The genomic diversification of clonally propagated grapevines

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Abstract

Grapevines are typically grown from cuttings rather than sexual reproduction. However,

clones are not necessarily genetically identical because they accumulate somatic mutations. The

purpose of this study was to better understand the consequences of clonal propagation and

involved defining the nature and extent of somatic mutations throughout the genome. Sixteen

Zinfandel winegrape clone genomes were sequenced and compared to one another using a highly

contiguous genome reference produced from one of the clones, Zinfandel 03. Though most

heterozygous variants were shared, somatic mutations accumulated in individual and subsets of

clones. Overall, heterozygous mutations were most frequent in intergenic space and more

frequent in introns than exons. A significantly larger percentage of CpG, CHG, and CHH sites in

repetitive intergenic space experienced transition mutations than genic and non-repetitive

intergenic spaces, likely because of higher levels of methylation in the region and the disposition

of methylated cytosines to spontaneously deaminate. Of the minority of mutations that occurred

in exons, larger proportions of these were putatively deleterious when the mutation occurred in

individual or relatively few clones than when the site was heterozygous and shared by all or most

clones. These data support three major conclusions. First, repetitive intergenic space is a major

driver of clone genome diversification. Second, vegetative propagation is associated with the

accumulation of putatively deleterious mutations. Third, and most interestingly, the data suggest

that some degree of selection against deleterious variants in coding regions may exist such that

mutations are less frequent in coding than noncoding regions of the genome.

Keywords: somatic mutations, structural variation, transposable elements, whole-genome

sequencing, DNA methylation, asexual reproduction

Introduction

Cultivated grapevines are vegetatively propagated. As a result, the genome of each

cultivar is preserved, except for the accumulation of mutations that accrue over time and can

generate distinguishable clones (1-4). Somatic mutations tend to be heterozygous, recessive, and

effectively "hidden" (2), but are responsible for several notable phenotypes. For example, a

single, semi-dominant nucleotide polymorphism can affect hormone response (5) and recessive

insertion of the *Gret1* retrotransposon in the promoter of the *VvmybA1* transcription factor

inhibits anthocyanin accumulation in white varieties (6), as do additional mutations affecting the

color locus (7-10). The fleshless fruit of an Ugni Blanc clone and the reiterated reproductive

meristems observed in a clone of Carignan are both caused by dominant transposon insertion

mutations (11,12). In citrus, undesirable mutations can be unknowingly propagated that render

fruit highly acidic and inedible (13,14). Interestingly, somatic mutations in plum are associated

with a switch from climacteric to non-climacteric ripening behavior (15).

Mutations occur in somatic cells that proliferate by mitosis. These can occur by a variety

of means, including single base-pair mutations (16,17) that are more prevalent in repetitive

regions because methylated cytosines are passively deaminated to thymines (18-20), polymerase

slippage that drives variable microsatellite insertions and deletions (21), and larger structural

rearrangements and hemizygous deletions (10,22). Transposable elements are also a major

source of somatic mutations in grapevines (23), though transcriptional and post-transcriptional

mechanisms exist to prevent transposition and maintain genome stability (24-27).

Distinct clones can emerge following a mutation in a shoot apical meristem that spreads

throughout a single cell layer, creating periclinal chimeras. This chimera is stable for Pinot

Meunier, a clone of Pinot Noir with distinct L1 and L2 layers in shoots (3), but cellular

rearrangements can result in the homogenization of the genotype in both cell layers (28) in other

periclinal chimeras. This is the case for green-yellow bud sports of the grey-fruited Pinot Gris,

wherein sub-epidermal white cells invaded and displaced epidermal pigmented cells (9).

Despite their significance, there is limited understanding of the extent, nature, and

implications of the somatic mutations that accumulate in clonally propagated crops (29).

Genotyping approaches based on whole genome sequencing make it possible to identify genetic

differences without predefined markers (23,30,31) and expedite learning the genetic basis of

valuable traits and developmental processes (15,22). Still, few previous studies have used

genomic approaches to study somatic variations among clones (22,23,30-32). The first to publish

a genome-wide exploration of somatic variation in grapevine was Carrier *et al.* (2012), finding

that transposable elements were the largest proportion of somatic mutation types affecting four

Pinot Noir clones. Whole genome sequencing was also used to study structural variations and

complex chromosomal rearrangements in Tempranillo, comparing diverse accessions of

phenotypically distinct Tempranillo Tinto and Tempranillo Blanco to better understand the basis

of somatic mutations giving rise to red versus white fruit (22). Genomic tools may also help

understand the consequences of clonal propagation. This study used whole genome sequencing

to expand the body of knowledge concerning the impact of vegetative propagation on the

Zinfandel winegrape.

Zinfandel is the third-most cultivated wine grape in California (33,34) and is particularly

interesting because of the intrigue surrounding its parentage, origins, and most contentiously, its

import to California (35-37). Zinfandel's parents remain unknown, but what is known of its

history was carefully reconstructed (38). Zinfandel likely arrived in California following

cultivation in the northeastern United States (35,39). DNA profiling produced evidence that

Zinfandel is synonymous with Primitivo grown in Italy (40) and Croatian Pribidrag and Crljenak

Kastelanski (41). In the course of its travels, Zinfandel bore many other names, probably

including Zinfandel and Black St. Peters, to name a couple. Historical records plus the

cultivation of closely related cultivars support Croatia as the likely origin of Zinfandel (36,41-43)

and also that Primitivo was likely brought to the Gioia del Colle region in Italy by Benedictine

monks in the 17th century (3,44).

Like other *vinifera* cultivars, there is phenotypic diversity among Zinfandel clones

associated with important viticultural traits (39,45,46). Comparisons of Zinfandel, Primitivo, and

Crljenak Kastelanski selections indicate clonal variation in yield, cluster size, width, and weight,

berries per cluster, berry weight, and fruit composition (46). Primitivo reportedly yields more

fruit that matures earlier, is less susceptible to sour rot (45) and is arranged in looser, smaller,

clusters with fewer berries than Zinfandel (39). The reported variability in Zinfandel and its long

history of cultivation make it a suitable model for studying clonal variation in grapevine,

specifically, and the nature of the accumulation of somatic mutations in clonally propagated

crops, generally. Importantly, University of California Davis and Zinfandel Advocates and

Producers (ZAP) established a heritage vineyard of Zinfandels, making it possible to study clonal

variation in a common environment.

