

Review

# Comparative Study on Microbial Communities of Soil, Grape Must and Wine Fermentation of Cabernet Sauvignon Inoculated with three Commercial Yeast of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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**Abstract:** This study examined the microbial diversity in soil, grape must and wine fermentation of Cabernet Sauvignon inoculated with three different starters (S01: Xinjiang *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CEC01; SCA: Ningxia *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CECA; S96: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* AWRI 796) using a high-throughput sequencing technique. The results showed that 227 bacterial genera and 20 fungi genera were shared in all samples, consisting of *Saccharomyces*, *Filobasidium*, *Colletotrichum*, *Alternaria* by Venn diagram analysis. Principle component analysis showed the microbiota structures between S01, SCA and S96 fermentation were similar, the major bacterial genera were *Pseudomonas*, unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae and *Lactobacillus*, whereas the major fungi genus was *Saccharomyces*. The biomarkers of bacterial genera in S01, SCA and S96 groups were detected using LEfSe analysis, in which *Komagataeibacter*, *Micromonospora*, *Streptomyces*, *Brevibacterium* and *Agromyces* were core microorganisms in the S01 group, SCA fermentation increased the relative abundance of *Lactobacillus* and *Oenococcus*, family *Ruminococcaceae* was dominant in the S96 group. The distinctions in fungi communities between S01, SCA and S96 group were not observed during the fermentation. Understanding of microbial diversity could aid to promote the formation of regional characteristics and the development of high-quality wines through the management of existing microorganisms in future.

**Keywords:** Wine, Microbial Community, Fermentation, Yeast, High-Throughput Sequencing

## Introduction

Cabernet Sauvignon grape, one of the most important *Vitis vinifera* grape varieties, is originated from the region of Bordeaux, France and introduced to China in 1892 (de Castilhos *et al.*, 2017). The juices and wines produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes present high quality and specific features, such as a particular taste, high content phenolic compounds and significant antioxidant activity, therefore they are widespread in the primate wine making countries (Radovanovic *et al.*, 2016). While wines made from the same grape variety that growing in different regions are favored by people because of their unique characteristics, collectively referred to as “terroir”.

Shacheng (Hebei Province), located at 40° north latitude, is one of the golden zones of grape cultivation in the world with characteristics of slightly acidic soil, large temperature difference between daytime and night time, ample light and hot rainy season. The wine production from Cabernet Sauvignon grape in Shacheng has been developed as one of the representative “terroir” variety in China (Jiang *et al.*, 2013).

It has been well known that microorganisms play an important role in regulating the health and growth of vine and grapes, as well as wine production (Barata *et al.*, 2012). The microbes of grape skin could stem from the vineyard soil, precipitation (rainfall, snow and hail), air and animal transmission (especially bees) (Zarraonaindia *et al.*,

2015; Lam *et al.*, 2015; Morrison-Whittle *et al.*, 2018). Increasing evidence have supported grape-associated yeasts would participate in wine fermentations affecting the organoleptic characteristics of the wines (Liu *et al.*, 2020), the same process can also be explained in reverse as the transfer of yeast from the winery to the nearby vineyards, thereby affecting the local native yeast community. The persistence of these yeasts in the soil, grapes, vines or processing environment is difficult to determine. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the growing environment (especially the soil) and the microbial community carried by the grapes to understand the formation of wine flavor characteristics and quality control.

The conversion of grape must into wine is a complicated process involving the participation of many microorganisms and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (*S. cerevisiae*) is mainly responsible for alcohol fermentation. Traditionally, wine fermentation is spontaneously carried out by indigenous yeasts that appear on the grapes, or yeasts from wine cellars and equipment during the fermentation. In the modern wine industry, inoculation with a single strain of *S. cerevisiae* has been widely used to produce wine with strong stability and consistency (Suzzi *et al.*, 2012) due to its winemaking properties, such as fermentation ability, enhanced wine aroma, low production of hydrogen sulfide, tolerance of temperature, ethanol and pressure. Different strains of *S. cerevisiae* for fermentation of grape must have a very important impact on wine quality, therefore many wine researchers prefer to use and select indigenous *S. cerevisiae* for the wine fermentation (Tzanetakis *et al.*, 2006). For example, based on specific criteria, Nikolaou *et al.* (2006) have screened indigenous yeast strains from hundreds of isolates for developing unique regional wines. Aponte *et al.* (2016) have pointed that the indigenous *S. cerevisiae* M3-5 isolated from the “Moscato di Saracena” wine was more suitable for winemaking than commercial strains. Ortiz *et al.* (2013) have demonstrated that 95% of isolated yeasts in the spontaneously fermented wines of “La Mancha” region consumed all sugars within 15 days and successfully completed the fermentation. Nine *S. cerevisiae* strains have been evaluated for their ability to reduce the adsorption of tannins on salivary proteins and there were differences between the strains, which has proven that the selection of yeast would be the key to determining changes in color and astringency profile of red wines (Rinaldi *et al.*, 2016).

In addition to *S. cerevisiae*, other bacterial microorganisms in the must release metabolites, which lead to changes in the chemical environment during fermentation and affect the composition and characteristics of wine. Therefore, having more information about dynamic changes of the microbial community during fermentations inoculated with different *S. cerevisiae* is helpful for wine-makers to monitor the alcoholic fermentation, meanwhile modulate the gustative and mouthfeel of red wines.

On a global scale, the wine industry is an important socio-economic activity. The total wine production worldwide is approximate 250 million liters in 2021 (OIV, 2020; Statista, 2020). The worldwide wine industry comprises thousands of distinct geographic regions. For example, nearly 1600 cellar doors in Australia and 212 companies at least in China are spread throughout the geographically classified wine regions, which are marketed collectively according to the unique characteristics of terroir (Lewis *et al.*, 2021). In this study, the high-throughput sequencing was used to analyze microbial community diversity of soil, grape juice and wine producing from Shacheng, Hebei Province, China. Three commercial yeast, Xinjiang *S. cerevisiae* CEC01, Ningxia *S. cerevisiae* CECA and *S. cerevisiae* AWRI 796, were used to perform the Cabernet Sauvignon wine fermentations, aiming to explore the differences in the dynamics of microbial diversity. These results would contribute to the understanding of the relevance between regional microbiome and wine quality and help to discover the dominant microbial genera under different fermentation starter, which would offer valuable analysis for wine-makers in monitoring fermentation processes and controlling the quality and flavor of wine in Shacheng.

## Materials and Methods

### Sample Collection and Preparation

The Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard soil samples in the wine grape producing area (N40° 4', E115° 52') were obtained and named as VS sample. In order to get the unbiased VS sample, the five-point sampling method was used and the soil was cut vertically with a sterilized soil shovel at a depth of 20 cm. Approximately 0.5 kg of soil was sampled at each sampling point and stored in a sterile airtight bag. Soil samples were airdried, gently ground and sieved through a 2 mm nylon sieve and stored at -80°C until analysis.

Fully mature Cabernet Sauvignon grapes (soluble solids, 23-24° Brix; sugar content, 225.1-232.2 g/L of glucose; pH, 3.43-3.45; total acidity, 5.5-6.3 g/L of tartaric acid) were collected from the Shacheng vineyard in 2019. After the rigorous screening process, Cabernet Sauvignon grapes were destemmed, lightly crushed into grape must and named as GM sample.

A part of group must was cooled to 10 ± 1 °C for 24 h to make the clarification process through natural settlement before alcoholic fermentation. Then, 50 mg/L of SO<sub>2</sub> and 3 g/Kg of pectinase (LAFFORT, France) were added to the group must and the loading volume was 80% of the 90000 L tank capacity. The fermentation was started by *S. CEC01*, *S. cerevisiae* CECA, *S. cerevisiae* AWRI 796 and namely as S01, SCA and S96, respectively. Among them, *S. cerevisiae* CEC01 and *S. cerevisiae* CECA were obtained from Angle Yeast Co.,

Ltd (China) and *S. cerevisiae* AWRI 796 was obtained from Australian Wine Research Institute (Australian). The addition amount of yeast was 20-30 g/100 L. Fermentation was maintained at a controlled temperature 28°C for 10 days with pumping three times per day. Samples were collected for analysis at days 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 during the alcohol fermentation and then the alcoholic fermentations were considered to be finished when the content of total residual sugar content was below 4 g/L. All samples were stored at -80°C until analysis.

#### DNA Extraction and PCR Amplification

The total genomic DNA was extracted from samples using FastDNA® SPIN Kit (MP Biomedicals, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The integrity of DNA was then checked by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. Primers 338F/806R and ITS1F/ITS2R were used to amplify the V3-V4 region of bacterial 16S rRNA and fungal ITS1 regions for Miseq sequencing, respectively. The TransStart Fastpfu DNA Polymerase was applied in PCR amplification reactions of bacterial 16S rRNA, TaKaRa rTaq DNA Polymerase was used to amplify the ITS1 rDNA regions of fungi. The PCR amplification was carried out in a volume of 20 µL. The amplified products were visualized by 2% agarose gel electrophoresis and then purified by the AxyPrep DNA Gel Extraction Kit (AXYGEN Biosciences, Union City, CA, USA).

