



Viticulture briefs

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Tonnellerie Radoux touts database on French oak

French barrel maker Tonnellerie Radoux, which has a U.S. subsidiary in Santa Rosa, announced last week that it has the world's largest database on the chemical composition of French oak as a result of a proprietary measurement device.

The company said its Oakscan technology has done more than 5 million analyses of barrel staves in seven years. The process measures the quantity and content of polyphenols, chemicals in the wood that can alter the profile of a wine and affect its tannic content, which makes it drier.

Tonnellerie Radoux contends that such knowledge can help a winemaker determine whether he or she would want a higher tannin content in their wine, how long it should be kept in barrels to obtain a desired level, and make such production much more homogeneous.