The purpose of this study was to better understand the nature of the somatic variations

that occur during vegetative propagation. Representatives of at least a portion Zinfandel's history

(36,41-43) from Croatia, Italy, and California were sequenced and compared using Zin03 as

reference. Three conclusions were drawn from these data. First, the data support an important

component of Muller's ratchet (47), that asexually propagated organisms accumulate deleterious

mutations. Second, we show that intergenic space drives clonal diversification. As previously

reported, transposable element insertions varied among clones (48). This report expands that

understanding to implicate methylation as an indirect driver of clonal diversification; rare

somatic heterozygous SNPs were most observed in the repetitive intergenic regions, likely

because of the high levels of transposition-inhibiting methylation and associated transition

mutations that are prevalent there. Third, somatic mutations were relatively scarce in the coding

regions of genes relative to introns and intergenic space, suggesting some degree of negative

selection against deleterious mutations.

Results

Phenolic diversity among Zinfandel clones

University of California (UC) Davis and Zinfandel Advocates and Producers (ZAP)

established a Heritage Vineyard of Zinfandel clones to evaluate their viticultural and enological

performance when grown in the same environment. A subset of the clones used for this study are

grown in the Heritage Vineyard (Figure 1, Table 1). Phenolic acids, cinnamic acid, flavanones,

and anthocyanins are metabolites that influence fruit and wine quality (49-51); these were able to

distinguish some clones from others (Figure 1). Primitivo 1 and Zinfandel 8 were significantly

different than Zinfandels 7 and 11. Zinfandel 6, 9, and 10 were indistinguishable from one

another and the other clones. Interest in exploring the genetic basis of variation among

vegetatively propagated clones partially inspired the sequencing, assembly, and annotation of a

high-quality Zinfandel reference genome.

Zinfandel genome assembly, annotation, and differences between haplotypes

The clone used for the genome assembly, Zinfandel 03 (Zin03), was acquired by FPS in

1964 from the Reutz Vineyard near Livermore, California that was planted during Prohibition

(1920 - 1933, (52)). Zin03 is among some of the oldest available Zinfandel clones and had a

reputation for producing high quality wine at the time of its acquisition. Zin03 was sequenced

using Single Molecule Real-Time (SMRT; Pacific Biosciences) technology at ~98x coverage

and assembled using FALCON-unzip (53), a diploid-aware assembly pipeline. The genome was

assembled into 1,509 primary contigs (N50=1.1 Mbp) for a total assembly size of 591 Mbp,

similar to the genome size of Cabernet Sauvignon (590 Mbp; (53) though larger than

Chardonnay (490Mb; (31)) and the PN40024 genome (487 Mb, (54)). Fifty two percent of the

genome was phased into 2,246 additional phased sequences (haplotigs) where the homologous

chromosomes were distinguishable with an N50 of ~442 kbp (Table 2). A total of 53,560

complete protein-coding genes were annotated on the primary (33,523 genes) and haplotig

(20,037 genes) assemblies (Table 2).

Of the 20,037 genes annotated on the haplotig assembly, 18,878 aligned to the primary

assembly, leaving 1,159 genes that may exist hemizygously in the genome due to structural

variation between homologous chromosomes. These genes were annotated with a broad variety

of putative functions, including biosynthetic processes, secondary metabolism, and stress

responses. Mapping long reads to both the primary and haplotig assemblies was used for insight

into the differences between them. By mapping reads to the haplotig assembly, we could better

understand the circumstances that explain why some genes were only identified by reciprocal

mapping within that assembly.

Structural variants (SVs) between the haplotypes were examined by mapping long SMRT

sequencing reads onto Zin03's primary and haplotig assemblies with NGMLR and calling SVs

with Sniffles (55). A total of 22,399 SVs accounted for 6.94% (41.0 / 591 Mbp) of the primary

assembly's length and 6.02% (8.4 / 139 Mbp) of the primary assembly's gene-associated length

(Figure 2A; Table 3). SVs intersected 4,559 genes in the primary assembly (13.6% of primary

assembly genes) and 390 SVs spanned more than one gene. There was also substantial

hemizygosity in the genome, with long reads supporting deletions amounting to 2,521 genes and

4.56% of the primary assembly's length (Table 3). Manual inspection of the long reads aligned

to the primary assembly support that large, heterozygous deletions and inversions occurred in the

Zin03 genome that were either inherited from different structurally distinct parents or arose

during clonal propagation (Figure 2 B-D).

Next, we considered whether specific structural variation could account for the 1,159

genes uniquely found in the haplotig assembly. Three hundred eighty-two genes of the

previously mentioned 1,159 genes that uniquely exist within the haplotig assembly intersected

structural variations. Two hundred ninety of these intersected deletions, accounting for the

failure to identify them on the primary assembly. Some of the haplotig genes that failed to map

to the primary assembly intersected additional types of SVs, including duplications (80 genes),

insertions (89 genes), and inversions (16 genes).

These results reveal structural differences between Zinfandel's haplotypes. These

differences could have been inherited and/or could have occurred during vegetative propagation.

Overall, these structural variations affected 4,559 primary assembly genes. Importantly, these

data show that a notable portion of the primary assembly's length (4.56%) and genes (2,521) are

hemizygous.

Differences in structure and gene content between Zinfandel and other grape genomes

The Zin03 genome was compared to PN40024 and Cabernet Sauvignon to identify

cultivar-specific genes that may contribute to Zinfandel's characteristics. PN40024 is the inbred

line derived from Pinot Noir used to develop the first grape genome reference (54) and Cabernet

Sauvignon (CS08) was recently used to construct the first diploid, haplotype-resolved grape

genome for which long reads are available (53). Overall, 1,801 genes were not shared between

all three genotypes (Zin03, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Sauvignon, Figure 3A). Three hundred nine

protein coding genes were found uniquely in Zin03 relative to PN40024 and CS08; 223 were

annotated on the primary assembly and 86 were annotated on the haplotigs (Figure 3A,

Additional file 2). These genes had a panoply of functions that included but were not limited to

nucleotide binding (60 genes), protein binding (58 genes), stress response (34 genes), and

kinases (28), and were associated with membranes (48 genes), signal transduction (23 genes),

carbohydrate metabolism (12 genes), and lipid metabolism (8 genes; Additional file 2).

