

# Effect of Bentonite Fining on Proteins and Phenolic Composition of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc Wines

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**Bentonite fining is widely used to remove excess proteins in white wine prior to bottling in order to prevent protein haze formation. However, bentonite fining could also remove beneficial compounds in wine, e.g. phenolic compounds that contribute to sensory properties of wine. In this study, impact of bentonite fining on the phenolic composition of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines has been investigated using four different bentonites: pluxcompact (PCT, Ca bentonite); bentolit (BTL, Na-Ca bentonite); pluxbenton (PBN, Na bentonite); and sperimentale (SPM, Ca-Na bentonite). Different bentonites showed similar efficiencies in removing haze-related proteins and resulted in significant decrease in total phenolic concentration. Impact on phenolic composition varied depending on the type of bentonite. In this study, fining with Ca-Na bentonite (SPM) resulted in the lowest concentrations of caftaric acid and flavanols, particularly epicatechin gallate, galocatechin, catechin and epicatechin, which could lead to reduced mouthfeel of the resultant wine. Results presented in this study provided additional information for winemakers to choose appropriate bentonite to remove proteins with a minimal effect on reduction of phenolic compounds.**

## INTRODUCTION

Bentonites are hydrated aluminium silicates which consist mostly of montmorillonite (Ribéreau-Gayon, Peynaud, Ribéreau-Gayon, & Sudraud, 1977). There are many different types of bentonite, such as potassium bentonite (K bentonite), sodium bentonite (Na bentonite), calcium bentonite (Ca bentonite) and aluminium bentonite (Al bentonite). For commercial use, sodium bentonite and calcium bentonite are the two main classes. Calcium bentonite can be converted to sodium-activated bentonite (Ca-Na or Na-Ca bentonite) by exposure to sodium carbonate at 80°C which results in an exchange of sodium for calcium (Gougeon *et al.*, 2003).

In wine industry, fining with bentonite is widely used to remove proteins in white wine before bottling as excess proteins, predominantly two groups of pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins: thaumatin-like proteins (TLPs) and chitinases, could cause protein haze formation that makes wine appear cloudy and unacceptable by consumers (Ferreira, Picarra-Pereira, Monteiro, Loureiro, & Teixeira, 2002; Muhlack, O'Neill, Waters, & Colby, 2016; Waters *et al.*, 2005). However, bentonite fining also has disadvantages. Firstly, bentonite fining could lead to the loss of wine volume due to lees formation. Depending on the type of bentonite, the lees formed after fining are varied, i.e. sodium bentonite

has a high capacity of water absorption and it can swell up to 15 times its volume, while calcium bentonite has a lower swelling capacity but higher in lees compaction, compared to sodium bentonite. A study which estimated the value of wine loss due to bentonite addition every year globally, was about 1 billion dollars (Majewski, Barbalet, & Waters, 2011). Secondly, bentonite is not specific to absorb proteins; as a result, bentonite fining could remove aroma compounds (Lambri, Dordoni, Silva, & De Faveri, 2010; Vincenzi, