

UNIK PROGRAM

Exceptional massal selection, a source of emotion

Selection has always allowed viticulture to make enormous progress in terms of agronomic and oenological precision. Massal selections are truly valuable and complement clonal selection. They help increase genetic diversity and counterbalance a certain uniformity. However, not all selections lead to better wines than the reference clones, and some may reintroduce major health risks that were thought to be resolved. An old or different strain from a clone is not necessarily suited to today's cultivation conditions and agronomic and oenological requirements.



OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIK PROGRAM

Through the Unik program, Novatech Sélection offers the most demanding winemakers high-quality massal selections, allowing the production of exceptional wines with great complexity and emotional impact, without any agronomic or health risks.

BENEFITS FOR VITICULTURE

- **Produce exceptional, emotionally engaging wines.** From a single plot or terroir, massal selections enhance the organoleptic complexity of the wines produced.
- **Increase the genetic diversity of an estate.** Thanks to the large number of strains it comprises, massal selection helps increase the genetic diversity of a vineyard and contributes to the preservation of shared genetic heritage.
- **Avoid any agronomic and health risks.** Major agronomic and health risks can reappear with massal selections. The strains included in the Unik program are tested and guaranteed free from the main grapevine viruses. They have undergone several years of agronomic and oenological evaluations to confirm their superior characteristics compared to the reference clone(s) and the targeted objectives.

PROCESS AND NOVATECH EXPERTISE APPLIED

- **Prospecting:** For each variety included in the program, we establish a detailed specification defining the objectives of the massal selection. Based on this specification, our agronomic engineers survey the oldest vineyards in search of candidate strains. This prospecting is carried out within a defined area, ensuring the broadest possible genetic diversity. At the end of this first stage, several hundred strains may be selected.
- **Health analyses:** Systematically, Novatech's analysis department conducts PCR health tests on all candidate strains. Only those free from viral infections proceed in the selection program.
- **Agronomic evaluation:** Healthy candidate strains are propagated and planted across multiple evaluation plots, which include one or more reference clones. A comparative agronomic assessment is then performed to identify and characterize those meeting the objectives.
- **Oenological evaluation:** Following the agronomic assessment, the selected strains undergo micro-vinification, and variety experts evaluate the oenological potential of the selection.
- **Result:** Only if the initial objectives are met does the massal selection enter the Unik catalog for multiplication and distribution to winemakers. Several years of study and evaluation are required to create a Unik massal selection.

WARNING: We strongly encourage winemakers not to plant plant material in their vineyards for which they have no agronomic, oenological, or health data. Claiming specific qualities and characteristics for a massal selection without completing all the steps of the process described above is impossible.

TERMS OF USE OF THE UNIK RANGE

Unik selections are the property of Mercier Novatech and are propagated exclusively by licensed nurseries. **Any propagation of the plant material without authorization is strictly prohibited.** Agronomic and oenological data, as well as the origins of Unik varieties, are confidential.



UNIK MASSAL SELECTIONS

Available ranges and varieties



We offer two main types of Unik massal selection: **Wide Diversity** and **Regional Collection**. They are based on the same technical foundation but have different characteristics and address different needs. These ranges are complementary, and both offer significant value.

WIDE DIVERSITY

The Unik Wide Diversity massal selections allow winemakers to **fully exploit the potential of a variety on a given terroir**. They are intended for winemakers who wish to maximize diversity and complexity in their wines. The time required to develop Unik Wide Diversity massal selections is considerable. More than 12 years of selection and agronomic and oenological characterization are necessary to avoid any technical risk and to validate the compatibility of the selected strains, given the breadth of their origins.

REGIONAL COLLECTION

The Unik Regional Collection massal selections help **increase the genetic diversity of an estate and the complexity of its wines while maintaining a recognized regional typicity**. They are intended for winemakers who wish to broaden the genetic heritage of their estate and the complexity of their wines while respecting the characteristics of their appellation. The time required to develop Unik Regional Collection massal selections is shorter, as the selected strains have already proven themselves and all come from a single wine-growing region. Nevertheless, a minimum of 6 years is required to characterize each selection and avoid any agronomic, oenological, or health risk.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNIK MASSAL SELECTION RANGES

The table below allows you to appreciate the differences between the two Unik massal selection ranges offered. We remind you that these two ranges are perfectly complementary and can be of interest regardless of your terroirs and appellations.

	WIDE DIVERSITY	REGIONAL COLLECTION
Diversity	****	**
Regional typicity	*	****
Agronomic observations	****	****
Oenological studies	****	**
Health safety	****	****
Technical partnership	***	***
Novatech expertise	****	****
Creation time	Minimum 12 years	Minimum 6 years
Varieties available in 2025	Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chenin, Cot, Grenache, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc	Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah Serine, Petit Verdot

