


Article

Non-Thermal High Pressure Processing, Pulsed Electric Fields and Ultrasound Preservation of Five Different Table Wines

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Abstract: Wine preservation by alternative non-thermal and physical methods including high pressure processing (HPP), pulsed electric fields (PEF) and power ultrasound (US) technologies was investigated. The effect of these technologies on some quality parameters of five table wines was determined directly after processing and two months storage. For each wine, the pH, colour density, total phenolic content and antioxidant activity quality parameters were determined and the different treatments were compared. The pH of the untreated and treated wines generally remained unchanged after processing and storage. The antioxidant activity of the wines decreased after processing and storage. Generally, non-thermal processing did not affect the wine quality parameters during the 2 months storage. Overall, this study demonstrated that HPP had the smallest effect on the quality parameters assessed in five different wines.

Keywords: pasteurization; HPP; PEF; US; storage; quality; antioxidant activity; total phenolic content; colour



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1. Introduction

Table wines typically have alcohol contents ranging between 9 and 15% *v/v* [1]. To maintain the original wine quality, the recommended storage temperature for red, Rosé and white wines are 14 to 18 °C, 10 to 12 °C and 8 to 12 °C, respectively [2]. Typical red wines can be stored unopened for 2 to 3 years, while under stable temperatures fine red wines can be stored for decades. The quality of some red wines can be improved during storage with the formation of specific and desirable flavours and compounds. This is often referred to as wine ageing. On the contrary, the quality of white wines, rosé and several commercial red wines typically do not improve during storage. Thus these wines should be sold as soon as they are produced and stored no more than 1 to 2 years. Wine quality can deteriorate during storage due to exposure to sunlight, high temperatures, microbial spoilage and the failure of bottle closures. The shelf life of wines depends on the type of wine and preferences of the consumer [3]. On average, red wines have a shelf life of up to five years, which is significantly longer than the shelf life of white wines. During storage, the colour of red wines change from the purplish tone of young wines to the more stable brick-like shade of matured wines [3–5]. Temperatures below 25 °C help retain fresh and fruity characteristics while temperatures above 40 °C leads to the rapid deterioration of wine quality. These high temperatures promote Maillard and thermal degradation reactions leading to undesirable flavours, sedimentation and brown coloured wine [3,6].

Non-thermal food preservation technologies such as high pressure processing (HPP), pulsed electric fields (PEF) and power ultrasound (US) have the potential to extend wine shelf life by inactivating undesirable microorganisms with minimal impact on wine sensory properties. In a previous study by Van Wyk et al. (2018) two triangle tests were carried out by 28 experienced assessors who demonstrated no significant differences in Cabernet

Sauvignon red wine overall aroma and palate between: (i) HPP (400 MPa, 5 s) treated wine and untreated wine after 1 year storage at 25 °C; (ii) PEF (46.8 kV/cm, 100 Hz, 20.5 µs treatment time) treated wine and untreated wine after 1 year storage at 25 °C [7].

HPP is a batch process that relies on the application of uniform pressures of 100 to 600 MPa to beverages and foods. It has been used to inactivate spoilage microorganisms, namely yeasts and moulds in fruit juices, beer and wine [8–13]. Since 2000, the usage of HPP technology worldwide has increased exponentially and is now being implemented commercially in Japan, USA, Europe and Oceania. It is estimated that the number of HPP units installed in industry worldwide exceeded 350 in 2015, with a global food market value of \$9.8 bn US. HPP processed products available include fruit and vegetables, beverages, juices, pre-cooked meals and meat- and fish-based products [14,15].

PEF inactivate spoilage yeasts and bacteria in wine and other foods through the application of short, high electric field strength pulses which causes the electroporation of microbial cell membranes [16–21]. A study found that PEF processing of red wine resulted in no quality changes in the wine properties, while ensuring microbial stability [18].

In the case of US, a technology also known as sonication or ultrasonication, a probe is submerged in direct contact with the liquid food, which causes the formation of cavitation bubbles [8,22–24]. When the bubbles burst, localized high pressure regions are created which inactivate some microbes and enzymes.

A number of studies on the effect of HPP, PEF and US on wine quality have been conducted [7,10,18,21,25–27]. Some studies reported changes in wine quality factors including the acceleration of wine ageing. This suggests that these non-thermal technologies have the potential to shorten the time required to produce desirable high quality ‘aged’ wines. However, comparisons between HPP, PEF and US’s effect on the same wines and the effect of the same technology on different types of wine have not been investigated. Therefore, in this study five different table wines were processed and the main objectives were to compare the antioxidant activity, total phenolics content, colour density and pH quality parameters of: (i) HPP, PEF and US treated and untreated wines directly after processing and (ii) HPP, PEF and US treated and untreated wines after two months storage. Given the number of wines processed (5) and the three different treatments applied, only a preliminary evaluation of the five wines quality was carried out (four quality parameters). In future experiments the objective is to perform more detailed quality analyses for those wines which showed differences in the basic quality parameters assessed.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Characteristics of Different Varietal Wines Processed

To determine the impact of HPP, PEF and US on wine quality parameters directly after processing and after two months storage, five New Zealand wines recently manufactured in the same year of the experiments were purchased. These wines included a Syrah, Pinot Noir, Rosé, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris. Table 1 presents information on the grape variety, year, alcohol content and residual sugar content of the wines used in this study, as provided by the winemakers. All the wines used in this study contain SO₂, which may influence the results. However, using commercial wines containing SO₂ better reflects the majority of wines available on the market which can be processed with novel technologies.

Table 1. Characteristics of five table wines used in this study *.

Wine Grape Variety	Type	Year	Alcohol (% v/v)	Residual Sugar (g/L)
Sauvignon Blanc	White	2014	13.0	4.0
Pinot Gris	White	2014	13.0	12.2
Pinot Gris, Merlot, Malbec	Rosé	2014	12.5	4.3
Syrah	Red	2014	13.5	<1.0
Pinot Noir	Red	2014	13.0	<1.0

* Properties provided by the winemakers; alcohol concentration determined using gas chromatography (GC); residual sugar concentration determined using enzymatic assay.

2.2. Experimental Design

For each of the five wines processed, at least 7 bottles of wine of the same production batch were used in the experiments: 750 mL was stored untreated, 1.5 L was processed using non-thermal (<40 °C) batch HPP, 1.5 L treated by continuous PEF and 1.5 L sonicated with US process, as described in Sections 2.3–2.5. Because the aim was to study the effect of the technologies in more than one wine, the number of quality parameters analyzed and corresponding volume of wine processed was limited. For each non-thermal technology, the treated wine was bottled and sealed (with an airtight screwcap) in two 750 mL dark glass wine bottles, similar to winery practices. The bottles were stored for two months in a walk-in refrigeration room at 15.0 ± 1.5 °C. The antioxidant activity, total phenolic content, colour density and pH of the unprocessed and processed wine samples were measured directly after HPP, PEF and US treatment and after 2 months storage. The focus was placed on these wine qualities because they are frequently used in wine research to monitor the quality of wines subjected to different treatments and storage conditions.