Structural differences between Zin03 and CS08 were explored in more detail by mapping

the long SMRT reads of CS08 onto Zin03's primary and haplotig assemblies with NGMLR and

calling SVs with Sniffles (Figure 3B, Table 3). Overall, these SVs corresponded to 17.74% (159/

897 Mbp) of the Zin03 assembly's total length, 12.5% of its total protein-coding regions (28 /

223 Mbp), and 25.6% of all Zin03 genes. SVs spanned 9,885 genes in the primary assembly and

3,804 genes in the haplotigs. Manual inspection of the alignment of long CS08 reads to Zin03's

primary assembly support that large SVs exist between the two genotypes (Figure 3 C, D). Next,

we considered whether specific structural variation called by Sniffles could account for the 576

Zin03 genes considered absent from CS08 by the reciprocal mapping analysis (Figure 3A). Of

these 576 Zinfandel genes, 268 genes intersected 454 deletions supported by long CS08 reads

aligned to Zin03.

Though Zinfandel had few unique genes, high levels of structural variation between

Zinfandel (Zin03) and Cabernet Sauvignon (CS08) were observed and these affected

considerable protein-coding regions of the genome. These results justify constructing a

Zinfandel-specific reference to better capture genomic variability among Zinfandel clones that

could otherwise be missed, particularly if an alternative reference lacks sequences present in

Zinfandel.

Relatedness among Zinfandel clones

Sixteen Zinfandel clones, including Zin03, were sequenced using Illumina. The resulting

reads were aligned to the Zin03 primary assembly to characterize SNPs, small INDELs, variable

transposon insertions, and large structural variants. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of

variants among the clones showed no clear pattern in their relationships to one another based on

their recorded origins prior to acquisition by FPS. The ambiguity surrounding the travels and

histories of these clones means that it should not be taken for granted that the Californian

selections, for example, ought to be more closely related to one another than to the Italian or

Croatian selections. Notably, Crljenak kaštelanski 3 stands notably apart from the other

Zinfandel clones. In addition, Pribidrags 5 and 15, which have a known and close relationship,

do not co-localize in the PCA (Figure 4A, B, Table 1).

A kinship analysis (56) was then used to quantitatively assess the relationships between

the Zinfandel selections. These values range from zero (unrelated) to 0.5 (self). Additional

cultivars were included in the analysis with known relationships to help contextualize the

differences between clones and the integrity of the analysis (Figure 4C). Cabernet Franc and

Merlot have a parent - offspring relationship, as do Pinot Noir and Chardonnay (57,58). These

pairs had kinship coefficients of 0.15 and 0.18, respectively (Figure 4C). As a possible

grandparent of Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir had a kinship coefficient of 0.05 with Sauvignon

blanc (59,60). Most of the Zinfandel selections had kinship coefficients between 0.42 and 0.45;

this is likely because of the accrual of somatic mutations among clones. However, Crljenak

kaštelanski 3 had a noticeably low kinship coefficient (0.36 - 0.37) with every other Zinfandel

clone (Figure 4C). These data suggest that Crljenak kaštelanski 3 is either not a clone of

Zinfandel, contradicting marker analyses, or that it is a highly divergent clone.

226   Across the Zinfandel clones, the median number of homozygous and heterozygous

variants called relative to Zin03 were 38,092 and 717,925, respectively. Between 10-fold and

~27-fold more heterozygous variants were called than homozygous variants in each clone except

for Crljenak kaštelanski 3, for which only ~2.5-fold more heterozygous sites were called

(Additional file 3: Table S1). Crljenak kaštelanski 3 had 4.3-fold more homozygous variants and

1.8-fold fewer heterozygous variants than the other clones (Additional file 3: Table S1).

Furthermore, unlike other clones, for which less than 10% of sites did not share the Zin03

reference allele, ~29% of variant sites were called where Crljenak kaštelanski 3 did not share the

Zin03 reference allele (Additional file 3: Table S1). Together, these results suggest that unlike

other Crljenak kaštelanski selections (41,43,46), Crljenak kaštelanski 3 is likely a close relative

of, but quite possibly not a clone of, Zinfandel. Because these analyses cast doubt on its identity

as a Zinfandel clone, Crljenak kaštelanski 3 was excluded from the clonal variation analyses

described in the rest of the study. Fifteen clones, including Zin03, remained in the analyses

(Table 1).

Clonal versus cultivar genetic variability

Overall, an average of 761,948 variant sites were identified in individual Zinfandel clones when short reads were mapped on the Zin03 primary assembly. As stated previously, this analysis excluded Crljenak kaštelanski 3. On average, 6,153,830 variant sites were identified in other cultivars (Pinot noir, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Cabernet Franc) relative to Zin03 (Additional file 3, Table 2). Both of these figures excluded heterozygous sites at which the diploid genotype called for a given sample was identical to that called for Zin03.

Variants were 7.9X more frequent in other cultivars relative to Zin03 than for Zinfandel clones; on average, mutations in clones occurred once every 723 bases and in once every 92 bases in other cultivars (Additional file 3, Table 2). However, the ratio of transitions to transversion mutations and the proportions of the severities of the predicted variant effects were similar for both groups (Additional file 3, Table 2). The normalized count of variants also differed between cultivars and Zinfandel clones on the basis of variants' location in the genome, the type of variant, and the zygosity of the variant (Figure 5).

Variants in non-Zinfandel cultivars and heterozygous variants among Zinfandel clones were significantly more prevalent in intergenic space than introns and exons and significantly more prevalent in introns than exons (Tukey HSD, $p < 0.01$). Unlike homozygous variants between cultivars and as expected, homozygous variants were rare among clones (Figure 5; Additional file 3, Table 1). Still, the normalized count of homozygous INDELs in intergenic space, introns, and exons were significantly different among Zinfandel clones (Tukey HSD, $p < 0.01$), as were the normalized count of homozygous intergenic versus genic (exons and introns) SNPs (Tukey HSD, $p < 0.01$). The normalized count of homozygous SNPs in exons and introns were not significantly different in Zinfandel clones (Tukey HSD, $p > 0.01$). The accrual of predominantly heterozygous and likely recessive variants (2) is consistent with what would be

265   expected given physically separate homologous chromosomes and the absence of sexual

266   reproduction.