#### Illumine Miseq Sequencing and Data Processing

Both libraries were sequenced on the Illumina Miseq platform by Majorbio Bio-Pharm Technology Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Raw reads obtained from the Illumina platform were filtered to obtain high quality sequences (length >150 bp, the lowest overlap length <10 bp, no read segment containing the base 'N') with the QIIME (ver. 1.8.0). For both bacteria and fungi, non-repetitive sequences were clustered to the Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs) at a 97% similarity using RDP Classifier (version 2.2 <http://sourceforge.net/projects/rdp-classifier/>). Alpha diversities indices used for analyzing the species diversity of samples were calculated by Mothur (ver.1.31.2).

#### Statistical Analysis

Significant differences in the means of alpha diversity indices among sample groups were determined by Student's t-test at  $p < 0.05$ . Venn diagrams were performed by an R package (version 3.3.1) to present unique and shared genera. Principal component analysis was performed to explore the correlation of three *S. cerevisiae* fermentations samples using an R package. Differences in the relative abundances of bacteria and fungi genera among grapes must and wine fermentation samples groups were explored using Kruskal-Wallis tests and adjusted by False Discovery Rate (FDR)-corrected p-values. Linear discriminant analysis Effect Size (LEfSe) was conducted

using LEfSe package ([http://huttenhower.sph.harvard.edu/galaxy/root?tool\\_id=lefse\\_upload](http://huttenhower.sph.harvard.edu/galaxy/root?tool_id=lefse_upload)).

## Results

### Community Alpha Diversity

After processing to remove low-quality sequences and chimaeras, across all samples, the numbers of Operational Taxonomic Units (OTUs with a threshold of 97%) were 3129 and 356 for bacteria and fungi, respectively. The alpha diversity indices of soil, grape must and fermented wine samples based on 16S rRNA and ITS sequencing were presented in Table 1 to evaluate the bacterial and fungal diversities and abundances. Good's coverage of all samples reached up to 1.0, which demonstrated that the sequencing data coverage gave a satisfactory description of the microbial diversity. Overall, based on these results of Shannon, Simpson, ACE and Chao indices, there was a similar tendency for the diversity and richness of microbitia community of bacteria and fungi, that was the VS sample > GM sample > fermented wine samples and the diversity of bacteria was higher than that of fungi. It was clear that the highest alpha diversity indices ( $p < 0.05$ ) in three yeast strains fermented samples were found at 2th day, which indicated that the bacterial and fungi community richness at 2th day was the highest in this stage.

### Composition of Microorganism Communities

The bacterial and fungi communities at the genus level of five sample groups were showed in Fig. 1. The bacterial communities of VS sample were complicated and the relative abundance of each bacteria was lower than other samples. The most abundant bacterial genera in VS was *norank\_f\_JG30-KF-CM45* and followed by *Arthrobacter*, *Streptomyces*, *Actinobacteria*, *Nocardioideis*, *Blastococcus*, *Bacillus*, *norank\_f\_Geminococcaceae* and the other genera with relative abundance less than 1% accounting for 51.06%. The detected bacterial genera across GM and wine samples had a similar tendency, except the higher levels of *Sphingomona*, *norank\_f\_Mitochondria* and *Massilia* in grape must compared with the alcohol fermentation samples. After inoculating yeast for fermentation, the *Pseudomonas*, *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae* and *Lactobacillus* level increased, *Sphingomona* and *norank\_f\_Mitochondria* presented an opposite profile. (Figure 1A). The fungi communities presented a dramatic decrease in microorganism communities' complexity with a few dominant species (Fig. 1B). The dominant genera in VS sample were *Fusarium* (23.69%) and *unclassified-c-Sordariomucetes*, *unclassified\_f\_Nectriaceae*, *unclassified-o-Hypocreales* (53.07%). For the GM group, *Wickerhamomyces*, *Cladosporium* and *Schwanniomyces* were the dominant genera, representing 65.57, 9.07 and 7.24% of the total genera, respectively. However, during

the whole alcohol fermentation period, 98.2% of organisms belonged to the genera *Saccharomyces*.

The changes in the bacterial communities during Cabernet Sauvignon wine fermentation were shown in Fig. 2A. Main genera including *Pseudomonas*, *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae*, *Sphingomona* and *Lactobacillus* were identified during the S01 sample fermentation. It was worth noting that *Fructobacillus* had the highest abundance value in samples on day 2 (22.14%) and was present in small amounts in the remaining samples. The *norank\_f\_Mitochondria* (2.48-3.89%) was predominant in fermentation 0, 2 days and decreased along with the fermentation of wine. For the SCA sample fermentation, *Lactobacillus*, *Pseudomonas* and *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae*, were the major bacterial communities. *Lactobacillus* was present at relatively low levels on day 0 and day 2 (6.56 and 2.25%, respectively) and steadily increased to highest levels on day 6 (55.13%), then it showed a decreasing trend and finally decreased to 18.45% at the end of fermentation. Similar to S01 fermentation, *Fructobacillus* had the highest abundance in samples on day 2 (50.31%). For the genus *Oenococcus*, it gradually increased throughout wine fermentation reaching highest level (about 13%) on day 8 and day 10. In the S96 sample fermentation, the main bacterial genera were *Pseudomonas* and *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae*. *Lactobacillus* was no longer a dominant genus compared to that of SCA fermentation, which only appeared in a high level on day 2 (41.98%). In Fig. 2B, succession changes of fungi communities were observed during Cabernet Sauvignon

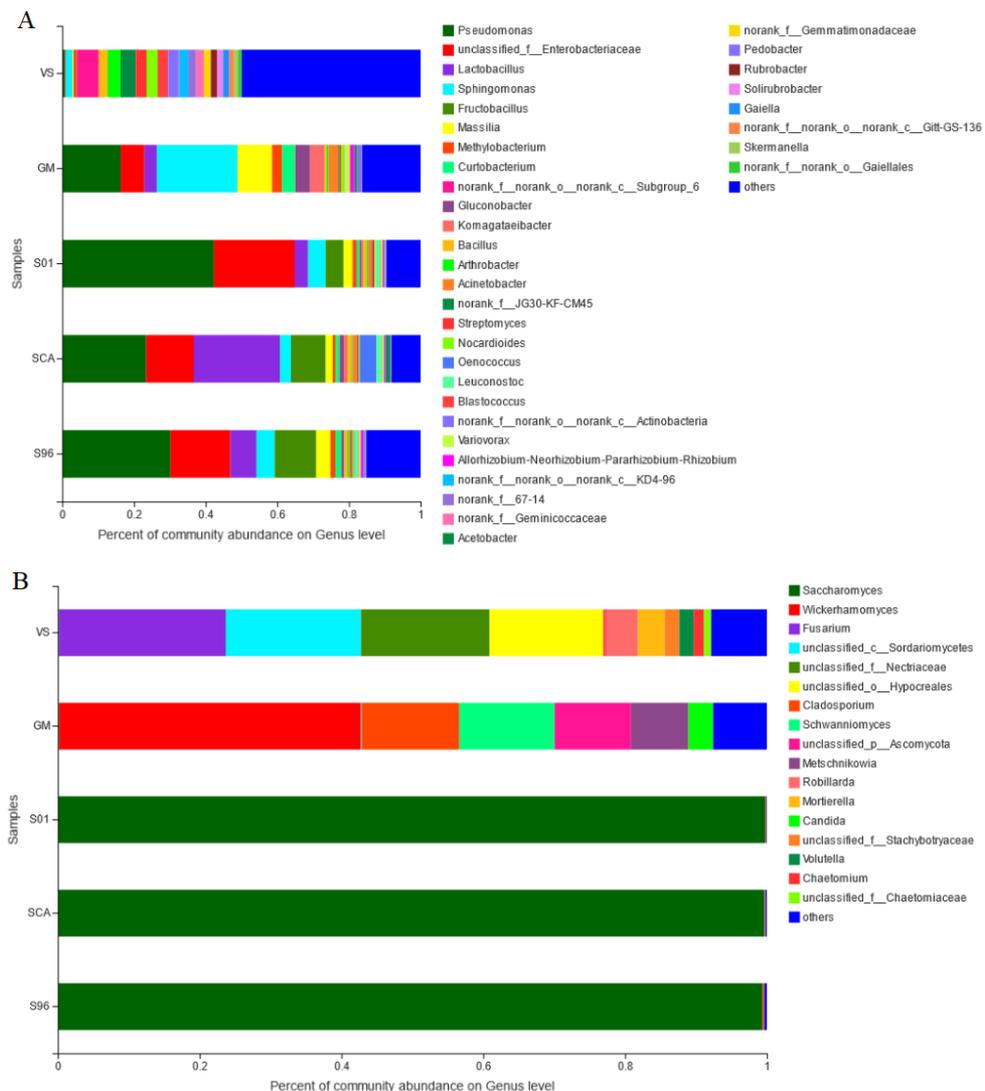
wine fermentation. The genus *Saccharomyces* was extremely abundant (more than 99%) in all samples.

The shared genera among soil, must and wine fermentation samples were demonstrated in the Venn diagrams (Fig. 3). As shown in Fig. 3A, the VS sample had 461 OTUs, GM sample had 387 OTUs and the fermented samples (S01, SCA and S96) had 719, 678 and 804 OTUs for bacterial, respectively. 227 bacterial genera were found in all samples of the five groups confirming a high consistency in the indigenous microorganism, mainly including *Massilia*, *Cohnella*, *Sphingomonas*, *Alkaliphilus*, *Xylanimonas* and *Pedobacter*. 352 bacterial genera were shared in GM and fermentation samples, whereas a higher degree of shared genera shown between S01, SCA and S96 samples were 571 OTUs for the bacterial genera. Fermented samples inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* AWRI 796 were differentiated compared with fermentation samples inoculated with other yeast strains, because they consisted of the following bacterial genera with higher levels: *Leptolyngbya\_VRUC\_135*, *Cytophaga*, *Fretibacterium*, *Desulfobacca*, *Capnocytophaga* and *Campylobacter*. The fungi genera analysis for each group was shown in Fig. 3B. Specifically, 97, 112, 57, 62 and 73 fungi genera were identified in VS, GM, S01, SCA and S96 samples, respectively. 20 fungi genera were shared in all samples including *Saccharomyces*, *Filobasidium*, *Colletotrichum*, *Alternaria*, *Gibberella*, *Acremonium*, *Aspergillus* and so on. Compared with GM, 4, 11 and 9 genera were not identified in S01, SCA and S96 samples, respectively. In addition, 38 fungi genera were shared between S01, SCA and S96 fermentation samples.

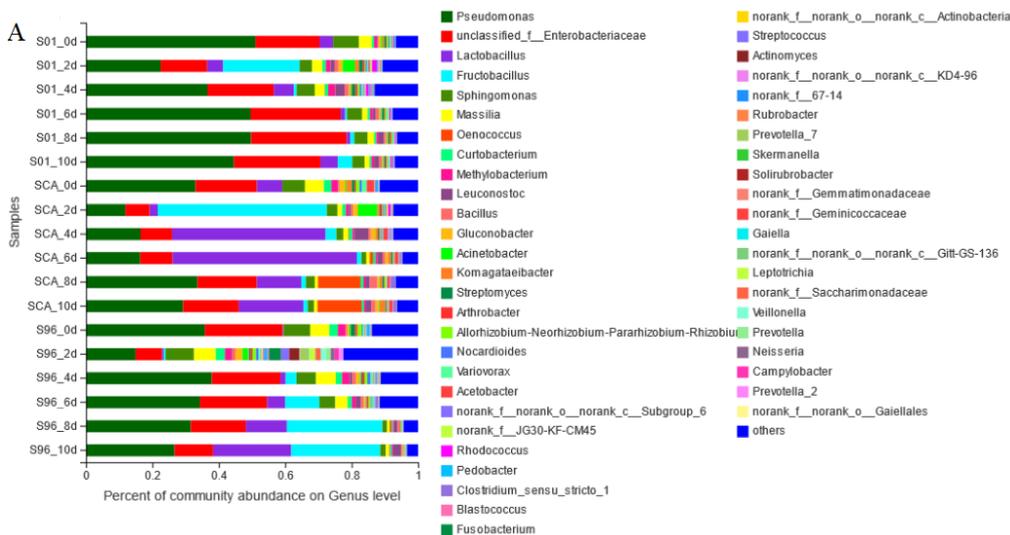
**Table 1:** The alpha diversity index of bacterial and fungi in different samples

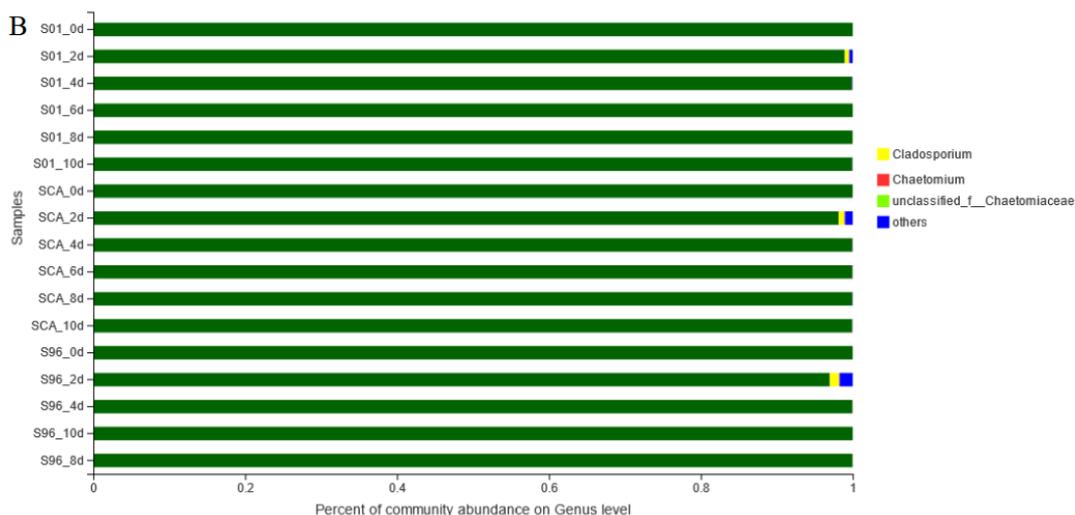
Sample group	Shannon		Simpson		ACE		Chao		Goods coverage	
	bacterial	fungi	bacterial	fungi	bacterial	fungi	bacterial	fungi	bacterial	fungi
VS	6.29	2.73	0.00	2.73	1758.30	214.09	1754.10	211.04	1.00	1.00
GM	3.77	0.81	0.07	0.81	1088.30	197.99	926.72	194.75	1.00	1.00
S01_0d	2.68	0.00	0.23	0.00	761.55	0.00	616.03	2.00	1.00	1.00
S01_2d	3.53	0.08	0.10	0.08	1282.10	193.93	972.69	107.38	1.00	1.00
S01_4d	3.45	0.01	0.14	0.01	973.72	43.31	957.03	26.33	1.00	1.00
S01_6d	2.45	0.00	0.27	0.00	860.07	0.00	821.36	4.00	1.00	1.00
S01_8d	2.33	0.00	0.28	0.00	867.79	0.00	885.56	7.00	1.00	1.00
S01_10d	2.58	0.01	0.23	0.01	750.48	81.08	754.58	27.00	1.00	1.00
SCA_0d	3.52	0.00	0.10	1.00	1102.90	22.00	890.33	12.00	1.00	1.00
SCA_2d	2.68	0.14	0.27	0.96	1444.80	126.30	1029.10	94.08	1.00	1.00
SCA_4d	2.84	0.00	0.19	1.00	1277.90	21.63	1046.20	16.20	1.00	1.00
SCA_6d	2.33	0.00	0.29	1.00	1190.50	16.75	882.70	11.33	1.00	1.00
SCA_8d	2.87	0.00	0.16	1.00	1007.20	10.45	823.37	9.00	1.00	1.00
SCA_10d	2.86	0.00	0.13	1.00	1047.70	59.29	742.47	20.00	1.00	1.00
S96_0d	3.21	0.00	0.13	0.00	1058.60	0.00	853.42	11.00	1.00	1.00
S96_2d	4.80	0.22	0.02	0.22	1324.40	141.74	1310.10	109.23	1.00	1.00
S96_4d	2.96	0.00	0.16	0.00	1221.10	27.79	973.61	20.50	1.00	1.00
S96_6d	3.14	0.00	0.12	0.00	800.40	3.00	800.00	3.00	1.00	1.00
S96_8d	2.21	0.00	0.21	0.00	729.51	10.56	688.16	7.50	1.00	1.00
S96_10d	2.27	0.00	0.19	0.00	964.38	0.00	718.91	16.00	1.00	1.00

VS group indicated samples from vineyard soil, GM group indicated samples from group must, S01 group indicated samples from alcohol fermentation inoculated *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CEC01, SCA group indicated samples from alcohol fermentation inoculated *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CECA and S96 group indicated samples from alcohol fermentation inoculated *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 796

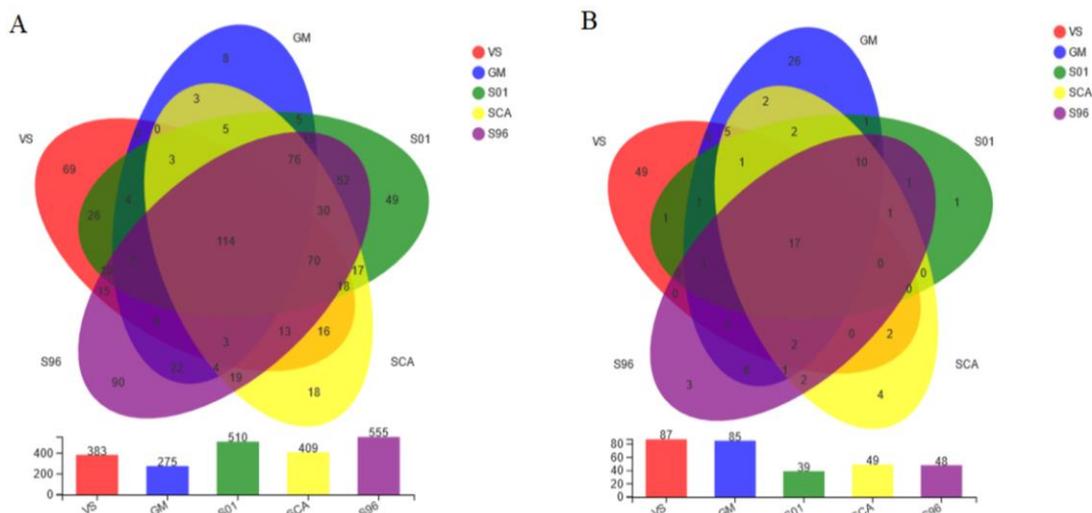


**Fig. 1:** Average relative abundance of bacterial (A) and fungi (B) at genus level in five sample groups





**Fig. 2:** Characterization of microbial communities on wine samples during fermentation from three fermenters. (A) Relative abundance at the bacterial genus level. (B) Relative abundance at the fungi genus level



**Fig. 3:** Venn diagram analyzing unique and shared genera between five sample groups. (A) Bacterial genera. (B) Fungi genera

### Beta Diversity and Correlations of Sample Groups

The beta diversity between fermentation samples were analyzed further using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Kruskal-Wallis test was used to detect the genera with differences in the relative abundance of different groups of samples to evaluate the significance of the observed differences.

