

‘Skujinsh’



Tom Plocher

Synonyms: ‘Moskovski Ustoitshivõi’ ‘Moskow Ustoichovy’ ‘[Moskovskiy Ustoichiviy](#)’, Skujins 675, Skujina 675, ‘Baltic Amber’ (1, 2, 3).

Pedigree: (‘[Perle von Csaba](#)’ x ‘[Amurskiy](#)’) x ‘[Alpha](#)’ (2, 3).

Origin: Moscow, Russia. Tymiryazev Academy of Agriculture (TCXA). Bred by Kaspars Skujins, a Latvian grape breeder. In Russia it is called ‘Moskovski Ustoitshivõi’, and in Latvia, it is called ‘Skujins 675’ (3).

Release: *Circa* 1970 (1).

Type: Interspecific hybrid. (including *V. vinifera*, *V. amurensis*, *V. labrusca* and *V. riparia*) (3).

Color: White

Berry: Plocher and Parke (3) described the berry as amber colored and small-medium in size (average berry weight is 1.5 g). They noted that the flavor as reminiscent of tropical fruit, others say it has a Muscat/pineapple taste (2).

Cluster: Moderately loose, ranging in size from .20 to .26 lb (3).

Viticultural Characteristics: Plocher and Parke (3) described the vine as having moderate vigor and an open growth habit. They add that it is productive, buds out and blooms relatively late in the spring and is capable of producing a substantial crop on secondary buds (3).

Disease/Pests: Plocher and Parke (3) noted good disease resistance (3).

Wine Quality and Characteristics: Plocher and Parke (3) reported that wines from this cultivar are still highly experimental. They added that wines with the best aromatics have been produced from grapes grown in cool summer areas and harvested before full ripeness at about 18° Brix. Aroma of the wine ranges from “pineapple” and “lychee” in the best samples to “bubblegum” in wines produced from overripe grapes. They also noted that the juice is prone to oxidation, so careful measures are required to prevent this during processing.

Season: Early. End of August in Minnesota (3).

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Cold Hardiness: Very hardy. Has survived and been productive following -32° F (1, 3).

Use: Table grape. Wines from 'Skujinsh' have been experimental (3).

Notes: Successfully grown in Latvia, Belarus and regions near Moscow without winter protection. Great for short, cooler growing season areas such as northern Minnesota (3).

Literature Cited

1. Hart, M., Mount Ashwabay Vineyard and Orchard. Bayfield, WI. *Personal communication* (2008).
2. Hawkins, A.J. 2007. Super gigantic Y2K winegrape glossary. *On:* www.wineloverspage.com/wineguest/wgg.html.
3. Plocher, T., and B. Parke. 2001. Northern Winework. Northern Winework, Inc. Hugo, MN. p. 157-158.