2.3. High Pressure Processing

For HPP 200 mL wine samples were vacuum sealed in 154 µm thick pouches (Caspak, Silverdale, New Zealand). The pouches consisted of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE). Vacuum sealing was used to prevent bursting during depressurisation. The packaged wine samples were cooled to 3 °C before high pressure treatment. A total of 1.5 L of each wine was processed in multiple packaged samples for further storage and quality analysis.

A QFP 2L-700 (Avure Technologies, Columbus, OH, USA) high pressure food processing system was used for the HPP treatment. The equipment includes a 2 L cylindrical pressure chamber, distilled water as the pressure transmitting medium, water circulation for cooling and a pumping and control system operated using the manufacturer supplied software. A HPP pressure of 600 MPa for 5 min was used, as this treatment resulted in >6 log reductions of the wine spoilage yeast, *Brettanomyces bruxellensis* [12,13]. The temperature inside the pressure chamber was monitored using two internal thermocouples. Non-thermal conditions were maintained throughout processing with a temperature < 40 °C. After processing, the wines were transferred to two clean 750 mL glass wine bottles and sealed for storage.

2.4. Pulsed Electric Field

The PEF unit used in this study was designed and built in the University of Auckland [28]. It consists of a high voltage pulse generator, treatment chamber, data collection, fluid managing system and a cooling system. Square bipolar pulses with a pulse width of 1.5 µs and frequencies up to 1 kHz can be produced with voltages up to 30 kV using the pulse generator made by H. F. Power Ltd. (Auckland, New Zealand). The treatment chamber consists of a stable synthetic fluoropolymer of tetrafluoroethylene (poly-tetrafluoroethylene) also known as Teflon. Two mesh 316 food grade stainless steel parallel electrodes (50 mm diameter, 15 mm between electrodes) and a narrow-designed treatment field were also used to assure a higher electric field density area. The dimensions of the treatment zone depth and diameter were 5 and 8 mm, respectively with a total volume of the treatment chamber of 251.2 mm³ [16].

Before treatment, the wines were cooled down to 3 °C to ensure non-thermal processing conditions (<40 °C). The electric conductivity of the wines ranged between 0.88 and 2.04 mS/cm (Mettler Toledo SevenCompact™ conductivity meter, 22 °C). A total of 1.5 L of each wine was PEF treated in continuous mode using a flow rate of 4.3 mL/s (0.058 s residence time), which exposed each wine to an electric field strength of 45 kV/cm and 800 Hz frequency, equivalent to 46 pulses and 70 µs of real treatment time. The maximum electric field strength and lowest flow rate (longest single pass treatment time) that resulted in stable square, bipolar waves with no sparks were used in all the wines. Preliminary

results, using the same PEF conditions, achieved a 2.4 log reduction of *B. bruxellensis* (WLP 650 strain) in red wine (12.9% alc. *v/v*) [17].

2.5. Ultrasound

A UP200S ultrasonic processor by Hielscher (Hielscher-Ultrasonic GmbH, Teltow, Germany) was used in this study. High frequency (24 kHz) longitudinal vibrations were produced through electrical excitation. All wines were processed at atmospheric pressure using a 14 mm diameter tip sonotrode at a maximum amplitude of 125 μm , which delivered 105 W/cm^2 of acoustic energy density. The area of the sonotrode (1.539 cm^2) gives an electrode power of 161.6 W. The sonotrode was inserted into a Hielscher stainless steel D14K temperature-controlled 15 mL flow vessel, sealed with two rubber O-rings. The system was used in continuous mode with a flow rate of 0.73 mL/s to ensure a residence time of 20.5 s. The resultant specific acoustic power was 10.8 W/mL . The treatment conditions applied, represent the maximum non-thermal pasteurization conditions possible with the equipment available. The treatment chamber was cooled during processing using a water jacket to ensure temperatures remained $<40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Preliminary results of batch experiments revealed power ultrasound at $T \leq 10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ led to 1.9 log reduction of *B. bruxellensis* (WLP 650 strain) in red wine (12.9% alc. *v/v*) after 30 min processing time.

2.6. Quality Analysis of Wines

2.6.1. Antioxidant Activity

Antioxidant activity was measured using a DPPH assay [29]. A 45 mg/L solution of DPPH (2,2-diphenylpicrylhydrazyl) in methanol was prepared for each analysis. All wine samples were diluted by a factor of 10 using a mixture of 12% ethanol in water before analysis. The standard used was an 80 mg/L solution of a vitamin E analogue, Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid). The method involved placing 200 μL of diluted wine in a cell and adding 3 mL of the DPPH solution. A blank (200 μL diluted wine sample + 3 mL methanol), a control sample (200 μL 12% ethanol solution + 3 mL DPPH solution) and a Trolox standard (200 μL Trolox solution + 3 mL DPPH solution) were also prepared at the same time. The absorbance at 517 nm of the control and blank samples were measured on a spectrophotometer (Perkin-Elmer Lambda 35 UV/Vis) after vigorous mixing. After 15 min of incubation at room temperature, the wine samples and Trolox standard were measured under the same conditions. All measurements were performed in duplicate. The results, expressed in millimoles Trolox equivalent per litre (mmol TE/L), were calculated as follows:

$$\text{Antioxidant activity} \left(\frac{\text{mmol TE}}{\text{L}} \right) = 0.32 \times DF_w \times \frac{A_{\text{control}(t=0)} - A_{\text{wine}}}{A_{\text{control}(t=0)} - A_{\text{Trolox}}} \quad (1)$$

$$A_{\text{wine}} = A_{\text{wine}(t=15)} - A_{\text{blank}(t=0)} \quad (2)$$

$$A_{\text{Trolox}} = A_{\text{Trolox}(t=15)} - A_{\text{blank}(t=0)} \quad (3)$$

where A is absorbance at 517 nm, t is incubation time and the DF_w is the wine dilution factor of 10.

2.6.2. Total Phenolic Content

To measure the total phenolic content of the wines, Folin-Ciocalteu assays were performed according to a method used previously [30]. The samples were incubated with Folin-Ciocalteu reagent and sodium carbonate before the phenolic concentration was quantified by spectral absorbance at 765 nm (Perkin-Elmer Lambda 35 UV/Vis). Red wine samples were diluted by a factor of 10 before analysis. Using a calibration curve, total phenolic contents were expressed as gallic acid equivalents per litre of wine (GAE mg/L wine). All phenolic analyses were performed in duplicate.

