

Evaluating the timing of malolactic ferment inoculation

Why?

- A large number of parameters are involved in triggering malolactic fermentation (MLF). Choosing the right moment for inoculating one's wine with selected ferments is a factor for successful MLF.
- Choosing the right moment for lactic bacteria inoculation enables MLF to be reasoned according to the type of wine one wishes to produce, and also to adapt to technical constraints.

Key points



▶ **KNOWING ONE'S RESSOURCES:** it is essential to have good knowledge of the technical resources available (facilities, thermal equipment, etc.) and human resources (technicality, availability) before choosing the moment to inoculate malolactic ferments. Certain processes, such as co-inoculation for example, require good technical skills and a higher level of supervision.



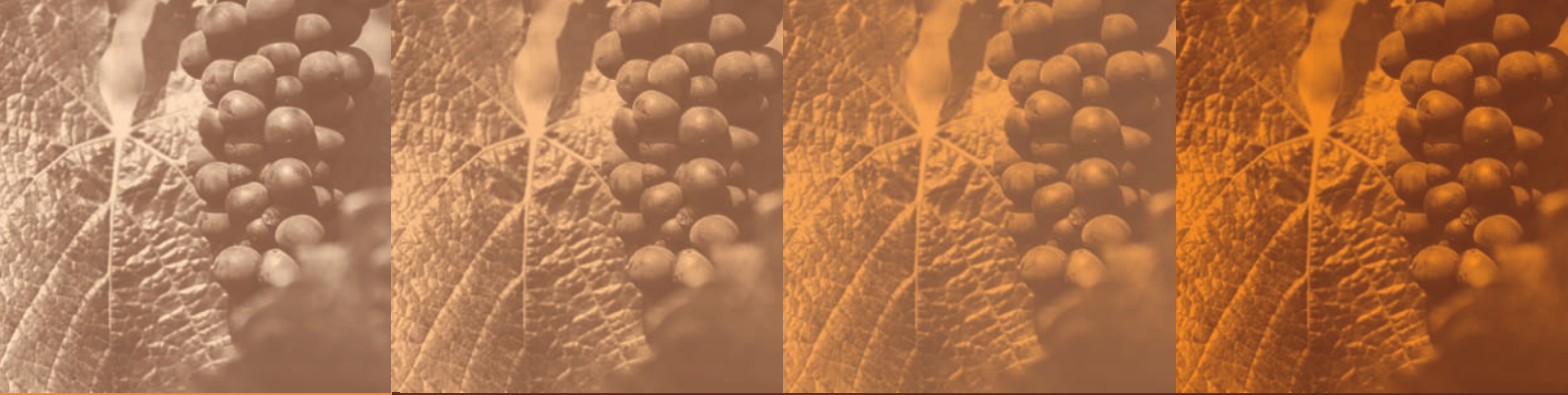
▶ **KNOWING ONE'S MUST AND WINE:** a large number of parameters play a role in the feasibility of malolactic fermentation (see practical guide n° 7). It is thus important to have a thorough knowledge of these different parameters in order to direct one's choice towards the best adapted form of bacteria, the strain and inoculation timing.