The accrual of somatic mutations in Zinfandel clones

Heterozygous sites found among the 15 Zinfandel clones ought to be a mixture of sites

inherited from their shared ancestral plant and somatic mutations that arose during clonal

propagation. To better understand the nature of somatic mutations, the data were handled slightly

differently than they were to construct Figure 5; all 15 Zinfandel clones were included (including

Zin03, Crljenak kaštelanski 3 still excluded) and all heterozygous calls were considered, even if

all genotypes were identically heterozygous. Thirty percent of heterozygous SNPs, 24% of

heterozygous INDELs, and 47% of heterozygous structural positions were shared by all 15

Zinfandel clones (Figure 6A). Because all clones are identically heterozygous at these loci, these

variants are those inherited from Zinfandel's parents.

Individual and subsets of Zinfandel clones accumulated heterozygous mutations as clonal

propagation occurred (Figure 6A). Thirteen percent and 16% of heterozygous INDELs and

SNPs, respectively, and 1% of large (>50 bp) structural variants occurred in only one or two

clones (Figure 6A; Additional file 6A; Additional file 6B). The distribution of SVs called by

Delly is markedly different than those of SNPs and INDELs (Figure 6A). For both SNPs and

INDELs, there were 3 and 3.5-fold as many heterozygous variants shared by all 15 clones as

there were uniquely occurring variants; there were 71.5-fold more structural variants shared by

all clones than there were unique variants in individual clones (Figure 6A). This suggests that the

mechanisms that give rise to small mutations are more common among clones than the large-

scale changes associated with SVs.

The distribution of unique and shared heterozygous INDELs in exons, introns, repetitive,

and non-repetitive intergenic spaces were not equal (Figure 6B). The distribution of INDELs in

exons was significantly different than the distributions of INDELs in each other feature

considered (Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test, $p < 0.01$). Similarly, the distributions SNPs in genic

(exons, introns) and intergenic (repetitive, non-repetitive) regions were not equal (Figure 6B).

Shared heterozygous SNPs were most common in intergenic non-repetitive regions and introns

and least common in exons and repetitive intergenic regions (Figure 6B). Interestingly, unique

heterozygous SNPs occurred at high rates in repetitive intergenic regions (Figure 6B).

That shared heterozygous sites are mostly in non-repetitive intergenic space and unique

heterozygous sites are mostly in repetitive space may have to do with the disposition of

methylated cytosines to spontaneously deaminate and the prevalence of methylated repetitive

sequences in those regions (16,19,25,26). This is also supported by the significantly higher ratio

of transitions to transversions in repetitive intergenic regions than in exons, introns, and non-

repetitive intergenic space (Figure 6C). Furthermore, the mean percentage of CpG, CHG, and

CHH sites affected by transition mutations was significantly higher in repetitive intergenic space

than genic and non-repetitive intergenic spaces (Figure 6D, Tukey HSD, $p < 0.01$). The mean

percentage of CpG sites affected by transition mutations was also significantly higher in introns

than exons (Tukey HSD, $p < 0.01$). Compatible with this hypothesis, INDELs, which should not

increase in frequency due to methylation, did not occur preferentially in repeats (Figure 6B).

The impact of specific variants also varied with their prevalence among the clones

(Figure 6E). "High impact" mutations were predicted by SNPEff (61). The high impact

mutations identified in these data included exon losses, start and stop site gains and losses,

frameshifts, gene fusions, splice acceptor mutations, and splice donor mutations. These

mutations are predicted to be deleterious because of their disruptive effects on the coded protein.

For these reasons, we designated such mutations as putatively deleterious in this manuscript.

These were counted for each Zinfandel clone relative to Zin03. Relatively low percentages of

heterozygous variants shared by all Zinfandel clones were putatively deleterious. In contrast,

larger proportions of exonic SNPs and INDELs that occurred in individual or subsets of clones

were putatively deleterious (Figure 6E).

Together, these results show that mutations associated with vegetative propagation are

most numerous outside of coding regions of the genome, indicating that clone genomes diversify

most rapidly in the intergenic space, particularly in repetitive and likely methylated regions

(Figure 6). Though a minority of somatic mutations occurred in exons, we show that exonic

mutations that occur in few or individual clones are more often deleterious than exonic

heterozygous variants shared by all or most clones. In other words, vegetative propagation is

associated with the accumulation of putatively deleterious heterozygous mutations.

Zinfandel clones incur unique transposon insertions

Transposable element insertions (TEI) contribute to somatic variation in grape

(6,11,12,23). Relative to Zin03, 1,473 TEI were identified among the Zinfandel clones. A large

fraction of TEI (26.7%) occurred uniquely in individual clones (Figure 7A) and included 325

retrotransposons, mostly Copia and Gypsy LTRs, and 69 DNA-transposons (Figure 7B). Because

uniform loci are excluded, in-common TEI were not captured when clones were compared to

Zin03. Comparing the clones relative to PN40024, however, revealed that the majority (64.8%)

of TEI were shared among the 15 Zinfandel clones. Five hundred thirty TEI occurred in only

one, two or three clones (Figure 7A). This result supports the derivation of these selections from

a common ancestral plant and the accumulation of somatic variations over time.

In addition to being suggestive of their shared heritage, the positions of these insertions

and their proximity to coding genes were notable. Three-hundred forty-seven TEI occurred

within 314 coding genes. The remaining 938 TEIs were in intergenic regions (Figure 7C). The

median upstream and downstream distance of intergenic TEs from the closest feature were

11,811 and 11,279 base-pairs, respectively, though 25% of TEI were less than 4,345 bases

downstream of the closest feature or less than 3,826 bases upstream of the closest feature (Figure

7C).