2.6.3. Colour Density and pH

The colour density of the wine samples was determined by measuring the absorbance at 420, 520 and 620 nm using a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 35 UV/Vis instrument. As proposed by [31], colour density was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Colour density} = A_{420 \text{ nm}} + A_{520 \text{ nm}} + A_{620 \text{ nm}} \quad (4)$$

where A is absorbance. The measurements were performed in a 1 cm cell using distilled water as a reference. All measurements were performed in duplicate.

The pH of the wine samples was measured using a HI2020 Multi-parameter pH Meter (Hanna Instruments, Smithfield, VA, USA).

2.7. Data Analysis

The quality parameter results of the treated wines using the different technologies and untreated wines were compared using statistical analysis. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey tests, with a confidence level of 95% ($p < 0.05$), were conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 23, New York, NY, USA).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Quality Properties of Five Different Table Wines

The antioxidant activity, total phenolic content, colour density and pH of the five untreated table wines are included in Table 2. As expected, antioxidant activity and total phenolic content were much higher in Syrah (9.3 ± 0.2 mmol TE/L and 2540 ± 140 mg/L GAE, respectively) and Pinot Noir (10.4 ± 0.1 mmol TE/L and 2410 ± 550 mg/L GAE, respectively) red wines compared to the Rosé (2.8 ± 0.2 mmol TE/L and 440 ± 40 mg/L GAE, respectively) and the two white wines Sauvignon Blanc (2.5 ± 0.1 mmol TE/L and 290 ± 10 mg/L GAE, respectively) and Pinot Gris (4.5 ± 0.3 mmol TE/L and 510 ± 10 mg/L GAE, respectively) wines. Similarly, the antioxidant activity and total phenolic content of red wines were 7.5 to 15.9 mmol TE/L and 2600 to 4847 mg/L GAE, respectively [32]. The average antioxidant activity and total phenolic content of 21 red wines (including Cabernet Sauvignon wines) and eight white wines (including a Chardonnay) were lower at 5.52 mmol TE/L and 1545 mg/L GAE, respectively for the red wines and 0.71 mmol TE/L and 108 mg/L GAE, respectively for the white wines [33]. The colour density of the Syrah, Pinot Noir, Rosé, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris were 7.80 ± 0.09 , 4.68 ± 0.00 , 0.34 ± 0.02 , 0.08 ± 0.00 and 0.26 ± 0.00 , respectively. The original pH of all the untreated wines ranged between 3.28 ± 0.01 and 3.64 ± 0.04 .

Table 2. Effect of HPP, PEF and US processing on quality parameters of five table wines processed by HPP, PEF and US *.

Wines	Treatment	Antioxidant Activity (mmol TE/L) \pm SD	Total Phenolic Content (mg/L GAE) \pm SD	Colour Density \pm SD	pH \pm SD
Syrah	Untreated	9.3 ± 0.2^c	$2540 \pm 140^{a,b}$	7.80 ± 0.09^a	$3.64 \pm 0.04^{a,b}$
	HPP	7.9 ± 0.4^c	2930 ± 270^b	8.14 ± 0.01^b	3.80 ± 0.05^b
	PEF	0.4 ± 0.1^a	1700 ± 100^a	8.71 ± 0.02^c	3.61 ± 0.02^a
	US	4.8 ± 0.2^b	$1930 \pm 190^{a,b}$	8.40 ± 0.01^b	3.60 ± 0.02^a
Pinot Noir	Untreated	10.4 ± 0.1^f	2410 ± 550^c	4.68 ± 0.00^d	3.53 ± 0.03^c
	HPP	8.0 ± 0.2^e	2670 ± 120^c	4.89 ± 0.06^d	3.54 ± 0.03^c
	PEF	11.0 ± 0.2^f	1600 ± 90^c	5.14 ± 0.05^e	3.49 ± 0.03^c
	US	4.8 ± 0.1^d	1550 ± 60^c	4.88 ± 0.00^d	3.55 ± 0.01^c
Rosé	Untreated	2.8 ± 0.2^g	440 ± 40^d	0.34 ± 0.02^f	3.42 ± 0.03^d
	HPP	2.4 ± 0.2^g	$320 \pm 40^{d,e}$	0.38 ± 0.00^f	3.45 ± 0.04^d
	PEF	2.2 ± 0.1^g	$310 \pm 20^{d,e}$	0.38 ± 0.08^f	3.45 ± 0.01^d
	US	4.1 ± 0.2^h	210 ± 20^e	0.41 ± 0.01^f	3.51 ± 0.04^d

Table 2. Cont.

Wines	Treatment	Antioxidant Activity (mmol TE/L) \pm SD	Total Phenolic Content (mg/L GAE) \pm SD	Colour Density \pm SD	pH \pm SD
Sauvignon Blanc	Untreated	2.5 \pm 0.1 ⁱ	290 \pm 10 ^g	0.08 \pm 0.00 ^g	3.28 \pm 0.01 ^{e,f}
	HPP	2.2 \pm 0.4 ⁱ	270 \pm 10 ^g	0.10 \pm 0.00 ^g	3.34 \pm 0.02 ^f
	PEF	1.9 \pm 0.1 ⁱ	260 \pm 20 ^g	0.20 \pm 0.01 ⁱ	3.21 \pm 0.01 ^e
	US	nd	100 \pm 10 ^f	0.15 \pm 0.00 ^h	3.25 \pm 0.03 ^e
Pinot Gris	Untreated	4.5 \pm 0.3 ^j	510 \pm 10 ⁱ	0.26 \pm 0.00 ^k	3.57 \pm 0.08 ^g
	HPP	4.7 \pm 0.2 ^j	590 \pm 100 ⁱ	0.24 \pm 0.00 ^j	3.57 \pm 0.03 ^g
	PEF	3.5 \pm 0.2 ^j	510 \pm 30 ⁱ	0.37 \pm 0.00 ^l	3.55 \pm 0.02 ^g
	US	nd	100 \pm 10 ^h	0.27 \pm 0.00 ^k	3.49 \pm 0.02 ^g

* For each wine and quality parameter, different letters indicate difference in treatment's average value Tukey tests ($p < 0.05$); high pressure processing (HPP), pulsed electric fields (PEF), ultrasound (US); nd—antioxidant activity not detected.

3.2. Effect of HPP, PEF and US Processing on the Quality of Five Wines Directly after Processing

Table 2 and Figures 1–4 (values labelled 'directly after') show the antioxidant activity, total phenolic content, colour density and pH of the five treated wines directly after processing and respective untreated wines. For each wine, the antioxidant activity, total phenolic content, colour density and pH of HPP, PEF and US treated wines were compared to the untreated wines.

3.2.1. HPP

HPP treatment of 600 MPa for 5 min was found to have no statistically significant effect on the total phenolic content or pH of all five wines. The antioxidant activity of all wines resulted in similar values to the untreated wines after HPP except for a decrease in the Pinot Noir from 10.4 \pm 0.1 to 8.0 \pm 0.2 mmol TE/L. HPP had no effect on the colour density of the Sauvignon Blanc, Rosé or Pinot Noir. However, the colour density of the Pinot Gris decreased slightly from 0.26 \pm 0.00 to 0.24 \pm 0.00 and increased for the Syrah from 7.80 \pm 0.09 to 8.14 \pm 0.01. However, a longer HPP treatment of 15 min of a Syrah red wine (650 MPa) led to a decrease in total phenolic content [34]. HPP of red wine (500 MPa, 5 min) resulted in no significant change in the colour of the wine and slight increases in the total phenolic content and antioxidant activity of the wine directly after processing [26]. Repeating this study with white wine resulted in no change in the colour, total phenolic content or antioxidant activity of the wine directly after processing compared to the untreated wine [27]. HPP had no significant effect on the colour of a sparkling white wine subjected to 600 MPa for 2 min [35]. In general the results presented, in accordance with previous research, suggest that HPP has little to no effect on wine quality parameters investigated directly after processing.

3.2.2. PEF

As found with the HPP treated wines, PEF had no effect on the total phenolic content or pH of all wines compared to the untreated wines directly after processing (Table 2). No change in the antioxidant activity of PEF treated wines was found, except for a decrease observed in the Syrah from 9.3 \pm 0.2 to 0.4 \pm 0.1 mmol TE/L. PEF increased the colour density of the red wines (Syrah 7.80 \pm 0.09 to 8.71 \pm 0.02 and Pinot Noir 4.68 \pm 0.00 to 5.14 \pm 0.05) as well as the white wines (Sauvignon Blanc 0.08 \pm 0.00 to 0.20 \pm 0.01 and Pinot Gris 0.26 \pm 0.00 to 0.37 \pm 0.00). Similar to the results presented, it was found that the total phenolic content and antioxidant activity of PEF treated (31 kV/cm, 30 °C, 3 μ s square bipolar pulses, 40 mL/min) red wine were unchanged directly after processing [21]. Additionally, after eight days of storage, PEF treated red wine (20 kV/cm, 0.5 Hz, 10 μ s exponential decay pulses) resulted in a 1% increase in pH, 2% decrease in colour intensity and 5% increase in total phenolic content [25].

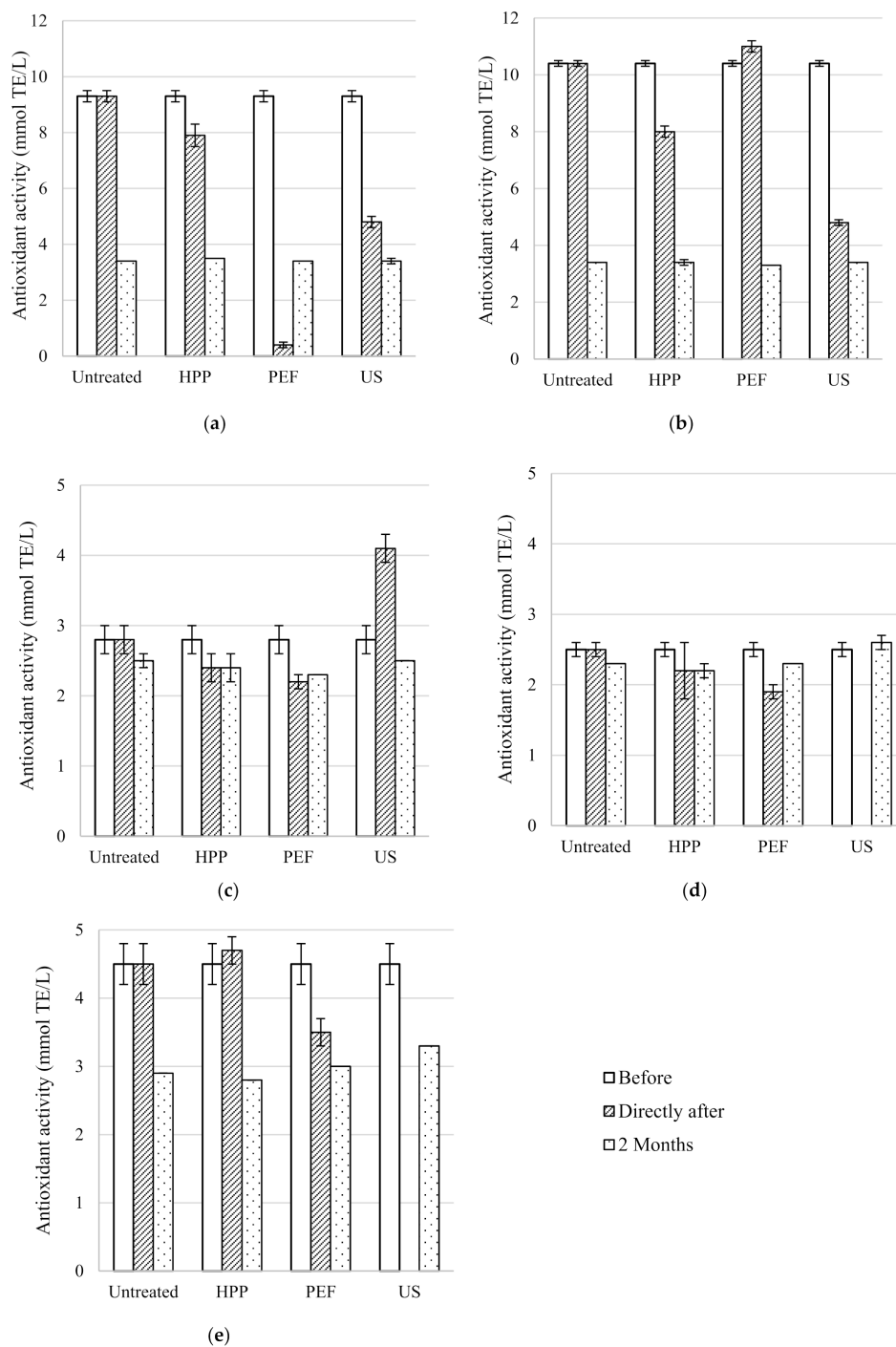


Figure 1. Antioxidant activity of untreated, high pressure processing (HPP), pulsed electric fields (PEF) and ultrasound (US) treated wines before, directly after processing and after two months storage at 15 °C; (a) Syrah, (b) Pinot Noir, (c) Rosé, (d) Sauvignon Blanc and (e) Pinot Gris.

