

SEMINAR 1: COLD TO WARM CLIMATE GRAPE GROWING STYLES



Degree Days

- No vine shoot growth occurs below 50°F
- If a day averages 50°F, every degree above 50 is considered a *degree day*.

Example: If during a 24-hour period the temperature ranges from 60 to 80°F, the average is 70°F, which is equivalent to 20 degree days (70 minus 50).

The *heat summation* (sum of all the degree days between April 1 and October 31) of a growing region determines its classification, which is described in total degree days.

- 2,500 degree days or less: Region I
- 2,501–3,000 degree days: Region II
- 3,001–3,500 degree days: Region III
- 3,501–4,000 degree days: Region IV
- Greater than 4,000 degree days: Region V

Region I, *the coolest, is similar to Côte d'Or and Champagne, the Rhine, or the Willamette Valley in Oregon.* In California it includes portions of the following areas: Anderson Valley, Carneros, Edna Valley Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Russian River Valley, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz Mountains and Sonoma.

- ✓ It is well-suited to growing Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, or Riesling.

Region II, *similar to Bordeaux.* In California it includes portions of the following areas: Alexander Valley, Anderson Valley, Chalk Hill, Edna Valley, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Potter Valley, Russian River Valley, Santa Clara, and Sonoma.

- ✓ Suitable for Region I wines, plus Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Franc and Merlot.

Region III, *similar to the Rhône.* In California it includes portions of the following areas: Alameda, Alexander Valley, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Knight's Valley, Lake, McDowell Valley, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Paso Robles, Placer, Redwood Valley, Riverside, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Sonoma.

- ✓ It is best suited to Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon, Syrah or Zinfandel.

Regions IV, *does not correspond to any growing region in France; is similar to Spain.* In California it includes portions of the following areas: AMADOR, Calveras, El Dorado, Fresno, MERCED, Riverside, SACRAMENTO, San Diego, SAN JOAQUIN and YOLO.

- ✓ It is well-suited include Barbera, Emerald Riesling Ruby Cabernet, and those used for port-style wines, also Thompson Seedless (table grapes).

Region V, *similar to North Africa.* In California it includes portions of the following areas: Amador, Calveras, Fresno, Kern, MADERA, Merced, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare.

- ✓ It is best suited to wines like Muscat (grape and wine) or varietals like Verdelho, also Thompson Seedless (table grapes).