Discussion

Somatic mutations in grapevine generate valuable phenotypes and have helped

understand the genetic basis of various traits (3,7,62,63). In Zinfandel, subtle but significant

differences in phenolic metabolites were identified between two pairs of clones of the seven

selected from the Heritage Vineyard (Figure 1). What manifest differences were observed could

reasonably be attributed to biological differences because these fruits were sampled from a

common, uniformly managed vineyard. However, additional studies are necessary to determine

the genetic basis of these differences, whether they lead to detectable sensory differences, and

comprehensively profile the chemical and morphological differences among clones.

Consideration of the genomic differences among Zinfandel clones revealed what is likely

a complex history not easily reconstructed, and that one selection was probably not a clone

despite being identified as such by SSR markers. Analyses of the relationships between clones

did not reveal groupings of clones per their recorded countries of origin. Somatic mutations may

help identify individual clones but could also blur the historical relationships between them. It is

also plausible that pairs of clones from any given region are not direct cuttings of one another but

of Zinfandels from another region; the clones now grown in California, for example, may have

been imported on numerous independent occasions from various other regions, meaning some

may indeed be more closely related to one of the Primitivo or Croatian clones than they are to

other Californian clones. It would be unwise to assume a single migratory path radiating from an

ancestral mother plant ought to be applicable to all clones.

Despite this ambiguity, the examination of SNPs, INDELs, transposable elements and

other structural variants all support the derivation of all but one of the clonal selections from a

common ancestral Zinfandel mother plant and show the accumulation of somatic mutations over

time (Figures 6 and 7).The structure of the Zinfandel genome, location of mutations among

clones, their frequency and prevalence, and the relationship between these factors provides some

insight into the nature of mutations in clonally propagated plants. Mutations among clones were

predominantly heterozygous (Figure 5) and uncommon heterozygous mutations shared by a

subset of or individual clones were increasingly deleterious when they occurred in exons (Figure

6E).

There are costs and benefits associated with clonal propagation (29). Among the benefits

are that the plants need not breed true-to-type; clonal propagation generally fixes heterozygous

loci and valuable phenotypes. However, the increase in the proportion of deleterious alleles

supports Muller's ratchet, which posits that sex is advantageous and that clonal propagation

increases mutational load (47). That mutations among Zinfandel clones were overwhelmingly

heterozygous reflects the absence of sexual recombination and the fact that grapevine is diploid.

Though these and previous data do not tell which mutations are actually recessive or dominant,

they could remain hidden if they are recessive or do not manifest their deleterious effects (2,64).

However, even after taking into consideration the total length of exons, introns, and intergenic

space (repetitive and non-repetitive), heterozygous mutations occurred at varying frequency in

these regions and were least abundant in coding regions. The rarity of mutations in exons and

commonality of mutations in repetitive intergenic space may have at least two components.

Mutations are likely more frequent in repetitive intergenic space as a result of the

regulation of transposition by DNA methylation. Repetitive intergenic space had the highest rate

of relatively unique SNPs and the ratio of transitions to transversions was significantly higher

there than in other regions. DNA methylation is an important epigenetic control and is one

mechanism that maintains genome stability and impairs the transposition of mobile elements

(25,65,66). Methylated cytosines, however, spontaneously deaminate faster than unmethylated

cytosines (18,26). Together, the expectations that intergenic regions are rich in transposable

elements, that these regions are typically highly methylated and as a result will experience

greater transition rates account for the high rates of SNPs in repetitive intergenic spaces among

Zinfandel clones. Also notable, these data show that some transposable elements are not entirely

silenced, with a substantial number inserting in genes or in close proximity to genes (Figure 7B).

These insertions could be effectively inconsequential or not; transposable element insertions can

result in novel transcripts and affect gene expression regulation (11,67).

The rarity of exonic mutations was surprising. After accounting for the length of these

spaces in the genome and their repetitiveness, we expected uniform rates of mutation in exons,

introns, and intergenic space. Instead, we still observed that although rare somatic mutations in

exons were increasingly deleterious, they were relatively scarce. This suggests the possibility of

an "escape hatch" from Muller's ratchet. Some degree of negative selection against deleterious

variants in coding regions may persist such that mutations are less frequent in coding than

noncoding regions of the genome. This would require somatic mutations to be exposed to

selection in some way, possibly as dominant and/or hemizygous alleles. Four and one half of

Zinfandel's genome is hemizygous; structural variations identified within the Zinfandel genome

and the rampant hemizygosity reported in Chardonnay (10) could expose otherwise hidden

somatic variations to selective pressure hostile to the accumulation of deleterious mutations. The

possibility of diplontic, clonal selection or competition between cell lineages that could purge

otherwise consequential deleterious mutations has been discussed, but evidence of its existence

is sparse (29,32,68).

Conclusions

This study described the nature of the mutations causing the diversification of 15 clonally

propagated grapevines and confirm their derivation from a single ancestral mother Zinfandel.

The findings indicate that repetitive intergenic space, likely because of its higher rates of

methylation in plants, is a significant contributor to the pool of mutations differentially observed

among the clones. In addition, the analyses revealed that though relatively infrequent compared

to intergenic mutations, mutations in exons were increasingly deleterious the less common they

were among Zinfandel clones; this suggests some mechanism by which deleterious alleles may

be purged from the genome.

Materials and Methods

Zinfandel plant material and additional accessions

Sixteen Zinfandel clones were used for this study. Plants were confirmed to be clones of

Zinfandel using the following microsatellite markers: VVMD5, VVMD7, VVMD27, VVMD31,

VVMD32, VVMS2, VRZAG62, and VRZAG79 (41,69,70). Fourteen of these clones are

available through Foundation Plant Services (FPS) at the University of California Davis. Nine of

the sixteen clones belong to the Zinfandel Heritage Vineyard Project, a collection of rare

Zinfandel vine cuttings grown in the same vineyard. The identification numbers, common

names, and source of the clones used in this study are listed in Table 1. An FPS identification

number suffix of ".1" indicates that the clone underwent microshoot tip tissue culture therapy,

with two exceptions. Pribidrag 13 and Pribidrag 15 are directly derived from the same plants as

Pribidrag 4 and Pribidrag 5, respectively, but did not undergo microshoot tip tissue culture

therapy. They are labeled with identical FPS numbers to make clear that the relationship between

them is known. In this manuscript, Zinfandel clones will be referred to by the clone numbers and

common names listed in Table 1.