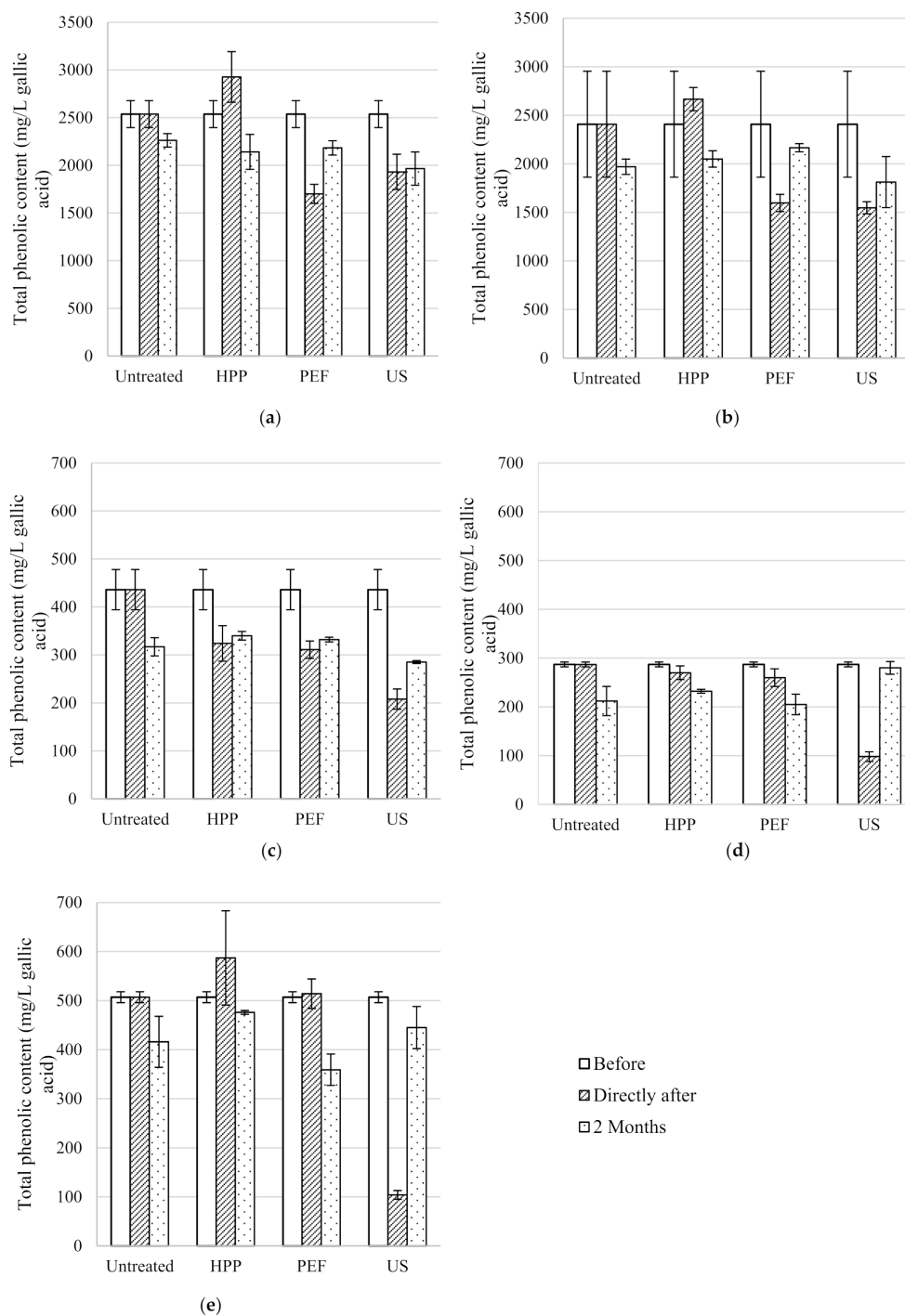


Figure 2. Total phenolic content of untreated, HPP, PEF and US treated wines before, directly after processing and after two months storage at 15 °C; (a) Syrah, (b) Pinot Noir, (c) Rosé, (d) Sauvignon Blanc and (e) Pinot Gris.