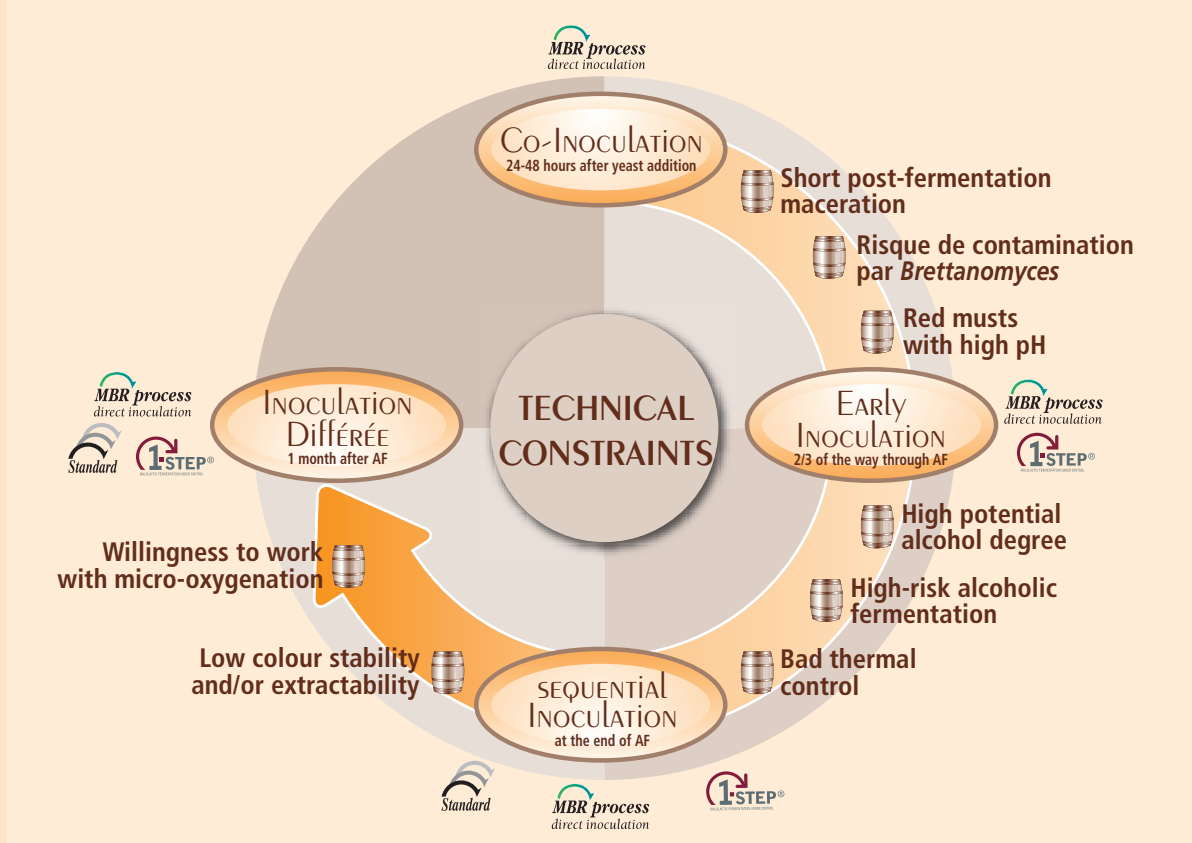
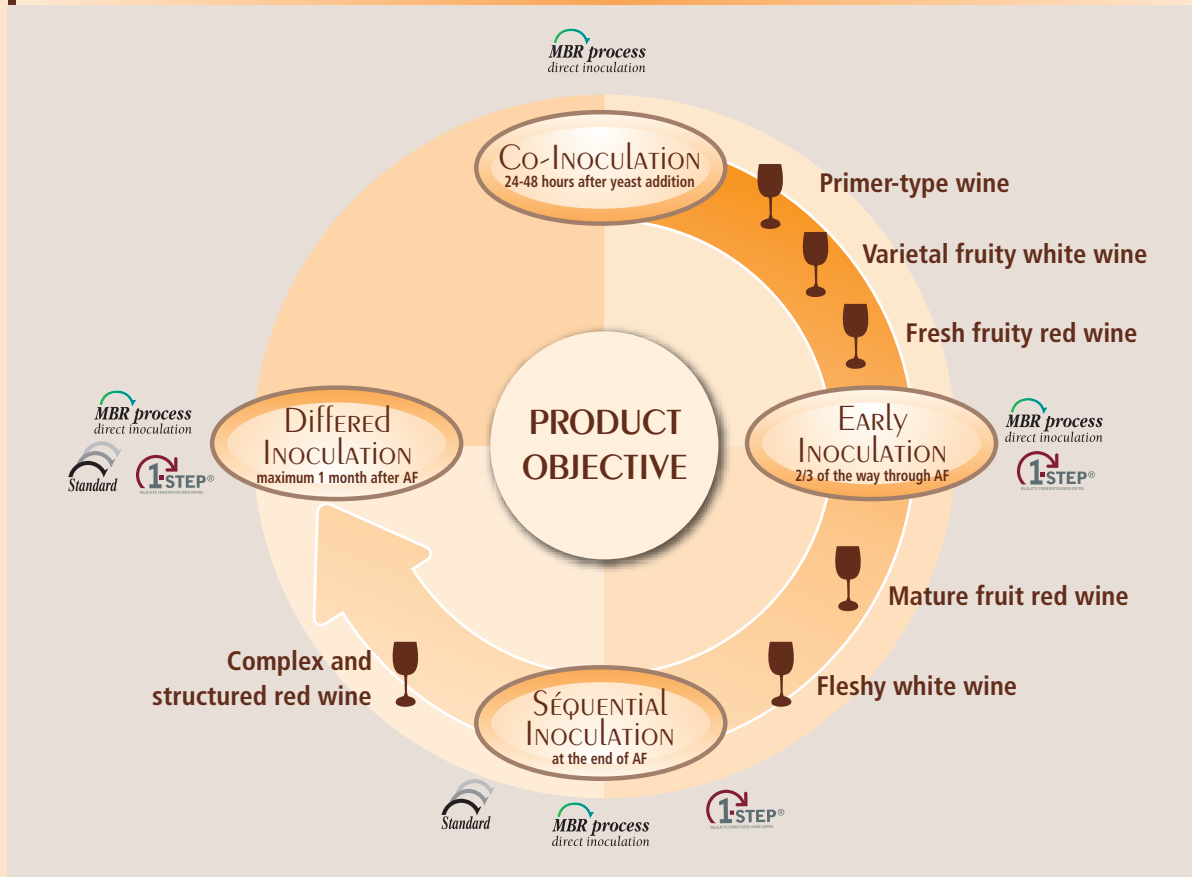
▶ **CHOOSING THE RIGHT PARTNERS FOR THE BACTERIA.** Lallemand has brought to light synergies between yeasts and bacteria, which can provide kinetic and organoleptic advantages. Furthermore, as bacteria require amino acids for their metabolism, it can be necessary to provide specific nutrients to facilitate MLF development.



▶ **MAKING COHERENT CHOICES:** defining the product objective and being aware of technical constraints must make up part of the initial considerations taken for the vinification itinerary, and condition the timing of bacteria inoculation. If, for example, the aim is to produce a structured, complex wine born from long macerations, the choice will be directed towards inoculation after alcoholic fermentation. However if there is a risk of microbiological contamination (high pH, *Brettanomyces*, etc.), the choice would rather be for early inoculation or even co-inoculation.



EVALUATING MLF ACCORDING TO...



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