Extraction of Phenolic Compounds and HPLC-DAD

Phenolic acids, cinnamic acid, flavanones, and anthocyanins in selected clones from the

Heritage Zinfandel Collection (Clones 1 and 6-11) were measured by HPLC-DAD. Phenolics

were extracted using a previously described method (71). Four biological replicates of each clone

were sampled at commercial harvest (~23-26 ºBrix) and technically duplicated. Berry skins were

blended for three minutes, mixed with 1L of solvent (1M HCl in 95% ethanol), placed in a

boiling water bath for 20 minutes, and allowed to cool for one hour at room temperature. The

solution was filtered through a 0.45-µm PTFE membrane prior to HPLC-DAD.

An Agilent 1100 HPLC system (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) with a diode

array UV-visible detector coupled to an Agilent ChemStation (Rev. A.10.02) and 5 µm

ChromoSpher RP-18 column (Agilent Technologies) were used for solvent delivery and

detection. The flow rate was 0.5 mL/min, Solvent A was 50 mM dihydrogen ammonium

phosphate adjusted to pH 2.6 with orthophosphoric acid, Solvent B was 20% A in 80 %

acetonitrile, and Solvent C was 0.2 M orthophosphoric acid adjusted with ammonia to pH 1.5.

Separations were performed at 40°C and signals were recorded at 280 (Phenolic acids), 316

(Cinnamic acid), 365 (Flavanones), and 520 (Anthocyanins) nm. ChemStation was used to

identify and quantify metabolite classes.

DNA extraction, library preparation, and sequencing

High quality genomic DNA was isolated from grape leaves using the method described in

Chin *et al.* (2016) (53). DNA purity was evaluated with a Nanodrop 2000 spectrophotometer

(Thermo Scientific, Hanover Park, IL), quantity with a Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer (Life

Technologies, Carlsbad, CA) and integrity by electrophoresis. For SMRT sequencing, SMRTbell

libraries for the Zinfandel reference FPS clone 03 (Zin03) were prepared as described by Chin *et*

al. (2016) (53). For Illumina sequencing, DNA sequencing libraries for each of the sixteen

Zinfandel clones were prepared using the Kapa LTP library prep kit (Kapa Biosystems) as

described by Jones *et al.*, 2014 (72). Final libraries were evaluated for quantity and quality using

a Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent Technologies, CA). Zin03 SMRTbell libraries were sequenced on a

PacBio RS II and Illumina libraries were sequenced in 100 and 150 base-pair paired-end reads

on an Illumina HiSeq3000 sequencer (DNA Technology Core Facility, University of California,

Davis). Genome sequences of additional *V. vinifera* were used in this study, including long reads

from Cabernet sauvignon (NCBI BioProject PRJNA316730) and short reads from Cabernet

franc, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Noir, and Sauvignon blanc (NCBI BioProject PRJNA527006).

Zinfandel genome assembly and annotation

De novo assembly of Zinfandel (Zin03) was performed at DNAnexus (Mountain View,

CA, USA) using PacBio RS II data and the FALCON-unzip (v. 1.7.7) pipeline (53). FALCON-

unzip was used for its ability to assemble contiguous, phased diploid genomes with better

resolved heterozygosity (53,73). Repetitive sequences were masked prior to error correction

using TANmask and REPmask modules in the Damasker (74). After error-correction (13,073 bp

length cut-off), a total of 1.68 million error-corrected reads (N50 15Kbp, 29-fold coverage of

expected genome size) were obtained and repeats were masked before overlap detection in the

FALCON pipeline (v. 1.7.7). PacBio reads were assembled after testing multiple parameters to

produce the least fragmented assembly. These conditions are listed in Additional file 1.

Haplotype reconstruction was performed with default parameters. Finally, contigs were polished

with Quiver (Pacific Biosciences, bundled with FALCON-unzip v. 1.7.7). Repeats were

annotated on the Zin03 assembly using RepeatMasker (v. open-4.0.6) (75) and a *V. vinifera*

repeat library (76).

The publicly available RNAseq datasets listed in Additional file 1 were used as

transcriptional evidence for gene prediction. Each RNAseq sample was trimmed with

Trimmomatic (v. 0.36; settings are listed in Additional file 1) and assembled with Stringtie (v.

1.3.3) (77) to reconstruct variety-specific transcripts. A detailed list of all experimental data used

for the annotation procedure is listed in Additional file 1. This data was then mapped on the

genome using Exonerate (v. 2.2.0, transcripts and proteins) (78) and PASA (v. 2.1.0, transcripts)

(79). Alignments, and *ab initio* predictions generated with SNAP (80)(v. 2006-07-28), Augustus

(81) (v. 3.0.3), and GeneMark-ES (82) (v. 4.32), were used as input for EVidenceModeler (v.

1.1.1) (83). EVidenceModeler was used to identify consensus gene structures using the weight

reported in Additional file 1 Functional annotation was performed using the RefSeq plant protein

database (ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/refseq, retrieved January 17th, 2017) and InteProScan (v. 5)

as previously described (76).

Genetic variant calling

Comparisons between Zinfandel clones and between Zin03 and other cultivars were

made using the Zin03 genome as reference. Small insertions and deletions (INDELs), single

nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), and structural variations (SVs) were analyzed. The short

Illumina reads belonging to the sixteen Zinfandel clones and additional cultivars were trimmed

using Trimmomatic (v. 0.36; settings are listed in Additional file 1). Quality filtered and trimmed

paired-end reads were then randomly down-sampled to 84 million (~14X coverage) in each

library to mitigate the possibility of sequencing depth-dependent outcomes. All libraries were

aligned to Zin03 using bwa (v. 0.7.10) and the -M parameter (84). For all genotypes, the median

number of reads mapping to the Zinfandel reference genome was approximately 97%. Next,

Picard Tools (v. 2.12.1) were used to mark optical duplicates, build BAM indices, and validate

SAM files (http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard). Variants were called using GATK's

HaplotypeCaller (v. 3.5) (85). Then, called variants were filtered and annotated (--

filterExpression "QD < 2.0 || FS > 60.0 || MQ < 40.0 || MQRankSum < -12.5 || ReadPosRankSum

< -8.0"). Variant call files were combined using GATK's GenotypeGVCFs. Having mapped

Illumina reads corresponding to the Zinfandel reference onto itself, erroneous non-reference

Zin03 calls (8.1%) were removed. The variants called included SNPs and INDELs.

