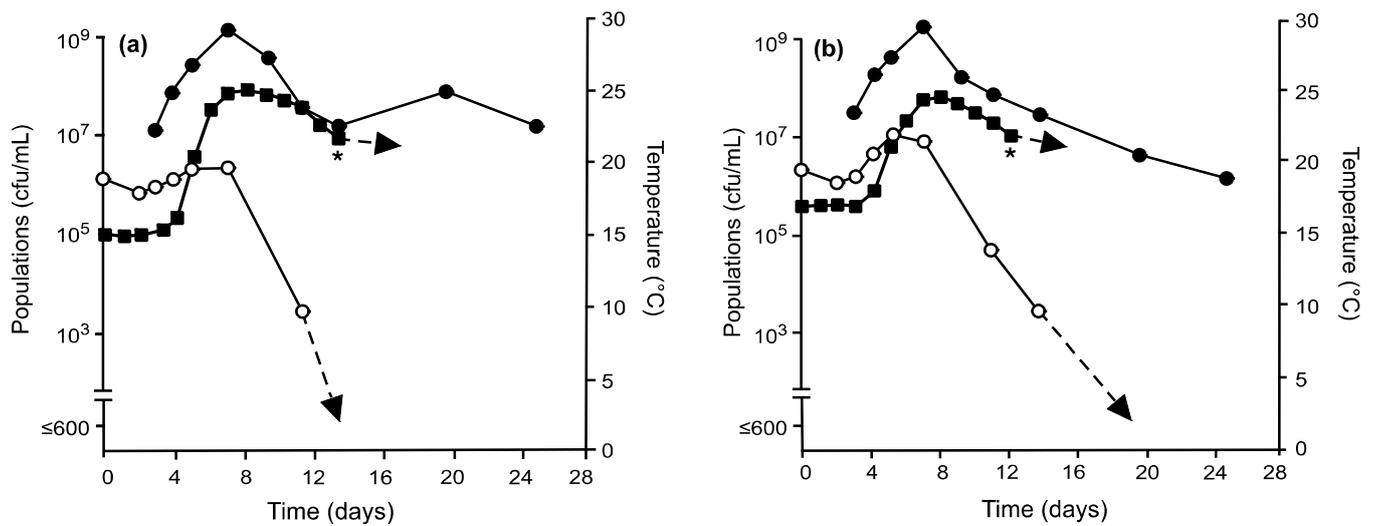
### 3. Results

For control fermentations with only *S. cerevisiae* inoculated (Figure 1), populations were approximately one log higher than expected but peaked close to  $10^9$  cfu/mL by day 4 before entering a slow decline. In fact, viability of *S. cerevisiae* never decreased to  $<10^7$  over 24 days. Must temperatures steadily increased from approximately 18 °C up to the maximum set temperature of 25 °C before slowly declining to 23 °C. As must temperatures initially increased, viabilities of indigenous non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts also declined from  $10^5$  cfu/mL to undetectable levels by day 8.