Evidence of differences in microbial communities between S01, SCA, S96 samples during fermentation were illustrated by the PCA (Fig. 4), in which each dot represented a fermentation sample and samples in the same group were clustered by an ellipse. The shorter for the distance between groups, indicated the higher genera similarity of the microbial communities between the

groups. According to the genera-based PCA analysis for bacterial communities (Fig. 4A), 84% variances were illustrated by the two axes and the ellipses of S01, SCA, S96 group samples on the PCA plot were overlapped, indicating that their bacterial communities were similar. In the same group, samples from different fermentation time periods were scattered in the ellipse, which suggested that the bacterial structure was highly affected by fermentation time. The genera-based PCA for fungal communities (Fig. 4B) demonstrated that fungal communities of S01, SCA, S96 group were largely similar. Especially the ellipses of the S01 and SCA sample groups were almost contained by the ellipses of the S96 sample group, showing that the S96 sample group obtained the most diverse fungi community profile amongst the three sample groups.

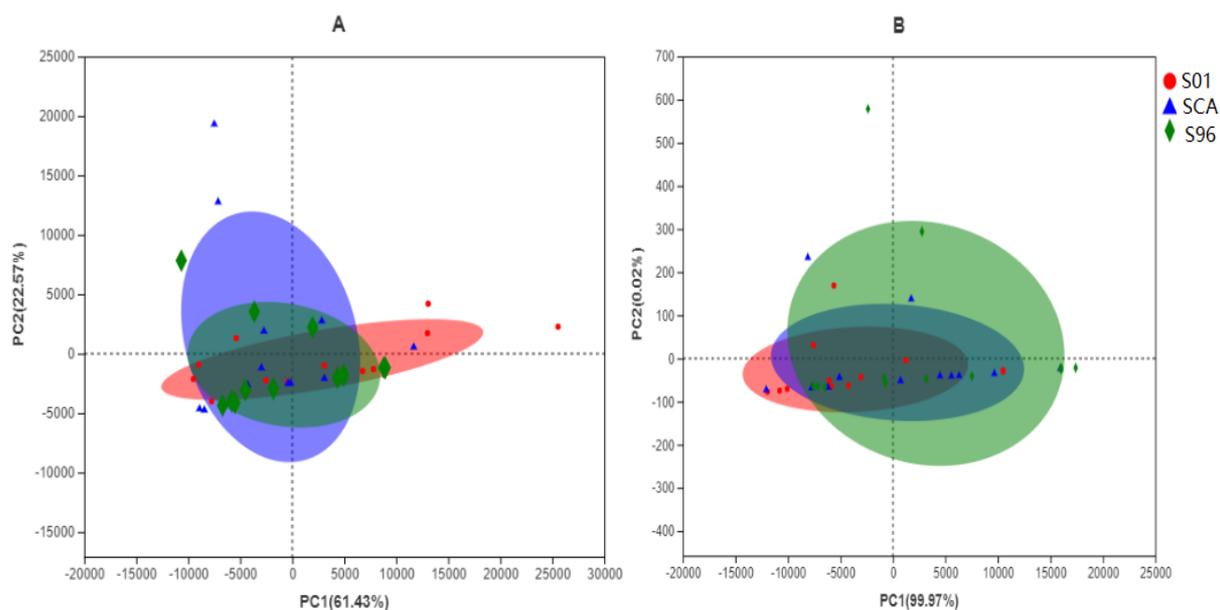
Differences in the relative abundances of the top 25 bacteria genera were also analyzed (Fig. 5). Compared with the S01 group, the abundance of *Oenococcus* and *Tatumella* were significantly improved in the SCA group, while the level of *Streptomyces* was significantly down-regulated ( $p < 0.05$ , Fig. 5A). Similarly, the level of *Oenococcus* increased in the SCA group comparison with the S96 group ( $p < 0.05$ , Fig. 5B). In the S01 group, *Komagataeibacter* and *Streptomyces* were found to be of a higher abundance when compared to those of S96 group ( $p < 0.05$ , Fig. 5C). The comparison between grape must and wine fermentation samples revealed abundant bacterial genera with significant differences (Fig. 5D, 5E, 5F). For example, at the significant level of 0.001, a trend was observed on the S01 group, with decreased *Methylobacterium*, *Sphingomonas*, *Pedobacte* and *Massilia* comparison with the GM group, meanwhile *norank\_f\_Mitochondria*, *Curtobacterium*, *Variovorax*, *Frigoribacterium* and *Nocardioides* were identified as being differentially abundant in the GM group comparison with the S01 group ( $p < 0.01$ ). The *Sphingomonas*, *Massilia*, *Curtobacterium* and *Frigoribacterium* of the GM group were higher than those of the SCA group ( $p < 0.01$ ). For S96 sample group, the bacterial genera that were significantly different from the grape must group were *Sphingomonas*, *Variovorax* and *Curtobacterium*. Generally, there were more significant differences in some bacterial genera between crushed grape must and fermentation samples inoculated with *S. cerevisiae*.

The difference in fungi genera between different groups was really not complicated compared with

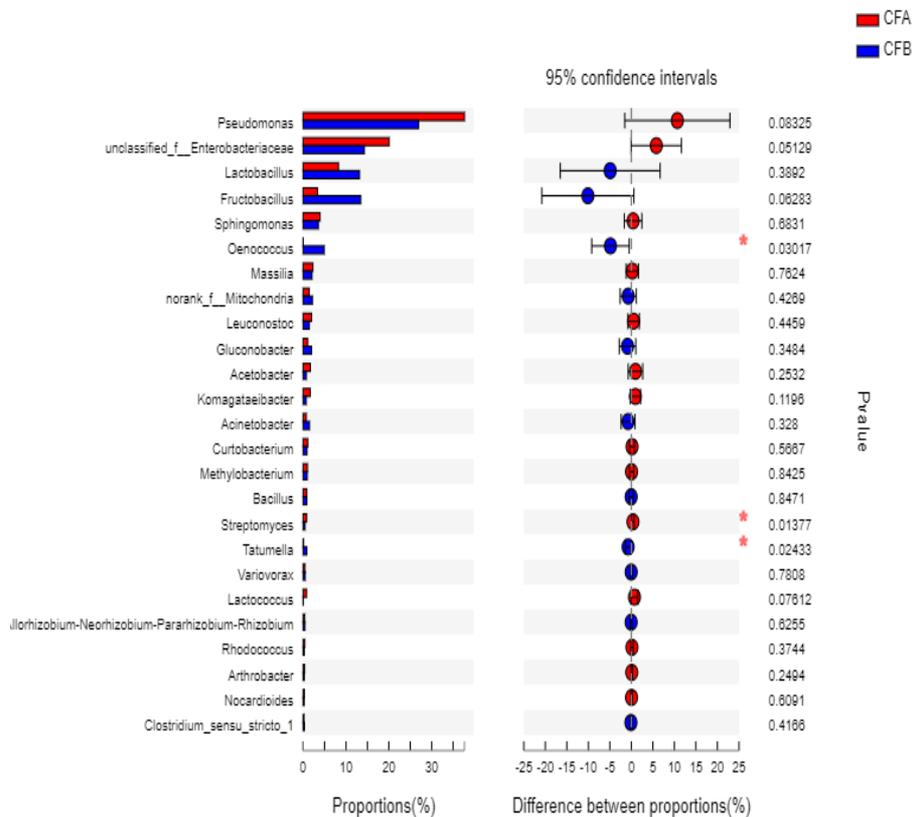
bacterial genera (Fig. 6). There was no significant difference in the level of top 25 fungi genera among the three fermentation samples inoculated with different *S. cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces* was the most abundant genera (approximately 99%) in S01, SCA and S96 group. However, the levels of all identified fungi genera were significantly higher in the GM group than those of S01, SCA and S96 samples, except for *Saccharomyces*. *Saccharomyces* and *Wickerhamomyces*, which were two dominant taxa in the 25 most abundant genera at each fermentation process.