Next, large structural variations among clones, between Zin03 and other cultivars, and

between Zin03's haplotypes were studied. First, Zin03 genes were compared to PN40024 and

Cabernet Sauvignon (CS08) by mapping coding sequences on genome assemblies using Gmap

(v. 2015-09-29) and the following parameters: -K 20,000 -B 4 -f 2. Hits with at least 80%

identity and reciprocal coverage are reported. Genes annotated on Zin03's haplotig assembly

were also mapped to Zin03's primary assembly to assess differences in gene content between

Zin03's haplotypes. SMRT reads from Zin03 and CS08 were mapped to Zin03 using NGMLR

(v. 0.2.7) and structural differences were called with Sniffles v.1.0.8 (55). Zinfandel clones were

compared to one another using Illumina short reads and Delly (v. 0.7.8) with default parameters

(86). The structural variations identified by Sniffles and Delly in Zin03 were intersected. Several

filters were applied to the results of SV analyses. Transversions, non-reference Zin03 genotype

calls, SVs that affect the ends of contigs, and SVs that intersected the repeat annotation were

filtered from Delly output.

Transposon insertion analysis

PoPoolationTE2 (v. 1.10.04) (87) was used to identify transposon insertions in the

Zinfandel clones; it was used following the workflow outlined in its software manual

(https://sourceforge.net/p/popoolation-te2/wiki/Manual/). Insertions were called relative to Zin03

genome assembly and PN20024 (54). As described in Kofler *et al.* 2016, PoPoolationTE2

analyses transposable element insertions and can identify novel and annotated TE insertions

provided insertions fall within predefined families of TEs. The annotation produced by

RepeatMasker was used for the analysis. In this manuscript, the TE insertions among the clones

are reported using the classification system and nomenclature described by Wicker *et al.* (2007)

(88). In instances where the TE order and/or superfamily was not annotated, only the TE class

and, when available, order are named in the associated figures and text.

Relationships between Zinfandel clones

The relationships between Zinfandel clones were visualized by Principal Component

Analysis and their relatedness was quantified (VCFtools v. 0.1.15) based on the method

described by Manichaikul *et al.* (2010) (56). This approach gives information about the

relationship of any pair of individuals (unrelated, 3rd degree relative, 2nd degree relative, full

siblings, and self) by estimating their kinship coefficient, which ranges from zero (no

relationship) to 0.50 (self). These analyses used SNPs outside of repetitive regions.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets supporting the conclusions of this article are available in two locations. Raw

sequences are available at NCBI (Bioproject PRJNA527006). Other relevant data, such as

genome sequence, gene and protein sequences, gene and repeat coordinates and annotation,

along with a genome browser and a blast tool, are available at http://cantulab.github.io/data.html.

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Tables and Figures

Table 1. Clone identifying information

Clone #	Common name	Origin	Foundation Plant Services
1	Primitivo	Bari, Italy	Primitivo FPS 03
2	Primitivo	Conegliano, Italy	Primitivo FPS 06
3	Crljenak kaštelanski	Kaštel Novi, Croatia	Zinfandel FPS 42.1
4	Pribidrag	Svinšće, Croatia	Zinfandel FPS 43.1
5	Pribidrag	Svinšće, Croatia	Zinfandel FPS 44.1
6	Zinfandel	California, USA	Zinfandel FPS 10
7	Zinfandel	California, USA	Zinfandel FPS 24
8	Zinfandel	California, USA	Zinfandel FPS 37
9	Zinfandel	California, USA	Zinfandel FPS 39
10	Zinfandel	California, USA	Zinfandel FPS 56.1

11	Zinfandel	California, USA	Zinfandel FPS 40
12	Pribidrag	Marušići, Croatia	In testing at FPS
13	Pribidrag	Svinšće, Croatia	Zinfandel FPS 43.1
14	Crljenak kaštelanski	University of Zagreb, Croatia	-
15	Pribidrag	Svinšće, Croatia	Zinfandel FPS 44.1
Zin03	Zinfandel	California, USA	Zinfandel FPS 03

Table 2. Summary statistics of the Zinfandel genome assembly and annotation.

	Primary	Haplotig
Total length	591,171,721	306,029,957
Number of contigs	1,509	2,246
N50	1,062,797	442,393
N75	366,308	185,785
L50	154	200
L75	395	463
Median contig length (bp)	161,249	37,307
Longest contig (bp)	7,901,503	2,609,171
Shortest contig (bp)	17,787	1,970
Average GC content (%)	34.45%	34.37%
Number of genes	33,523	20,037
	Total	*Average per gene*
Number of exons	244,880	4.57
Number of introns	191,320	3.57
	Average (bp)	*Maximum (bp)*
mRNA lengths	4,166	94,143
Exon lengths	245.79	7,992
Intron lengths	191,320	41,647
Intergenic distances	10,309	302,473

Table 3. Sniffles analysis of structural variation between cultivars and between Zinfandel parental haplotypes

	Cabernet Sauvignon vs. Zinfandel					Zinfandel haplotig vs. Zinfandel primary				
	Median Size (bp)	*Count*	*Genes*	*Total SV size (Mb)*	*% genome*	*Median Size (bp)*	*Count*	*Genes*	*Total SV size (Mb)*	*% genome*
Deletions	196	46,363	9,219	115.0	12.82	203	12,031	2,521	26,953,558	4.56
Duplications	5,518	2,884	3,286	48.7	5.43	1,966	553	535	7,604,041	1.29
Insertions	88	37,407	5,225	23.9	2.66	92	9,647	2,081	5,594,259	0.95
Inversions	6,037	607	1,440	20.6	2.30	3,592	111	391	5,521,214	0.93
Duplicated Insertions	339	9	2	0.0439	0.0049	385	3	2	6,861	0.0012
Inverted Duplications	293	65	12	0.0418	0.0047	113	54	11	12,930	0.0022

Figure legends

Figure 1. Linear discriminant analysis of seven Zinfandel selections using their phenolic content

(anthocyanins, catechins, gallic acid, and quercetin) measured by HPLC. 95% Confidence ellipses

around replicates are shown. There were statistically significant differences between clones per

their phenolic profiles. MANOVA, $p < 0.0005$.