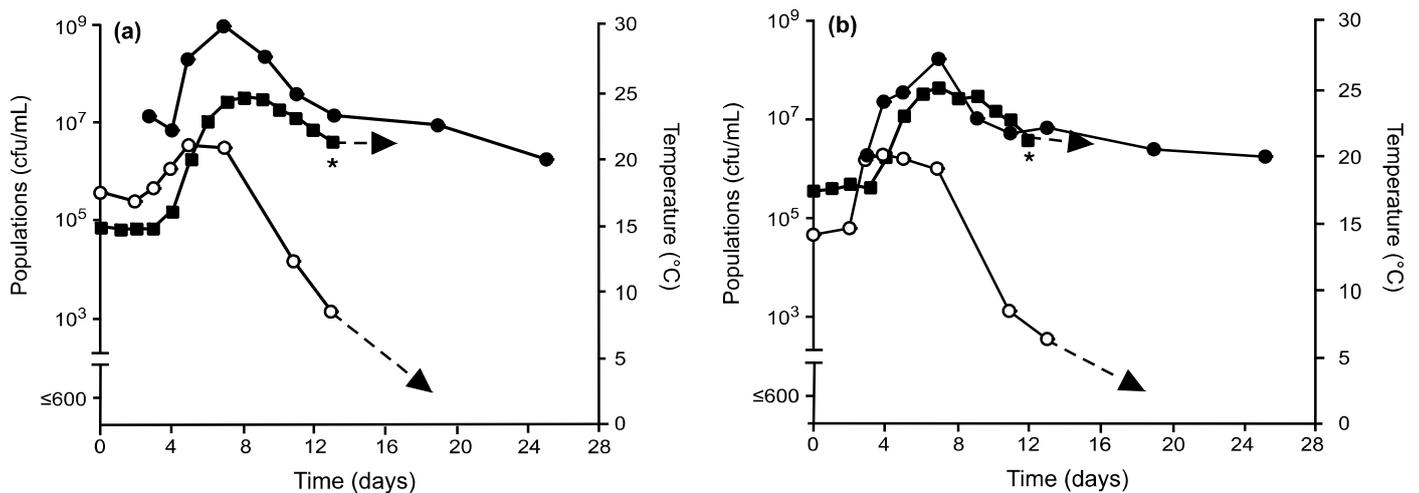


**Figure 1.** Culturable populations of *S. cerevisiae* (●), total non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts (○), and temperatures (■) in grape musts inoculated on day 0 with *S. cerevisiae* following fermentation temperature regime I. \* Denotes time when the wine was pressed (approximately 0° Brix) prior to storage at 21 °C.

Lowering initial fermentation temperatures greatly affected short- and long-term survival of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts. In general, temperatures maintained at 15 °C or 17.5 °C for the first three days of fermentation resulted in increases of total non-*Saccharomyces* yeast populations (Figures 2 and 3). Those inoculated with *Mt. pulcherrima* and conducted under temperature regime II maintained total populations of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts  $\approx 10^6$  cfu/mL (Figure 2a). Raising initial fermentation temperatures to 17.5 °C (temperature regime III) resulted in a high number of cells ( $10^7$  cfu/mL) with populations still detected by day 13 after the peak temperature of 25 °C had been reached (Figure 2b). Under the same conditions, *My. guilliermondii* behaved differently by exhibiting a slightly longer lag phase under temperature regime II (Figure 3a) than under III (Figure 3b) but still displayed increases in total populations of approximately one log. Like fermentations inoculated with *Mt. pulcherrima*, total non-*Saccharomyces* populations remained detectable longer than control fermentations (Figure 1), up to day 13. The presence of *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* did not affect the growth of *S. cerevisiae* where viabilities all reached  $10^8$  to  $10^9$  cfu/mL.



**Figure 2.** Culturable populations of *S. cerevisiae* (●), total non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts (○), and fermentation temperatures (■) in grape musts inoculated on day 0 with *Mt. pulcherrima* prior to inoculation with *S. cerevisiae* on day 3 and following fermentation temperature regime II (a) or III (b). \* Denotes time when the wine was pressed (approximately 0° Brix) prior to storage at 21 °C.



**Figure 3.** Culturable populations of *S. cerevisiae* (●), total non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts (○), and temperatures (■) in grape musts inoculated on day 0 with *My. guilliermondii* prior to inoculation with *S. cerevisiae* on day 3 and following fermentation temperature regime II (a) or III (b). \* Denotes time when the wine was pressed (approximately 0° Brix) prior to storage at 21 °C.

While initial sugar utilization was more rapid for those fermentations inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* alone, non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts still displayed sugar depletion during the first 3 days of fermentation (data not shown). As evidence, *S. cerevisiae* consumed 70 g/L glucose/fructose by day 3, while fermentations inoculated with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts on day 0 displayed glucose/fructose depletion between 6 to 36 g/L. However, despite the three-day delay in inoculation of *S. cerevisiae* in fermentations inoculated with non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts, all fermentations were depleted of glucose and fructose by day 25 (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Composition of finished wines fermented by *S. cerevisiae* alone (fermentation temperature regime I) or with selected non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts prior to inoculation of *S. cerevisiae* on day 3 (fermentation temperature regimes II or III).

