

## Unfiltered

*The latest scientific advance in wine identification*

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Have you ever wondered if that blue-chip bottle of wine that's hidden away in your cellar is the genuine article? A new authentication system may be able to determine its identity—by examining the DNA of the bottle's contents. Developed by Applied DNA Sciences, the system, called BioMaterial Genotyping, can authenticate a wine using its DNA like a fingerprint to determine if it matches a bottle with certifiable provenance. "Grapes have certain genetic profiles," says MeiLin Wan, director of project management at Applied DNA Sciences (the same people who brought you the [DNA-based SigNature fraud-prevention system](#)). Technically, two bottles of the same wine should have identical DNA patterns. Apparently you can take samples of any organic material from the bottle for comparison. According to Wan, the error rate for the procedure is one in 1 trillion. However, in order to determine a wine's true identity, both the suspect bottle and the certified bottle will have to be opened in order to obtain the necessary samples, not something most collectors would imagine doing. The system has not been formally launched yet, so there's no word on how much it might cost to test a bottle. We'll have to wait and see how effective the system is, but in the meantime we'll get to work on that CS/wine mystery script.