Figure 2. Structural variation between Zin03 haplotypes. **A**. Distribution of structural variation

sizes. Boxplots show the 25th quartile, median, and 75th quartile for each type of SV. Whiskers are

$1.5^{\text{Inter-Quartile Range}}$. Diamonds indicate the mean $\log_{10}$(length) of each type of SV; **B,C,D.** Examples

of heteryzygous structural variants between haplotypes that intersect genes. For each reported

deletion, (from top to bottom) the coverage, haplotype-resolved alignment of reads, and the genes

annotated in the region are shown; **B.** 4 kbp heterozygous deletion of two genes; **C.** 11 kbp

heterozygous deletion of two genes; **D.** 22 kbp inversion that intersects a single gene. Triangles

indicate boundaries of the inversion. A gap is shown rather than the center of the inverted region.

Figure 3. Gene content and structural variability between Zin03 and other *V. vinifera* genomes.

A. Uniquely occurring Zinfandel genes and the number of Zinfandel genes that align well to

other cultivars with >=80% identity and reciprocal coverage. The total number of hits (or total

gene content for Zin03) is indicated by the "Set Size" and the exclusive hits for each intersection

is indicated as the "Intersection Size"; **B,C.** Selected deletions in Cabernet sauvignon relative to

Zin03 that intersect genes. For each reported deletion, (from top to bottom) the coverage of reads

over the region by long Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon reads, haplotype-resolved alignment

of the reads, and the genes annotated in the region are shown; **B.** Two genes are completely

deleted in Cabernet Sauvignon relative to Zinfandel and are deleted in one Zinfandel haplotype;

C. One gene contains a homozygous partial deletion in Cabernet Sauvignon.

Figure 4. The relationships between Zinfandel selections. **A.** Principal component analysis of

Zinfandel selections based on SNP data. Zin03 was not included in the analysis; **B.** Zoomed-in

view of **A.**, excluding Crljenak kaštelanski 3 and Pribidrag 15; **C.** Kinship analysis of Zinfandel

selections and other cultivars with known relationships based on SNP data and outside of annotated

repeats. The Kinship coefficient, PHI, is shown, as well as a dendogram constructed by

hierarchically clustering genotypes using their kinship coefficients.

Figure 5. Characterization of variants and their frequency among Zinfandel selections and other

vinifera cultivars (Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Sauvignon Blanc). The

normalized rate of variants (number of variants divided by the total feature length in the genome

* 1k) by type (SNP, INDEL), feature (Intergenic, Intron, Exon), and genotype (Non-Zinfandel

Cultivars, Zinfandel selections). Boxplots show the 25th quartile, median, and 75th quartile.

Figure 6. The abundance and impact of shared and unique heterozygous mutations among

Zinfandel clones. **A.** The number of heterozygous SNPs, INDELs, and SVs are shared by N

Zinfandel clones; **B.** The number of SNPs and INDELs shared by N clones in exons, introns,

intergenic repeats ("Repeats"), and non-repetitive intergenic space; **C.** The ratio of transitions (Tr)

to transversions (Tv) for heterozygous SNPs that uniquely occur in single Zinfandel clones and in

different genome features. Different letters correspond to significant differences in Tr/Tv rates

between features (ANOVA, Tukey HSD, $p < 0.01$); **D.** The percentage of CpG, CHG, and CHH

in exons, introns, intergenic repeats ("Repeats"), and non-repetitive intergenic space that

experiences transition mutations. Comparisons were made between features for each type of C-

repeat separately. Different letters correspond to significant differences (Tukey HSD, $p < 0.01$);

E. Proportion of exonic SNPs and INDELs that are deleterious and shared by N Zinfandel clones

Figure 7. Transposable element insertions among Zinfandel selections. **A.** Transposable element

insertions shared among N Zinfandel selections relative to Zin03 and PN40024; **B.** The

proximity of intergenic transposable element insertions to genes; **C.** Types of transposable

element insertions shared by N Zinfandel selections.

Additional files

Additional File 1. Text file, .txt ; Settings and data used for Zin03 genome assembly, annotation,

and variant calling. Related to FALCON pipeline, RNAseq datasets and experimental data for

annotation procedure, Trimmomatic settings, and EVidenceModeler.

Additional File 2. Excel file, .xlsx ; Unique genes identified in Zinfandel, not identified in Pinot

Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon (309), with associated Gene Ontology categories

Additional File 3, Excel file, .xlsx ; Table S1, Summary of variants relative to the Zinfandel

reference genome; Table S2, SnpEff analysis of variants. Mean values ± SEM are shown.

Excludes sites and variants where samples and Zin03 have identical heterozygous genotypes at

the locus.

A

Set size	Cultivar	51,759	1,122	309	260	68	35	4	3
		Intersection size							
52,058	Pinot Noir V1	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
52,090	Pinot Noir V2	•		•	•	•	•	•	
52,984	Cabernet Sauvignon	•	•		•	•	•	•	
53,560	Zinfandel	•	•	•		•			•

B

SV length (bp, log₁₀)

Deletions, Duplicated insertions, Duplications, Insertions, Inversions, Inverted duplications

C

Zin03_Primary_000001F_quiver

10 kbp

3,042   3,044   3,046   3,048   3,050   3,052 kbp

Zinfandel 03

Cabernet Sauvignon 08

VvZin03.Ps_6.ver1.0.g471920   VvZin03.Ps_6.ver1.0.g471930   VvZin03.Ps_6.ver1.0.g471940   VvZin03.Ps_6.ver1.0.g471950

D

Zin03_Primary_000001F_quiver

23 kbp

964   966   968   970   972   974   976   978   980   982   984 kbp

Zinfandel 03

Cabernet Sauvignon 08

VvZin03.Ps_102.ver1.0.g214190