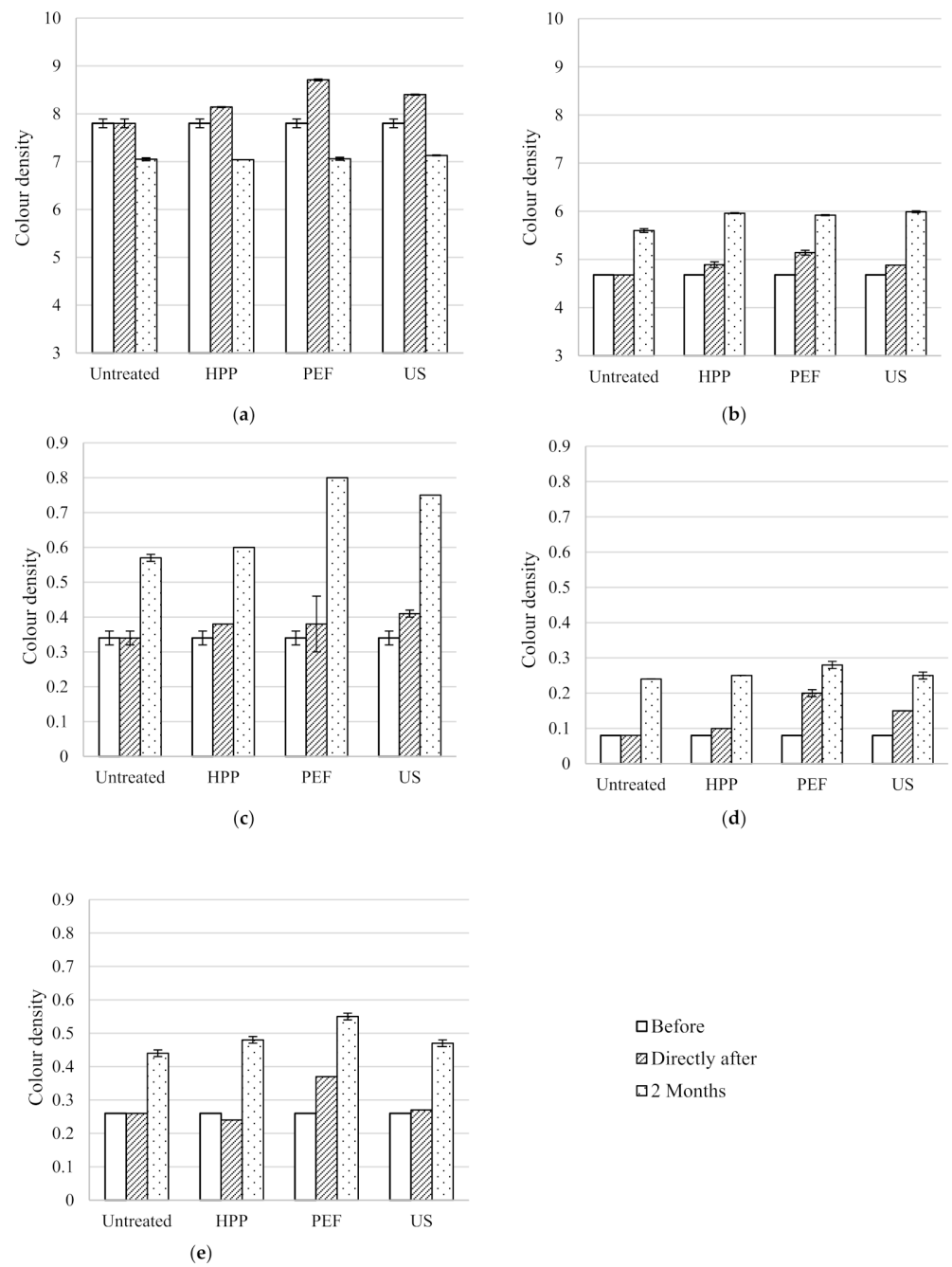


Figure 3. Colour density of untreated, HPP, PEF and US treated wines before, directly after processing and after two months storage at 15 °C; (a) Syrah, (b) Pinot Noir, (c) Rosé, (d) Sauvignon Blanc and (e) Pinot Gris.

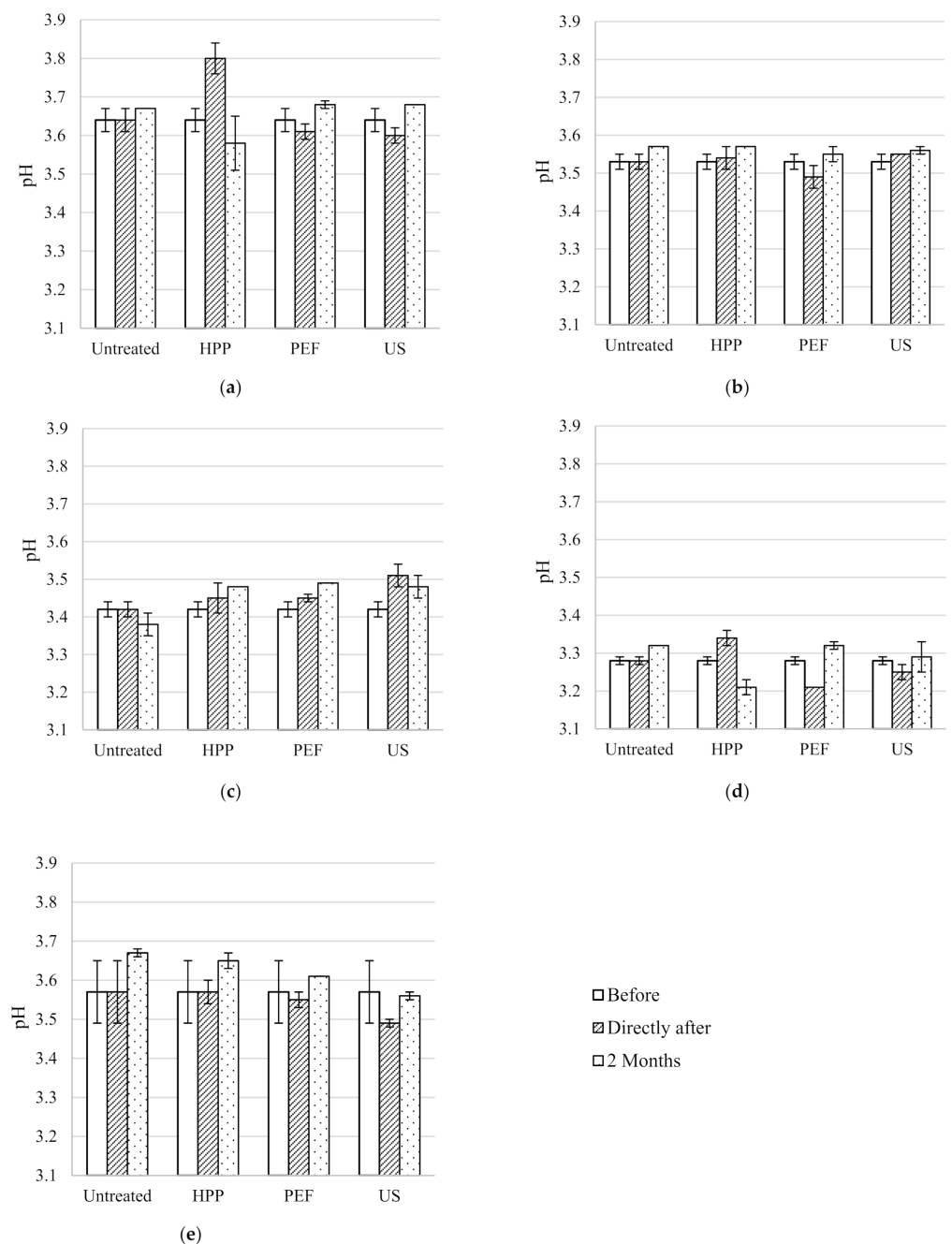


Figure 4. pH of untreated, HPP, PEF and US treated wines before, directly after processing and after two months storage at 15 °C; (a) Syrah, (b) Pinot Noir, (c) Rosé, (d) Sauvignon Blanc and (e) Pinot Gris.