#### Analysis of Key Microbial Communities

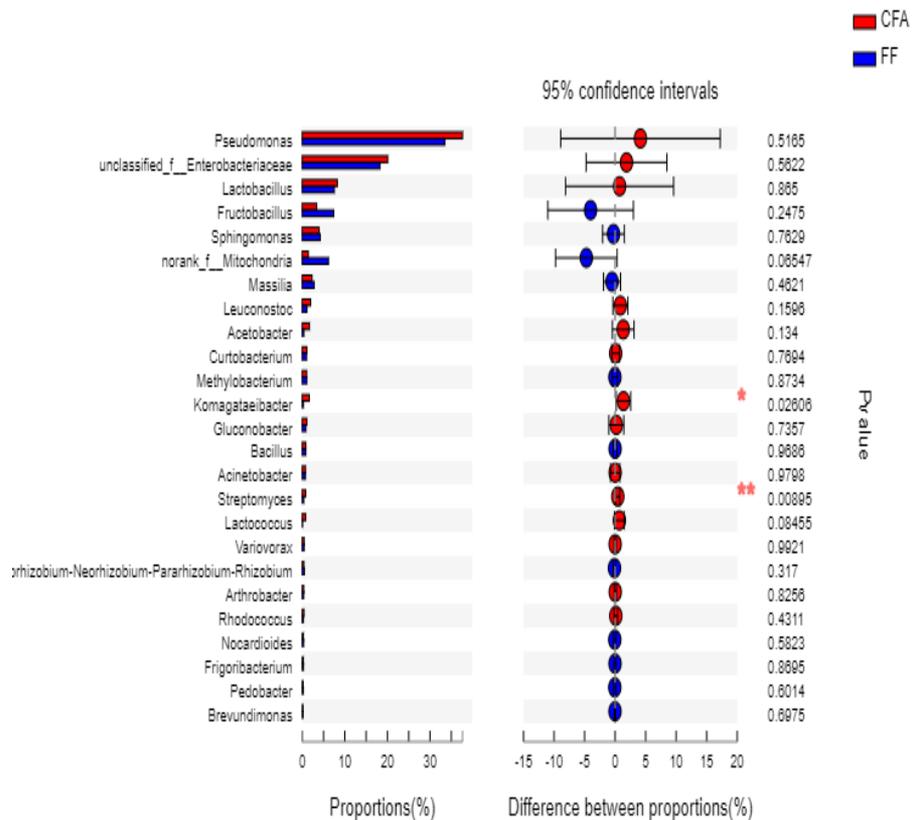
The biomarkers of bacteria genera in S01, SCA and S96 groups were determined using LEfSe analysis. A cladogram demonstrated that the significant changes in taxa ( $p \leq 0.05$ , LDA score  $> 2$ ) during the linear discriminant analysis (LDA) test (Fig. 7). These differential genera including *Komagataeibacter*, *Micromonospora*, *Streptomyces*, *Brevibacterium* and *Agromyces* were prevalent in the S01 group versus the SCA and S96 groups. Fermentation inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* CECA increased the relative abundance of *Lactobacillus* and *Oenococcus*, other enriched bacterial genera also belonged to the family *Bacilli*. There were no significant differences in bacterial genera in the S96 group and family *Ruminococcaceae* were dominant in the S96 group. The biomarkers of fungi genera in S01, SCA and S96 groups were not detected using LEfSe analysis.



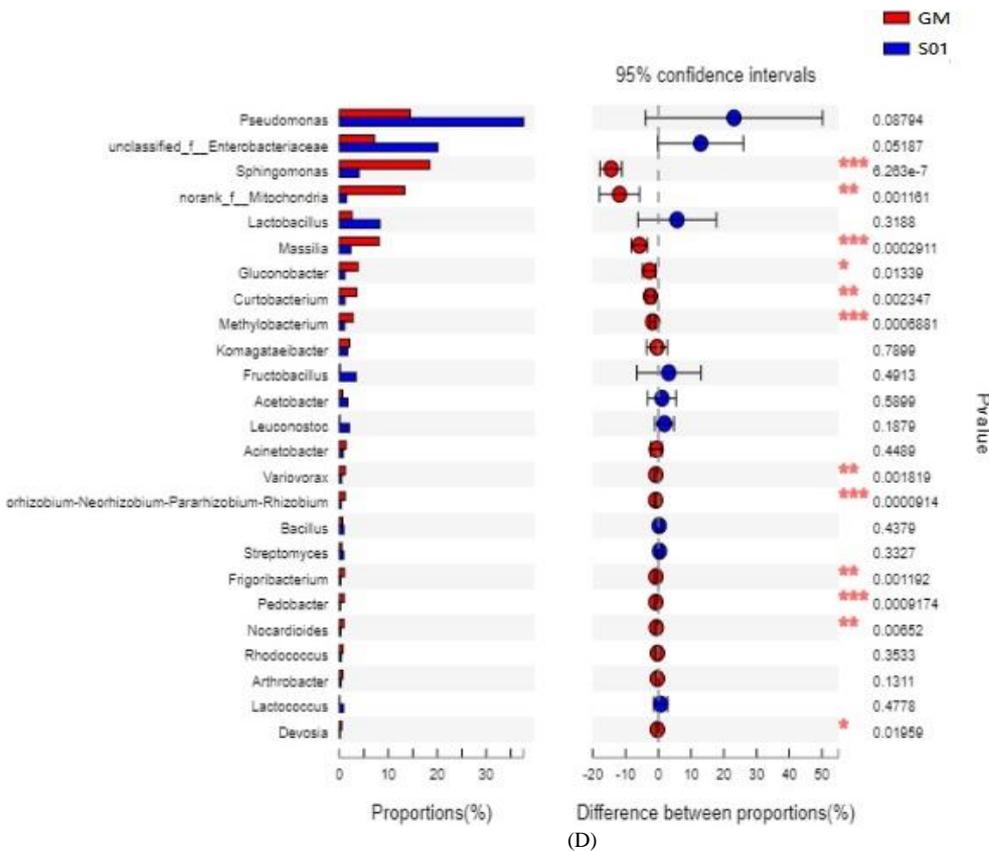
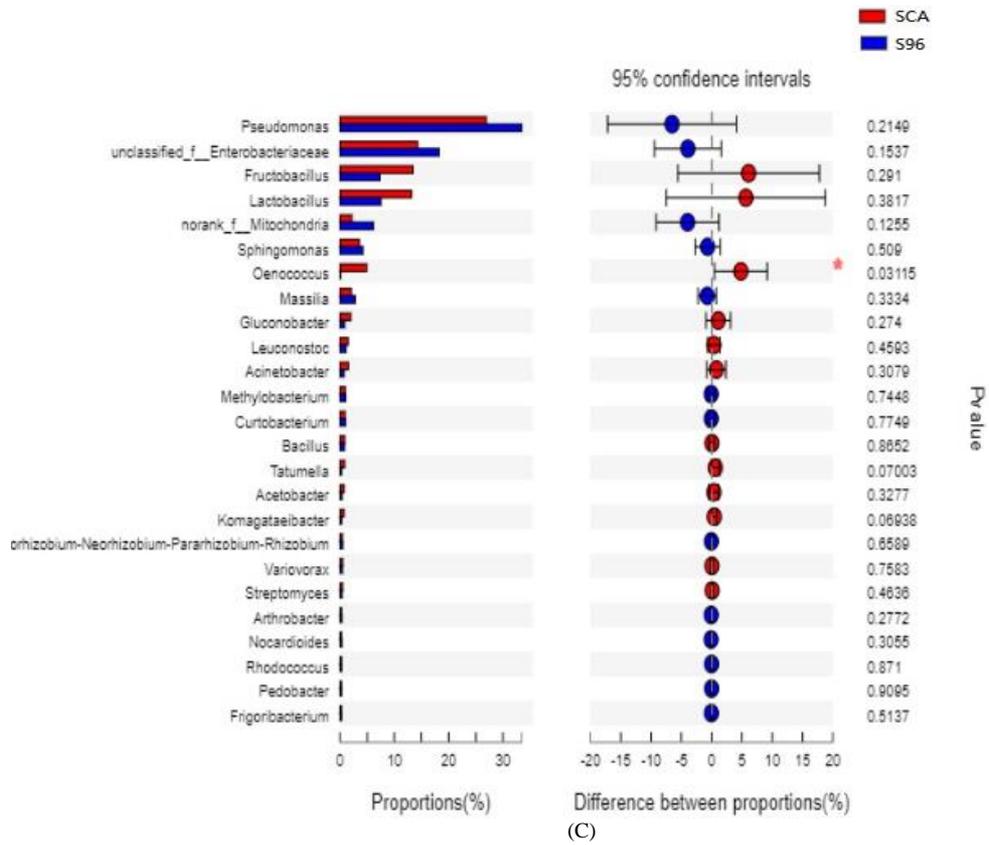
**Fig. 4:** Principle Component Analysis (PCA) of microbial communities on wine fermentation samples inoculated with three different *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. (A) Bacterial genera. (B) Fungi genera