Yeast Strain (Temperature Regime)	Glu + Fru (g/L)	Ethanol (% v/v)	Glycerol (g/L)	Succinic Acid (g/L)	Acetic Acid (g/L)
<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (I)	nd	15.0 <sup>a</sup>	9.96 <sup>a</sup>	2.19 <sup>a</sup>	0.704 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Mt. pulcherrima</i> (II)	nd	14.8 <sup>ab</sup>	9.41 <sup>bc</sup>	1.89 <sup>c</sup>	0.569 <sup>ab</sup>
<i>Mt. pulcherrima</i> (III)	nd	14.2 <sup>c</sup>	9.27 <sup>c</sup>	1.99 <sup>b</sup>	0.526 <sup>b</sup>
<i>My. guilliermondii</i> (II)	nd	14.7 <sup>b</sup>	9.34 <sup>bc</sup>	2.01 <sup>b</sup>	0.486 <sup>b</sup>
<i>My. guilliermondii</i> (III)	nd	14.6 <sup>b</sup>	9.52 <sup>b</sup>	2.02 <sup>b</sup>	0.483 <sup>b</sup>

nd: not detected (below limit of detection <0.07 g/L). <sup>a-c</sup> Mean values within columns with different superscripts are significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Besides sugars, the presence of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts affected production of other yeast metabolites (Table 1). Most wines inoculated with the non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts contained lower amounts of ethanol compared to those with only *S. cerevisiae*. While wines inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* alone displayed the highest ethanol concentrations (15% v/v), wines inoculated with *Mt. pulcherrima* following temperature regime II achieved concentrations lower by approximately 0.8% v/v. Reductions were also observed in fermentations inoculated with *My. guilliermondii* following temperature regimes II (0.3% v/v) or III (0.4% v/v). Differences in ethanol can be attributed to both yeast species and fermentation temperature with significant interactive effects (Table 2). Besides ethanol, differences were also noted for glycerol, succinic acid, and acetic acid (Table 1). For instance, all wines inoculated with non-*Saccharomyces* contained less amounts of glycerol and succinic acid than wines inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* alone. Additionally, all wines except those inoculated with *Mt. pulcherrima* following temperature regime II, contained less acetic acid than those inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* alone. Most differences were attributed to yeast species rather than fermentation temperature, but interactive affects were observed for glycerol (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Significance and F ratios from analysis of variance of chemical composition of Merlot wines inoculated with or without non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts followed by *S. cerevisiae*.

Compound	Source of Variation (Degrees Freedom)			
	Yeast (2)	Temperature (1)	Replicate (1)	Yeast * Temperature (1)
Ethanol	10.6 ***	19.1 ***	0.01	12.0 **
Glycerol	31.3 ***	0.05	0.00	5.78 *
Succinic acid	21.1 ***	3.48	8.51 **	1.72
Acetic acid	4.50 *	0.16	0.07	1.25

Significance denoted as \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .

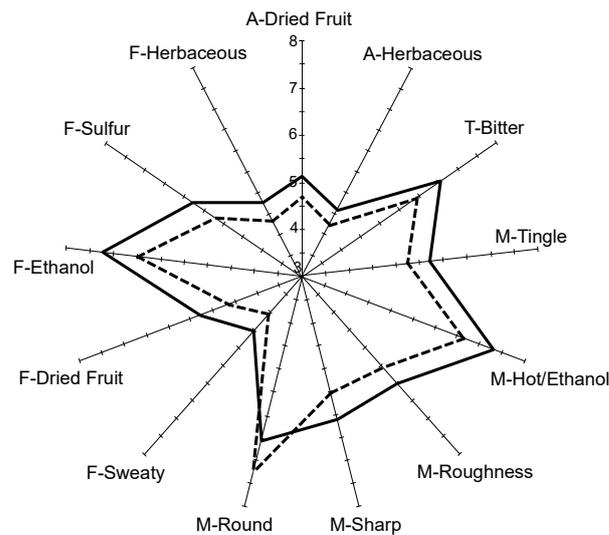
Initial evaluation by experienced panelists ( $n = 8$ ) had revealed no significant sensory differences between replicate fermentation tanks of inoculated with *Mt. pulcherrima* which allowed these wines to be pooled. Subsequent descriptive analysis of wines by the trained panel ( $n = 10$ ) revealed significant differences between 26 of the 44 sensory attributes evaluated (Table 3). No significant differences were noted between wines produced with *Mt. pulcherrima* under temperature regime II compared to those inoculated only with *S. cerevisiae*. However, wines with the largest ethanol reduction (*Mt. pulcherrima* under temperature regime III) were rated significantly lower in undesirable aroma ('herbaceous'), taste ('bitter'), flavor ('sweaty', 'ethanol', 'sulfur', and 'herbaceous') and mouthfeel ('hot/ethanol' and 'roughness') while higher in desirable attributes ('round') compared to those wines inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* alone. These wines were also rated lower for other aroma ('dried fruit'), mouthfeel ('tingle' and 'sharp'), flavor ('dried fruit') as illustrated in Figure 4.

**Table 3.** Mean scores for sensory attributes of wines inoculated without or with different non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts following fermentation temperature regimes I, II, or III.

