

'Esprit'



Iowa State University

Synonyms: E.S. 422 (4, 5).

Pedigree: 'Villard blanc' x 'Edelweiss' (4, 5).

Origin: Osceola, Wisconsin. Bred by Elmer Swenson (4, 5).

Release: 1984. Plant Patent 5716 obtained April 15, 1986; assigned to Swenson Smith Vines (4, 5).

Type: Interspecific hybrid (includes *V. vinifera*; *V. labrusca*) (4).

Color: White

Berry: Large and round; skin white (1, 5).

Cluster: According to Swenson (5), clusters are large, conical and moderately tight. He added that clusters are capable of reaching one pound with sixty to ninety berries per cluster.

Viticultural Characteristics: Swenson (5) described the vine as moderately vigorous and productive with a very open semi-procumbent growth habit. Domoto (2) added there are few tendrils, making it easy to shoot position. He noted a midseason bud break with moderate productivity on secondary buds and that cluster thinning is needed. He cautioned that the vine is moderately susceptible to injury from 2, 4-D and dicamba. Fruit holds well on the vine with no shattering (5).

Disease/Pests: 'Esprit' is highly susceptible to powdery mildew; and moderately susceptible to Botrytis bunch rot and downy mildew (2).

Wine Quality and Characteristics: Swenson (5) described wines made from 'Esprit' as being excellent and absent of *labrusca* flavor and aroma which is typical of such hardy varieties. He felt the wine was superior to many of the German white wines.

Season: Midseason (late August-early September in Iowa) (3).

Cold Hardiness: Hardy (-15 to -20° F) (2, 5).

Use: Wine, table, juice.

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Notes: A blend of 80% 'Seyval' and 20% 'Esprit' won first place at the 1983 International Home Winemakers Event in Sacramento, CA (5).

Literature Cited

1. Brooks, R.M., and H.P. Olmo. 1997. The Brooks and Olmo Register of Fruit & Nut Varieties. ASHS Press, Alexandria, VA, USA.
2. Domoto, P. 2008. Grape cultivars for consideration in Iowa. *On:* <http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/info/pdf/cultivars08.pdf>.
3. Domoto, P., G. Nonnecke, D. Portz, L. Smiley, B. Havlovic, N. Howell, K. Pecinovsky, K. VanDee, and J. Hannan. 2008. Wine grape cultivar trial performance in 2007. Ann. Prog. Rept. – 2007 for Hort. Res. Sta., ISRF07-36:39-45; Armstrong R&D Farm, ISRF06-12; Muscatine Island R&D Farm, ISRF07-20; Northeast R&D Farm, ISRF07-13; and Southeast R&D Farm, ISRF07-34. *On:* <http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/research/pdf/winegrapecultivar07.pdf>.
4. National Grape Registry (NGR) website: <http://ngr.ucdavis.edu/>. Supported by University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Services, and the National Clonal Germplasm Repository of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.
5. Swenson, E. 1986. A grapevine named 'Esprit'. U.S. Plant Patent No. PP5,716 (assigned to Swenson-Smith Vines, Inc.).