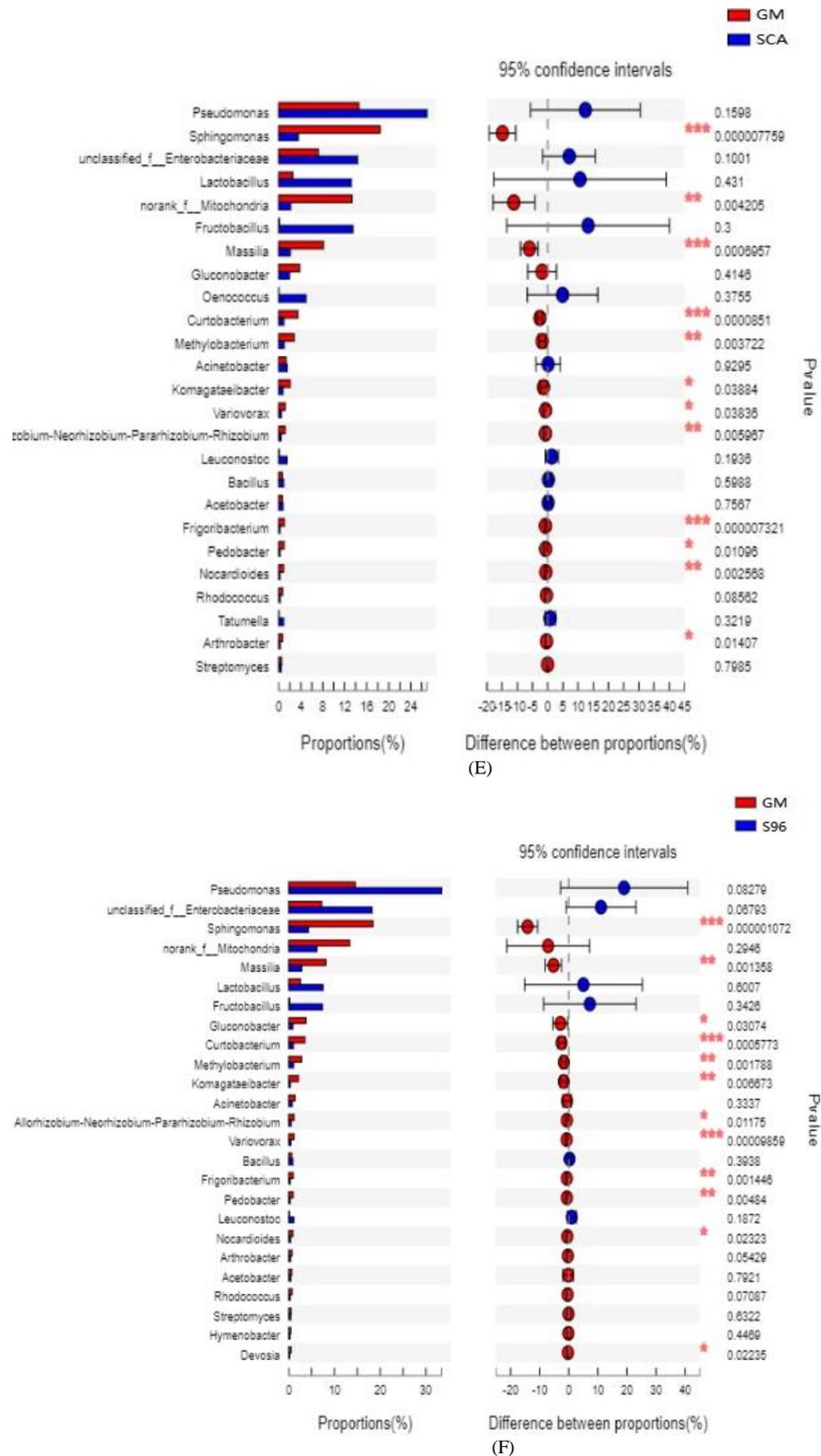


(A)

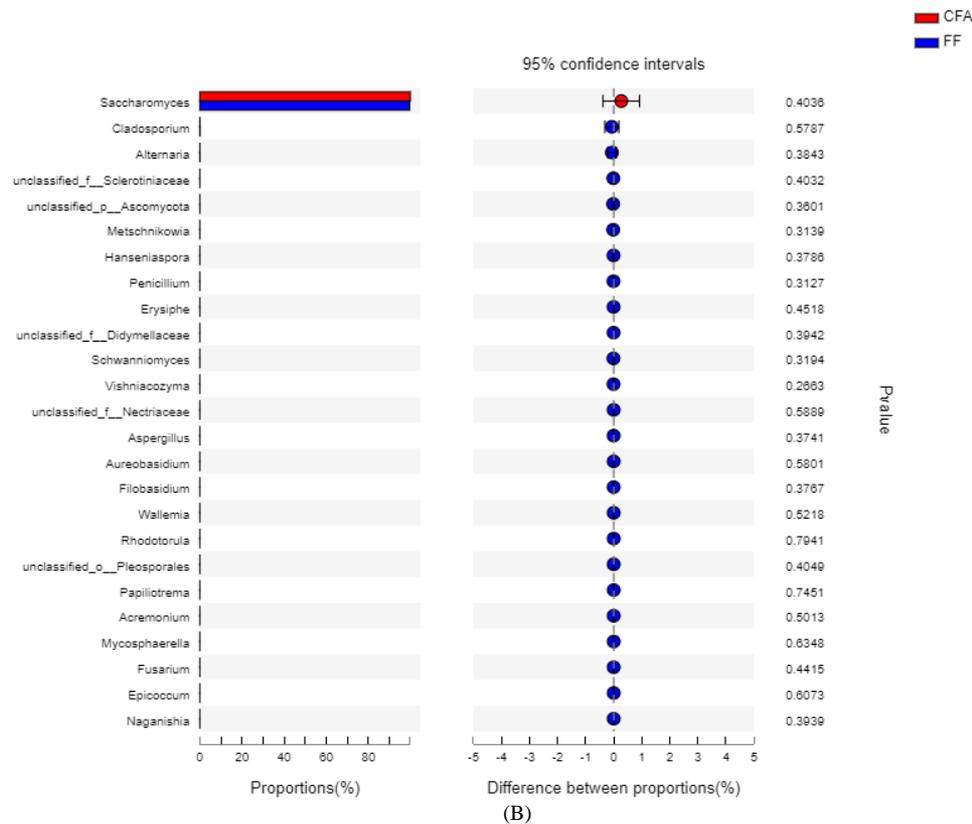
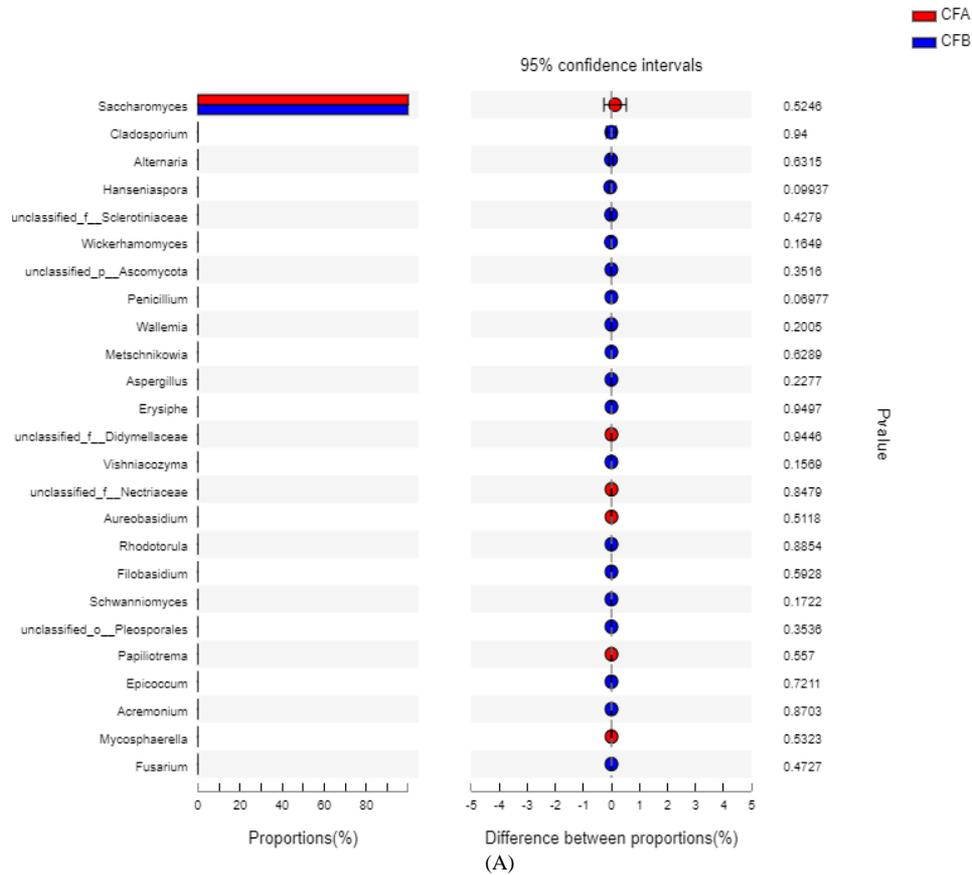


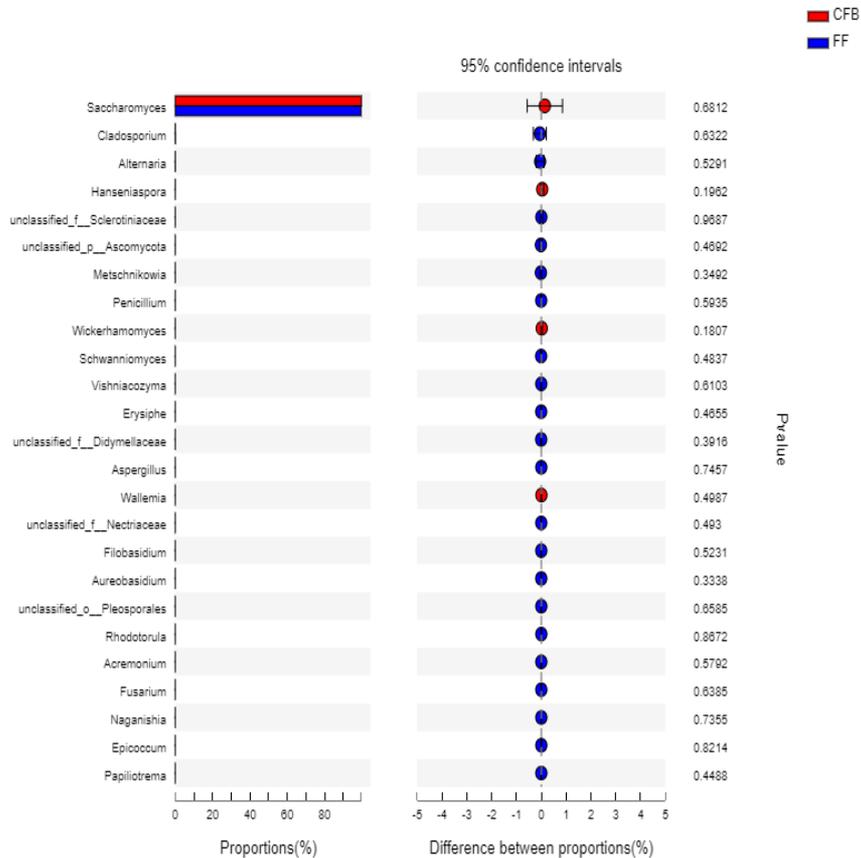
(B)



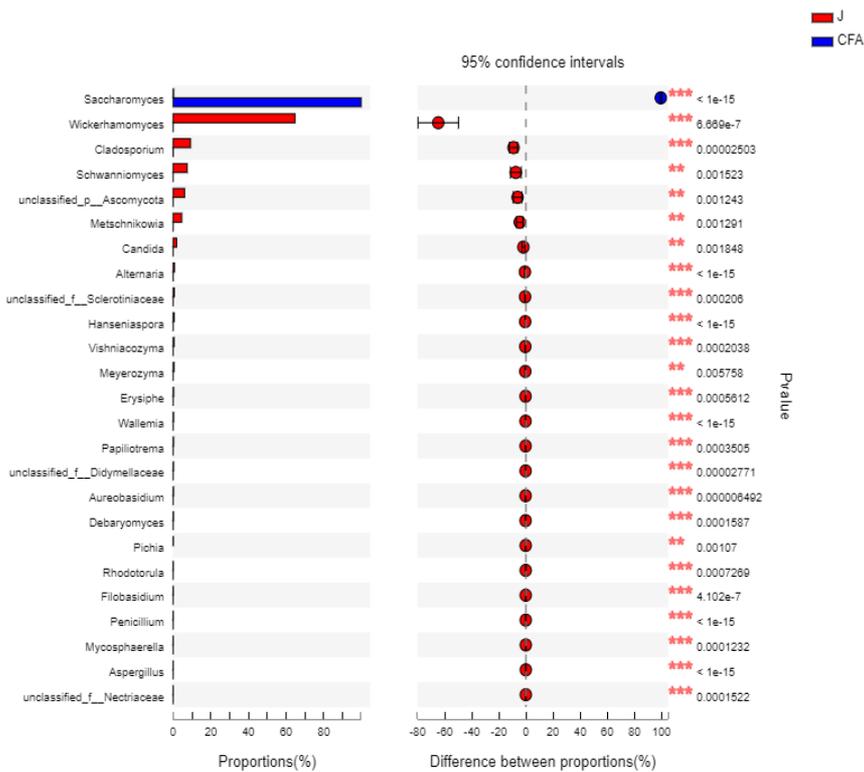


**Fig. 5:** Comparison of the top 25 bacteria genera between grapes must and wine fermentation samples groups. The stars indicated significance levels: \*\*\*\*0.001\*\*\* 0.01, \*\*0.05

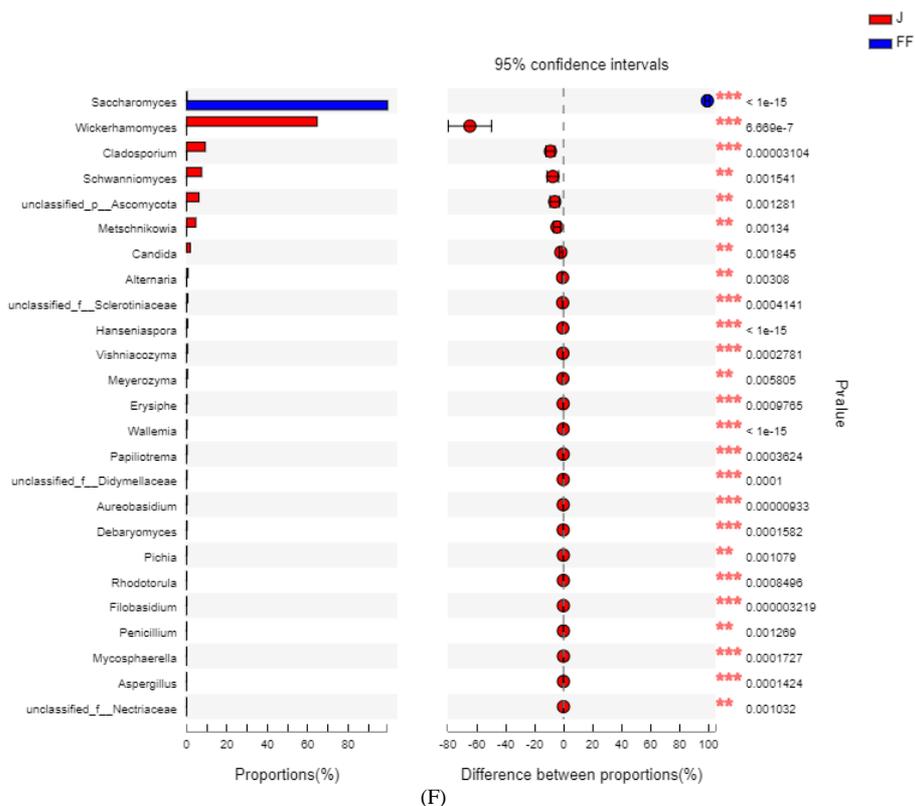
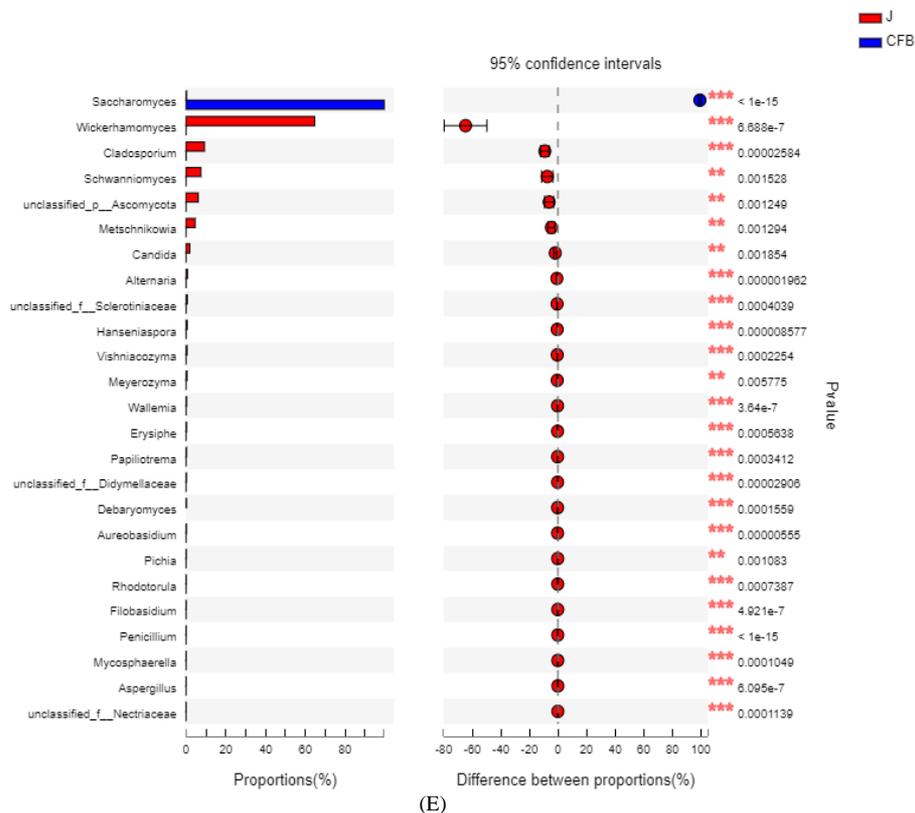