Attribute	Treatment					
	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> (I)	<i>My. guilliermondii</i> (IIa) *	<i>My. guilliermondii</i> (IIb) *	<i>My. guilliermondii</i> (III)	<i>Mt. pulcherrima</i> (II)	<i>Mt. pulcherrima</i> (III)
<b>Aroma</b>						
'Fruity'	5.6 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.8 <sup>a</sup>	5.9 <sup>a</sup>
'Floral'	5.2 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>a</sup>	5.4 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>a</sup>
'Berry'	5.4 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.4 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.3 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>a</sup>
'Chocolate'	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.9 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>a</sup>	3.9 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.9 <sup>a</sup>
'Sweaty'	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>	4.1 <sup>a</sup>
'Dried Fruit'	5.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.9 <sup>ab</sup>	5.1 <sup>ab</sup>	5.1 <sup>a</sup>	5.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.7 <sup>b</sup>
'Ethanol'	6.9 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 <sup>a</sup>	6.9 <sup>a</sup>	6.9 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 <sup>a</sup>	6.6 <sup>a</sup>
'Sulfur'	5.6 <sup>ab</sup>	5.8 <sup>a</sup>	5.4 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>ab</sup>	5.6 <sup>ab</sup>	5.3 <sup>b</sup>
'Solvent'	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.8 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>
'Buttery'	4.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>a</sup>	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>a</sup>
'Woody'	4.7 <sup>ab</sup>	4.4 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.7 <sup>a</sup>	4.3 <sup>b</sup>
'Animal'	4.4 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.3 <sup>a</sup>	4.3 <sup>a</sup>	4.2 <sup>a</sup>
'Herbaceous'	4.6 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>ab</sup>	4.3 <sup>ab</sup>	4.4 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.2 <sup>b</sup>
'Spicy'	3.9 <sup>b</sup>	3.7 <sup>b</sup>	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>b</sup>	3.8 <sup>b</sup>	3.7 <sup>b</sup>
'Yeasty'	4.6 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.3 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Taste</b>						
'Sweet'	6.2 <sup>ab</sup>	6.0 <sup>abc</sup>	5.9 <sup>bc</sup>	6.0 <sup>abc</sup>	5.8 <sup>c</sup>	6.3 <sup>a</sup>
'Bitter'	6.6 <sup>a</sup>	6.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 <sup>ab</sup>	5.9 <sup>b</sup>
'Sour'	6.8 <sup>abc</sup>	6.9 <sup>ab</sup>	7.1 <sup>a</sup>	7.0 <sup>ab</sup>	6.7 <sup>bc</sup>	6.4 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Flavor</b>						
'Fruity'	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>a</sup>
'Floral'	5.3 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.3 <sup>a</sup>	5.3 <sup>a</sup>
'Berry'	5.2 <sup>ab</sup>	5.1 <sup>b</sup>	5.4 <sup>ab</sup>	5.5 <sup>a</sup>	5.2 <sup>ab</sup>	5.1 <sup>b</sup>
'Chocolate'	3.7 <sup>a</sup>	3.6 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.7 <sup>a</sup>	3.7 <sup>a</sup>
'Sweaty'	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>ab</sup>	4.3 <sup>ab</sup>	4.3 <sup>ab</sup>	4.2 <sup>ab</sup>	4.1 <sup>b</sup>
'Dried Fruit'	5.3 <sup>a</sup>	4.8 <sup>bc</sup>	5.9 <sup>abc</sup>	5.1 <sup>ab</sup>	5.0 <sup>abc</sup>	4.7 <sup>c</sup>
'Ethanol'	7.2 <sup>a</sup>	7.1 <sup>a</sup>	7.2 <sup>a</sup>	7.0 <sup>a</sup>	7.2 <sup>a</sup>	6.5 <sup>b</sup>
'Sulfur'	5.8 <sup>a</sup>	5.8 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>ab</sup>	5.2 <sup>b</sup>
'Solvent'	6.0 <sup>ab</sup>	6.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.1 <sup>a</sup>	5.9 <sup>ab</sup>	5.6 <sup>b</sup>
'Buttery'	4.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>a</sup>	4.1 <sup>a</sup>	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>a</sup>
'Woody'	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>
'Animal'	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.7 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.6 <sup>ab</sup>	4.4 <sup>ab</sup>	4.2 <sup>b</sup>
'Herbaceous'	4.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.6 <sup>ab</sup>	4.8 <sup>a</sup>	4.6 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5 <sup>ab</sup>	4.3 <sup>b</sup>
'Spicy'	3.9 <sup>a</sup>	4.0 <sup>a</sup>	4.1 <sup>a</sup>	3.9 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>	3.8 <sup>a</sup>
'Yeasty'	4.7 <sup>a</sup>	4.6 <sup>a</sup>	4.7 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.5 <sup>a</sup>	4.4 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Mouthfeel</b>						
'Tingle'	5.7 <sup>a</sup>	5.5 <sup>ab</sup>	5.8 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>ab</sup>	5.5 <sup>ab</sup>	5.2 <sup>b</sup>
'Viscosity'	6.7 <sup>a</sup>	6.8 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 <sup>a</sup>	6.6 <sup>a</sup>	6.8 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 <sup>a</sup>
'Weight'	6.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.3 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 <sup>a</sup>	6.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.3 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 <sup>a</sup>
'Hot/Ethanol'	7.3 <sup>ab</sup>	7.3 <sup>ab</sup>	7.5 <sup>a</sup>	7.3 <sup>ab</sup>	7.0 <sup>bc</sup>	6.7 <sup>c</sup>
'Roughness'	6.0 <sup>ab</sup>	5.9 <sup>bc</sup>	6.3 <sup>a</sup>	5.8 <sup>bc</sup>	6.0 <sup>ab</sup>	5.6 <sup>c</sup>
'Astringent'	6.8 <sup>ab</sup>	6.8 <sup>ab</sup>	7.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.8 <sup>ab</sup>	6.6 <sup>b</sup>	6.5 <sup>b</sup>
'Drying'	6.3 <sup>ab</sup>	6.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.6 <sup>a</sup>	6.1 <sup>b</sup>	6.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.0 <sup>b</sup>
'Puckering'	6.0 <sup>bc</sup>	6.0 <sup>bc</sup>	6.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.1 <sup>bc</sup>	5.8 <sup>c</sup>
'Sharp'	6.1 <sup>ab</sup>	6.0 <sup>b</sup>	6.4 <sup>a</sup>	6.0 <sup>b</sup>	6.0 <sup>bc</sup>	5.5 <sup>c</sup>
'Mouthcoat'	6.0 <sup>b</sup>	6.1 <sup>ab</sup>	6.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 <sup>ab</sup>	6.3 <sup>ab</sup>	6.0 <sup>b</sup>
'Round'	6.6 <sup>b</sup>	6.9 <sup>ab</sup>	6.7 <sup>b</sup>	6.8 <sup>ab</sup>	7.0 <sup>ab</sup>	7.3 <sup>a</sup>