3.2.3. US

US also had no effect on the pH of all treated wines directly after processing. As with HPP and PEF, the total phenolic content of the Syrah and Pinot Noir red wines presented similar values to the untreated wines. However, unlike the other technologies, US decreased the total phenolic content of the Sauvignon Blanc (290 ± 10 to 100 ± 10 mg/L GAE), Pinot Gris (510 ± 10 to 100 ± 10 mg/L GAE). The US treatment of Rosé wine reduced the TPC from 440 ± 40 mg/L GAE (untreated) to 210 ± 20 mg/L GAE (US treated), although TPC of US, HPP and PEF wines was not statistically different. The antioxidant activity of the Rosé increased from 2.8 ± 0.2 to 4.1 ± 0.2 mmol TE/L directly after ultrasound treatment. This result is unusual since previous studies have found that there is a positive relationship between total phenolic content and antioxidant activity [36]. It is also known

that US can produce hydroxyl radicals during sonication with the aromatic ring of phenolic compounds, which in turn increases total phenolic content [37]. The antioxidant activity decreased for both Syrah (9.3 ± 0.2 to 4.8 ± 0.2 mmol TE/L) and Pinot Noir (10.4 ± 0.1 to 4.8 ± 0.1 mmol TE/L). The colour density of most wines remained stable directly after ultrasound treatment except for a slight increase for the Sauvignon Blanc (0.08 ± 0.00 to 0.15 ± 0.00) and Syrah (7.80 ± 0.09 to 8.40 ± 0.01). Previous research concluded that US has the potential to speed up the ageing of wine [22,38]. General trends observed in the wines were that US decreased antioxidant activity, total phenolic content and pH directly after processing, while increasing colour density.

3.2.4. Comparison of the Three Technologies' Effect on Quality Parameters

Comparing the three non-thermal technologies directly after processing, HPP and PEF had no effect on the total phenolic content of the wines treated. However, US significantly decreased the total phenolic content of the white and Rosé wines. The results of the Syrah wine shows that HPP had no effect on antioxidant activity while US and PEF caused a decrease (9.3 ± 0.2 in untreated wine to 4.8 ± 0.2 and 0.4 ± 0.1 mmol TE/L, respectively). The same trend resulted from the colour density data of the Syrah wine, with HPP and US causing the smallest increase in colour density and PEF the most. Therefore, HPP had the smallest effect on the quality factors assessed in the wines. General wine quality trends (not all statistically significant) suggest that HPP, PEF and US have potential for preserving wine and possibly the acceleration of wine ageing.

3.3. Effect of Two Months Storage Quality Parameters of Five Different Table Wines Untreated and HPP, PEF and US Treated

The wine microbial spoilage can be indirectly monitored by the pH assessed during 2 months storage, as the wine pH decreases with microbial growth [37]. The results showed that generally the pH of the five wines untreated and treated with different technologies is not significantly different before storage and after 2 months storage (Figure 4).

3.3.1. Trends in Quality Parameters with Storage

During prolonged wine storage, antioxidant activity and total phenolic content usually decrease while colour density increases. As a result of processing and storage, it is generally desired that antioxidant activity and total phenolic content increase or remain unchanged. As colour density increases, wine colour becomes darker. Evidence has shown that increasing colour density is linked to higher quality ratings in red wine [39]. However, consumer preference dictates whether an increasing or decreasing wine colour density with processing and storage is beneficial to the wine quality.

Figure 1 shows the trends in the antioxidant activity of the five non-thermal treated and corresponding untreated wines after two months storage. Results show that the antioxidant activity of the wines generally decreased with storage. A possible explanation for the decrease in antioxidant activity could be an increase in condensation reactions of the phenolic compounds in the wines [26,27]. It was established that the antioxidant activity of the untreated and HPP treated (500 MPa, 5 min) red wine (Touriga Nacional grape variety) increased during the first three months and then decreased during the rest of the storage, with the antioxidant activity of the treated wine being higher than the untreated wine throughout storage [26]. For the white wine (Encruzado grape variety), a slight increase in antioxidant activity during storage was observed.

The total phenolic content of the untreated, HPP and PEF treated white wines (Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris) also decreased slightly during the two months storage period (Figure 2). Total phenolic content is an important wine quality parameter with significant technological implications regarding wine ageing. Since the phenolic compounds in the wines contribute to bitterness, astringency, mouthfeel and colour, this suggests that the sensory properties of the wines treated using HPP and PEF are also impacted [19,31]. The total phenolic content of the untreated red wine remained stable at 2250 mg/L GAE during storage, while the HPP treated red wine decreased to 2050 mg/L GAE [26]. The same

trend was observed with the HPP treated white wine with the untreated total phenolic content remaining stable at 350 mg/L GAE and the total phenolic content of the treated wine decreasing slightly to 320 mg/L GAE [27].

Figure 3 shows the colour density of the five untreated and non-thermal treated wines stored after a period of two months. The colour density of the wines generally increased during storage, the Syrah wine being the exception, which resulted in a decrease in colour density during the two months storage. The colour of a red and white wine subjected to HPP (500 MPa, 5 min) has been monitored during one year storage [26,27]. It was found that the CIE colour parameters of the untreated and HPP treated red and white wines increased during storage. The colour density of all untreated (except the Syrah) wines were generally lower than the treated wines after processing and storage. HPP, PEF and US have been known to activate and accelerate browning caused by the Maillard reaction and polyphenol oxidase [27]. This explains the increased colour density in HPP, PEF and US treated wines compared to the untreated wines.

Figure 4 shows that pH generally remained unchanged during storage, compared to the untreated wines.

3.3.2. Comparison of Quality Parameters of Untreated and Treated Wine after 2 Month Storage

The antioxidant activity, total phenolic content, colour density and pH after two months storage of untreated and HPP, PEF and US treated wines is shown in Table 3 and Figures 1–4. No significant difference was detected between the total phenolic content or pH of untreated, HPP, PEF and US treated wines at the end of 2 months storage (except for a slight decrease in the pH of the US treated Pinot Gris). Generally, after 2 months storage the antioxidant activity of untreated, HPP, PEF and US treated wines were similar, with the exception of US with a higher antioxidant activity of the Pinot Gris, and HPP with a lower antioxidant activity, compared to the untreated wine.

Table 3. Effect of two months storage at 15 °C on quality parameters of five table wines untreated and processed by HPP, PEF and US *.