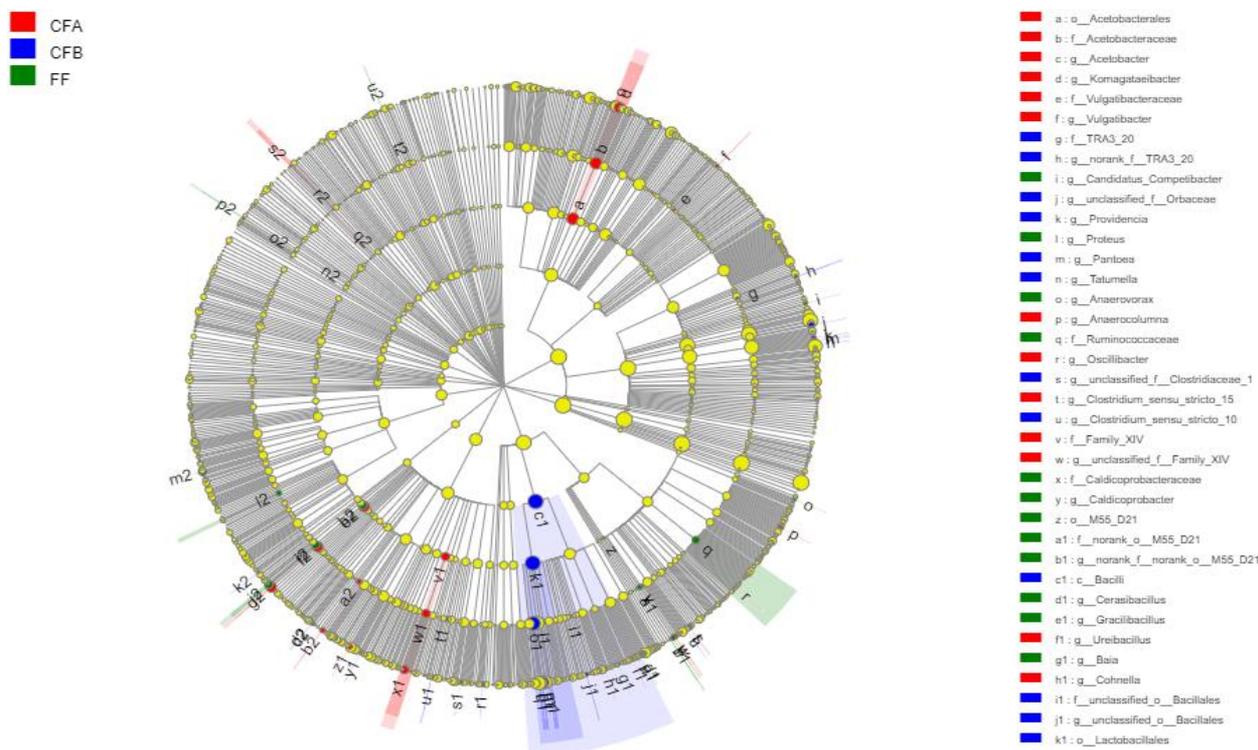
(C)



(D)



**Fig. 6:** Comparison of the top 25 fungi genera between grapes must and wine fermentation samples groups. The stars indicated significance levels: \*\*\*\*0.001, \*\*\*0.01, \*\*0.05



**Fig. 7:** Analyses of the significant changes in taxa at different taxonomic levels in S01, SCA, and S96 groups during fermentation. Cladogram of bacterial LEfSe analysis ( $p \leq 0.05$ , LDA score  $> 2$ )

## Discussion

In the current wine industry, the growing demand from consumers has appeared for the "terroir" with distinct flavour characteristics in which the microflora structures have a fundamental effect. Capozzi *et al.* (2015) have reviewed the microbial terroir and food innovation and pointed that the natural biodiversity of microbial communities as well as correlated to each specific terroir showed a unique composition and represent a great resources for the winemaking improving. Therefore, in the present study, the microbial communities diversity of vineyard soil, grape must and wine fermentation inoculated with different strains of *S. cerevisiae* were comprehensively investigated based on the results of high-throughput sequencing technology.

Current studies have shown that the microbial community diversity of wine grape would be influenced by many elements such as geography, climate, grape variety and viticultural practice (Martins *et al.*, 2013; Gao *et al.*, 2019). Whereas, it is well accepted that vineyard soil would exert a major and an independent impact on the quality and varietal typicality of grape and wine, therefore the wine-makers would prefer to choose vineyards with good environmental conditions (geography and climate) to produce high-quality wine (Van Leeuwen and Seguin, 2006; Gómez-Míguez *et al.*,

2007). Soil texture, organic matter, mineral composition and other physical and chemical properties could influence the growth and distribution of microorganisms, which would also in turn change the composition of the microbial community in grape and wine products (Girvan *et al.*, 2003). Shacheng (Hebei, China) is one of the oldest grape-cultivation regions for Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in China. It is located in 40° north latitude with sandy soil, a great temperature difference between day and night for nearly 11-12.4°, a high percentage of sunshine (68%) and a hot rainy season, which made it into a golden zone of grape-growing in the world. Previous studies have been investigated the microbial community, volatile compounds and characteristics of grape and wine from this area, while there is few information about the relationship of microbial community between the soil, grape and wine (Lu *et al.*, 2020; Zhang *et al.*, 2017). In the present study, the bacterial and fungi compositions of Shacheng vineyard soil were analyzed. The predominate bacteria and fungi were *norank\_f\_JG30-KF-CM45*, *Arthrobacter*, *Streptomyces*, *Actinobacteria* and *Fusarium*, unclassified-c-Sordariomycetes, unclassified-f-Nectriaceae, unclassified-o-Hypocreales. While, these results are varies compared with the microbial community of vineyard soil from the reported literature. For example, del Carmen Portillo *et al.* (2016) reported that *Oenococcus*, *Streptococcus* and *Acinetobacter* were the dominant genera in East-oriented

vineyard must, *Bacillus* dominated in South-oriented vineyards must, *Erwinia* and *Acinetobacter* were enriched in flat or not-oriented vineyards. Wei *et al.* (2018) showed that *Ascomycota*, *Tetracladium*, *Sordariales* and *Geomyces* were the predominant fungi genera in soil samples obtained from three winery regions in Xinjiang Province (China). Rivas *et al.* (2022) demonstrated that a predominance of the phyla *Proteobacteria* and *Actinobacteria* for the bacteria in the soil and rhizosphere samples and *Ascomycota* and *Basidiomycota* were the most abundant phyla for the fungal communities in considered re-emerging grapevines in Argentine. From these findings, the soil microbial communities from different regions had a large differences, which mainly related to the geography, local climatic conditions and viticultural practice as the previous study reported.

Compared to the vineyard soil, the bacterial community structures in GM were less consistent and complex. Among them, *Pseudomonas*, *Sphingomonas*, *norank\_f\_Mitochondria*, *Massilia* and *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae* occupied about 50% of the total bacterial genera Fig. 1A. For fungus distribution, *Fusarium*, *unclassified\_c\_Sordariomycetes*, *unclassified\_f\_Nectriaceae* and *unclassified\_o\_Hypocreales* in soil had higher abundances Fig. 1B.

Besides, we also examined the relationships between the grape must and fermented wine samples and found that *Pseudomonas*, *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae*, *Sphingomonas*, *Lactobacillus* and *Oenococcus* were shared by the four sets of sample. These results were consistent with previous reports that *Oenococcus*, the lactic acid bacteria, was the dominant and indispensable genus during winemaking with the function of malic acid fermentation conferring unique sensory properties (Ferrando *et al.*, 2020). Perazzolli *et al.* (2014) observed *Pseudomonas*, *Erwinia* and *Acetobacter* in grapevine plants and inferred that these genera would be easily transferred to grape berries, in which *Pseudomonas* could act as biological disease inhibitors to promote plant growth and health. The starter of *S. cerevisiae* is inoculated in the grape must to form a high population and complete a well-controlled fermentation. Under some circumstances, if the *S. cerevisiae* strain can't successfully compete with the native strains, which would cause the fermentation to be unable to proceed in the expected direction (Fleet, 2008; Santamaría *et al.*, 2005). In this study, we observed that *S. cerevisiae* dominated all the fermentation process after inoculation (Fig. 3B). For the bacterial community, the distribution of the main genera under the three fermentation methods was similar, including *Pseudomonas*, *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae* and *Lactobacillus*. Chen *et al.* (2020) pointed that the relative abundances of *Pseudomonas* and *Massilia* gradually decreased during ice wine fermentation process made from Vidal grapes. The differences between three

fermentation processes were realized as the inconsistent change trend of certain microorganisms or the different key microorganisms. For example, *Komagataeibacter*, *Micromonospora*, *Streptomyces*, *Brevibacterium* and *Agromyces* were prevalent in S01 group versus the SCA and S96 groups; fermentation inoculated with *S. cerevisiae* CECA increased the relative abundance of *Lactobacillus* and *Oenococcus*; and there were no significant differences in bacterial genera in S96 group, in which family *Ruminococcaceae* were dominant.

## Conclusion

In this study, the high-throughput sequencing technique was performed to analyze the microbial community diversity of soil, grape juice and wine production. We found that the bacterial composition of soil was diverse with other genera (relative abundance <1%) accounting for 51.06% and a higher abundances for fungus distribution. Across all must and wine samples, the bacterial genera detected were largely members of the *Pseudomonas*, *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae*, *Lactobacillus*, *Fructobacillus* and *Sphingomonas*. Principle component analysis showed the microbiota structures between S01, SCA and S96 fermentation were similar and the major bacterial genera were *Pseudomonas*, *unclassified\_f\_Enterobacteriaceae* and *Lactobacillus*, whereas the major fungi genera were *Saccharomyces*. The core microorganisms in the S01 group were *Komagataeibacter*, *Micromonospora*, *Streptomyces*, *Brevibacterium* and *Agromyces*, SCA fermentation increased the relative abundance of *Lactobacillus* and *Oenococcus*, family *Ruminococcaceae* was dominant in the S96 group. The distinctions in fungi communities between S01, SCA and S96 group were not observed during the fermentation. In the future work, it may be interesting to link the observed microbial community changes with the differences in the macromolecular substances of wine and to use this knowledge to improve the sensory and chemical sensory characteristic of wine in Shacheng.

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## Author's Contributions

**Rongbin Li:** Has contributed in the experiment, paper writing and publication.

**Xu Shi, Haoran Wang, Xiaofang Fu, Huanxiang Wang:** Have assisted in the experiment.

**Yaqiong Liu, Jianlou Mu and Jie Wang:** Have reviewed and revised the manuscript.

## Ethics

This article is original and contains unpublished material. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and no ethical issues involved

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