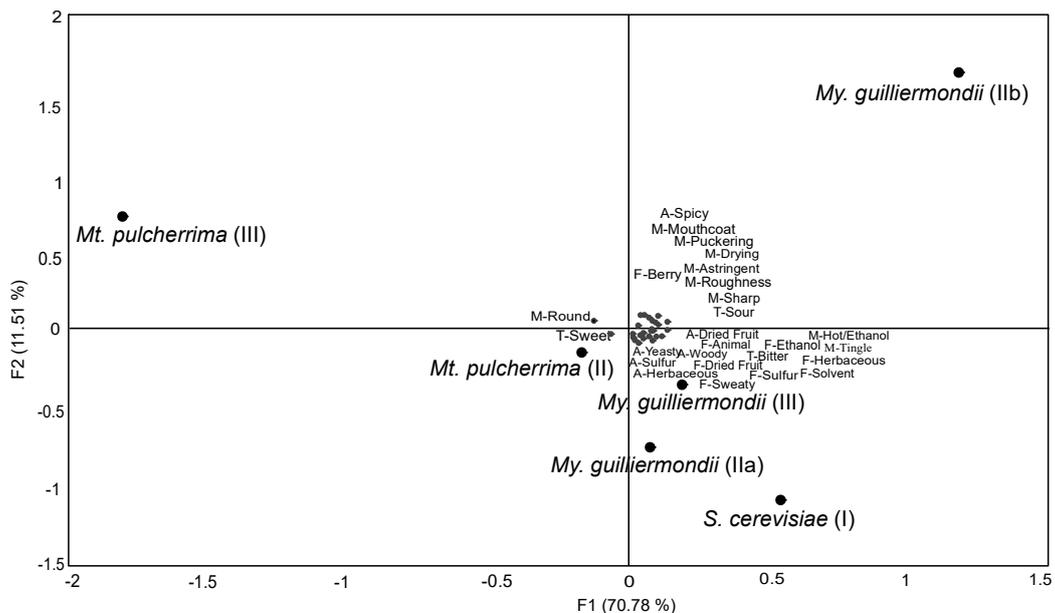
<sup>a-c</sup> Means within a row with different superscripts are significant at  $p < 0.05$ . \* Replicate tanks of temperature regime II could not be pooled.

Unlike fermentation with *Mt. pulcherrima*, replicate tanks of wines inoculated with *My. guilliermondii* following temperature regime II were noted to be significantly different by the experienced panel. As sensory differences appeared to exist between tank replicates, these wines were evaluated by the trained panel separately (Table 3). In fact, the tank replicates differed in aroma ('spicy') but primarily mouthfeel ('roughness', 'drying', 'puckering', and 'sharp') with one replicate tank possessing attributes not different from wines inoculated with only *S. cerevisiae*.



**Figure 4.** Spider chart of mean values of sensory attributes found to be significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) by trained panel ( $n = 10$ ) between wines produced with *S. cerevisiae* alone under fermentation temperature regime I (solid line) or with sequential inoculation of *Mt. pulcherrima*/*S. cerevisiae* under fermentation temperature regime III (dashed line). ‘A’ denotes aroma attribute, ‘T’ denotes taste attribute, ‘M’ denotes mouthfeel attribute, and ‘F’ denotes flavor attribute.

To better visualize differences, principal component analysis (PCA) was performed including only significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) sensory attributes as illustrated in Figure 5. Here, principal component 1 (F1) explained 70.78% of the variance between wines while principal component 2 (F2) explained 11.51%. Wines inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* alone (temperature regime I) or with *My. guilliermondii* (temperature regimes IIa and III) were described by having similar attributes of ‘solvent’, ‘herbaceous’, ‘sweaty’, ‘dried fruit’, and ‘ethanol’ but differed from *My. guilliermondii* (IIb). Wines inoculated with *Mt. pulcherrima* (temperature regime III) varied the most from the other wines produced.