Wines	Treatment	Antioxidant Activity (mmol TE/L) ± SD	Total Phenolic Content (mg/L GAE) ± SD	Colour Density ± SD	pH ± SD
Syrah	Untreated	3.5 ± 0.0 ^a	2260 ± 70 ^a	7.05 ± 0.03 ^a	3.67 ± 0.01 ^a
	HPP	3.5 ± 0.0 ^a	2140 ± 180 ^a	7.04 ± 0.00 ^a	3.58 ± 0.07 ^a
	PEF	3.4 ± 0.0 ^a	2180 ± 80 ^a	7.06 ± 0.03 ^a	3.68 ± 0.01 ^a
	US	3.4 ± 0.1 ^a	1970 ± 180 ^a	7.13 ± 0.01 ^a	3.68 ± 0.00 ^a
Pinot Noir	Untreated	3.4 ± 0.0 ^b	1970 ± 80 ^b	5.60 ± 0.04 ^b	3.57 ± 0.00 ^b
	HPP	3.4 ± 0.1 ^b	2050 ± 80 ^b	5.96 ± 0.01 ^c	3.57 ± 0.01 ^b
	PEF	3.3 ± 0.0 ^b	2170 ± 40 ^b	5.92 ± 0.01 ^c	3.55 ± 0.02 ^b
	US	3.4 ± 0.0 ^b	1810 ± 50 ^b	5.99 ± 0.02 ^c	3.56 ± 0.01 ^b
Rosé	Untreated	2.5 ± 0.1 ^c	320 ± 20 ^c	0.57 ± 0.01 ^d	3.38 ± 0.03 ^c
	HPP	2.4 ± 0.2 ^c	340 ± 10 ^c	0.60 ± 0.00 ^e	3.48 ± 0.00 ^c
	PEF	2.3 ± 0.0 ^c	330 ± 10 ^c	0.80 ± 0.00 ^g	3.49 ± 0.00 ^c
	US	2.5 ± 0.0 ^c	290 ± 10 ^c	0.75 ± 0.00 ^f	3.48 ± 0.04 ^c
Sauvignon Blanc	Untreated	2.3 ± 0.0 ^{d,e}	210 ± 30 ^d	0.24 ± 0.00 ^h	3.32 ± 0.00 ^d
	HPP	2.2 ± 0.1 ^d	230 ± 10 ^d	0.25 ± 0.00 ^h	3.21 ± 0.02 ^d
	PEF	2.3 ± 0.0 ^{d,e}	210 ± 20 ^d	0.28 ± 0.01 ^h	3.32 ± 0.01 ^d
	US	2.6 ± 0.1 ^e	280 ± 10 ^d	0.26 ± 0.01 ^h	3.29 ± 0.04 ^d
Pinot Gris	Untreated	2.9 ± 0.0 ^g	420 ± 50 ^e	0.44 ± 0.01 ⁱ	3.67 ± 0.01 ^f
	HPP	2.8 ± 0.0 ^f	480 ± 10 ^e	0.48 ± 0.01 ^j	3.65 ± 0.03 ^f
	PEF	3.0 ± 0.0 ^g	360 ± 30 ^e	0.55 ± 0.01 ^k	3.61 ± 0.01 ^{e,f}
	US	3.3 ± 0.0 ^h	450 ± 40 ^e	0.47 ± 0.01 ^{ij}	3.56 ± 0.01 ^e

* For each wine and quality parameter, different letters indicate difference in treatment's average value Tukey tests ($p < 0.05$); high pressure processing (HPP), pulsed electric fields (PEF), ultrasound (US).

For Sauvignon Blanc and Syrah, the colour density of untreated and treated wine (HPP, PEF, US) was similar after 2 months storage. However, the following HPP wines presented higher colour density than the corresponding stored untreated wine after 2 months storage: Pinot Gris (0.48 ± 0.01 vs. 0.44 ± 0.01), Rosé (0.60 ± 0.00 vs. 0.57 ± 0.01) and Pinot Noir (5.96 ± 0.01 vs. 5.60 ± 0.04). Previous authors found that HPP treated red wine (500 MPa, 5 min) showed no significant difference in colour, total phenolic content or antioxidant activity compared to untreated wine after three months storage at 10–15 °C [26]. The same experiments conducted with a white wine resulted in a decrease in the CIE colour parameters, a slight decrease in antioxidant activity and a slight increase in total phenolic content [27].

As with HPP, PEF colour density was higher than the untreated wine for the Pinot Gris (0.55 ± 0.01 vs. 0.44 ± 0.01), Rosé (0.80 ± 0.00 vs. 0.57 ± 0.01) and Pinot Noir (5.92 ± 0.01 vs. 5.60 ± 0.04). Furthermore, for the Rosé, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris, the colour density of PEF treated wines was the highest after storage, compared with untreated, HPP and US wines.

Regarding US treated wines, the colour density of the Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Syrah US wines was similar to the stored untreated sample. On the contrary, Rosé (0.75 ± 0.00 vs. 0.57 ± 0.01) and Pinot Noir (5.99 ± 0.02 vs. 5.60 ± 0.04) had higher values than the untreated wine. The antioxidant activity of the US treated Pinot Gris was higher (3.3 ± 0.0 mmol TE/L) compared to the untreated (2.9 ± 0.0 mmol TE/L), while the other wines were similar to the untreated stored wine sample.

4. Conclusions

HPP and PEF had no effect on the total phenolic content of the treated wines. Non-thermal processing had no effect on the antioxidant activity of HPP treated white and Rosé wines, US treated white wines and all PEF wines except the Syrah directly after processing. Comparing the antioxidant activity and total phenolic content results from the Syrah wine, HPP had the smallest effect on these wine quality parameters directly after processing followed by PEF and lastly US. HPP, PEF and US had no significant effect on the pH of all five wines treated directly after processing, and the pH of the untreated and treated wines generally remained unchanged during storage.

After two months storage, no significant effect on the total phenolic content of any of the five wines treated was observed as a result of non-thermal processing. Compared to the untreated wines, there was no difference in the antioxidant activity of all but one wine subjected to HPP, PEF or US after two months storage. Regarding Pinot Gris, HPP increased colour density less than PEF treatment. In the case of Rosé wines, HPP followed by US and PEF had the smallest effect on colour density after two months storage. As found directly after processing, HPP had the smallest overall effect on wine quality factors after two months storage. HPP is a promising preservation technology, as quality factors assessed remained stable during two months storage after a treatment which is able to cause >6 log reductions of *Brettanomyces bruxellensis*. The other technologies also have potential, maintaining the quality factors investigated constant during two months storage. Although microbes might be present after processing, the alcohol content of the wines (12.5–13.5% v/v) did not allow them to grow during storage, so wines kept their properties. In general, the US process caused a reduction in the TPC and antioxidant activity of the wines, while PEF and HPP did not affect these quality factors directly after processing. However, after 2 months storage no differences were registered between the processed (HPP, PEF, US) and untreated samples of wine.

In future studies the effect of the novel technologies on other parameters important to assess the wine quality should be investigated, namely fixed and volatile acidity, total sugars, reducing sugars, residual sugar, alcoholic strength (% v/v) and sulfur dioxide content (if added to the wine). Analysis of tannins and anthocyanins content of the wines could also be determined through HPLC profiles. To compare the viability of HPP, PEF and US with the traditional SO₂ treatment, it is important that future experiments are carried out

with SO₂ preservative free wines treated with specific processing conditions of non-thermal technologies which deliver the same lethality (intensity) in the target microorganism of concern (e.g., Brett). Additionally, longer wine storage experiments up to 6–12 months should be carried out to mimic the real wine conservation time.

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