**Figure 5.** Principal component analysis of sensory attributes found to be significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) by trained panel ( $n = 10$ ) between wines produced with *S. cerevisiae* alone (fermentation temperature regime I) or with sequential inoculation of *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* followed by *S. cerevisiae* (fermentation temperature regimes II or III).

#### 4. Discussion

Cooler initial temperatures of grape musts affected subsequent growth and survival of both uninoculated (indigenous) and inoculated non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts during vinification. Musts with added *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* had higher total populations of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts than those ferments containing only unidentified indigenous species. As evidence, viability of total non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts in musts with *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* peaked between  $10^6$  and  $10^7$  cfu/mL and remained detectable for 12 to 13 days in musts following temperature regimes II or III. In comparison, indigenous non-*Saccharomyces* populations in musts maintained under temperature regime I steadily declined to undetectable levels.

Non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts are generally thought to remain viable longer at temperatures lower than 25 °C but above 10 °C compared to *S. cerevisiae* [20,30]. As evidence, Zott et al. [23] reported better growth of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts during cold maceration of musts at 15 °C compared to maceration at either 4 °C or 10 °C. Better growth at lower temperatures may be due to improved ethanol tolerances [31] as illustrated by *Kloeckera apiculata* (*Hanseniaspora woarum*) and *Candida stellata* which exhibit increased ethanol tolerances at temperatures of 10 °C to 15 °C [20,21].

In addition to temperature, oxygen availability affects the metabolism of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts. In the present study, tank lids were applied to fermentations three days after inoculation of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts following the suggestions of Morales et al. [4]. Here, the authors recommended that fermentation under somewhat aerobic conditions during the first 48 h would encourage growth and survivability of *Mt. pulcherrima* yet limit production of acetic acid. In agreement, Aplin and Edwards [12] reported elevated concentrations of acetic acid formed under aerobic conditions by a number of non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts (e.g., *C. californica*, *C. oleophila*, *C. railenensis*, *C. saitoana*, *Hanseniaspora woarum*, *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Metschnikowia chrysoperlae*, *Mt. pulcherrima*, *Meyerozyma caribbica*, *My. guilliermondii*, *Pichia fermentans*, *P. kluyveri*, *P. membranifaciens*, *Wickerhamomyces anomalus*, and *Yamadazyma mexicana*) compared to non-aerated fermentations of a high sugar grape must (310 g fermentable sugar/L).

Though a significant difference was not observed between ethanol concentrations of wines fermented without *Mt. pulcherrima* (control) or with the yeast under temperature regime II, a reduction of 0.8% v/v was noted under temperature regime III. This finding suggested that more sugar was metabolized to by-products other than ethanol by this yeast at 17.5 °C compared to 15 °C, in agreement with previous reports regarding increased sugar metabolism with increasing temperatures [26,32–34]. However, García et al. [10] noted that not all strains of *Mt. pulcherrima* behave similarly where only two of six strains tested yielded wines with lower concentrations of ethanol than those produced by *S. cerevisiae* alone, in agreement with Contreras et al. [7].

Similar to previous findings [10,16], fermentations inoculated with *My. guilliermondii* also resulted in lower concentrations of ethanol. Unlike *Mt. pulcherrima*, however, *My. guilliermondii* impacted final ethanol concentrations for fermentations maintained under temperature regime II (15 °C) where a reduction of 0.3% v/v was observed. Earlier research by Aplin et al. [13] reported no ethanol reduction of Merlot wines produced using 300 L tanks when musts containing *My. guilliermondii* were fermented at >20 °C. Based on the current findings, lower temperatures of grape musts were preferred by *My. guilliermondii* whereas warmer temperatures favored *Mt. pulcherrima*.

Ethanol reductions using specific combinations of non-*Saccharomyces*/*S. cerevisiae* yeasts implied changes in metabolic carbon flux to by-products other than ethanol. Varela et al. [35,36] proposed that sugars were metabolized to metabolites from a partial operation citric acid cycle, namely succinic acid, as well as increased concentrations of glycerol. However, the present study revealed lower concentrations of these metabolites in wines with less ethanol compared to those inoculated with *S. cerevisiae*. Alternatively, other studies have suggested that non-*Saccharomyces* may respire grape must sugars to CO<sub>2</sub> or form other by-products from the citric acid cycle such as fumaric acid [1,11,37].

More research is required to better understand the ultimate fate of carbon from sugar under different conditions such as composition, temperature, oxygen availability, and nutrient status of grape musts.

One concern relying upon non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts is the observation that these yeasts can adversely affect alcoholic fermentation and/or wine quality depending on species but also conditions. For instance, Ciani et al. [31] noted sluggish alcoholic fermentations in grape musts inoculated with *Torulaspota delbrueckii* or *Kluyveromyces (Lachancea) thermotolerans* while those with *H. uvarum* yielded unacceptable concentrations of ethyl acetate. Medina et al. [38] noted that non-*Saccharomyces* can affect nutrient availability towards primary fermentation and therefore recommended addition of not only a nitrogen source (e.g., diammonium phosphate) but also a vitamin mixture to limit risks of stuck fermentation. Oro et al. [39] noted that strains of *Mt. pulcherrima* were antagonistic towards other non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts, in contrast to Contreras et al. [6] who reported the reverse, inhibition of *Mt. pulcherrima* by yeasts commonly found in grape musts, *H. uvarum*, *Pichia kluyveri*, and *T. delbrueckii*. As a lack of nutrients does not necessarily explain inhibitory behavior by some non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts [40], Contreas et al. [6] suggested synthesis of a killer toxin. In the present research, neither strain of *Mt. pulcherrima* or *My. guilliermondii* undesirably influenced subsequent fermentation by *S. cerevisiae*.

Sensory analysis of the wines revealed that wines with *Mt. pulcherrima* fermented under temperature regime III yielded better panelist scores compared to those wines fermented with only *S. cerevisiae* (temperature regime I). While scores for adverse attributes including aroma ('herbaceous'), taste, ('bitter'), flavor ('sweaty', 'ethanol', and 'sulfur'), and mouthfeel ('hot/ethanol', 'roughness', 'sharp') were lower with *Mt. pulcherrima*, other commonly deemed enhancing attributes were higher such mouthfeel ('round'). Of importance was that these wines were rated lowest in 'bitterness' and 'hotness/ethanol', two attributes which tend to dominate the sensory profile when ethanol content is high [41,42]. Differences in sensory characteristics were due, in part to production of volatile aroma/flavor molecules as pointed out by Seguinot et al. [43]. However, fewer differences were noted between other treatments, in particular with *My guilliermondii*, compared to wines with only *S. cerevisiae* present even though ethanol reductions of 0.3% (temperature regime II) to 0.4% (temperature regime III) *v/v* were noted. In fact, sensory differences due to differing ethanol concentrations were probably not observed because the difference threshold has been reported to be approximately 1% *v/v* [44]. Limited judge training may have also affected results as illustrated by Chambers et al. [45] who noted that significant panelist effects could only be eliminated with extensive training (120 h).

In conclusion, reductions in ethanol concentrations in final wines were achieved using *Mt. pulcherrima* under fermentation temperature regime III without adversely affecting sensory characteristics. Furthermore, lower reductions in ethanol were observed for wines inoculated with *My guilliermondii* under either temperature regime II or III but without significant changes in sensory attributes. This research suggests that these non-*Saccharomyces* species may decrease ethanol concentrations without lowering wine quality when fermented in larger volumes under cooler conditions.

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**Institutional Review Board Statement:** The study was conducted according to the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki, and approved by the Institutional Review Board (or Ethics Committee) of Washington State University (IRB#15370-004) on 16 August 2017.

**Informed Consent Statement:** Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

**Data Availability Statement:** Data are not available from other forums.

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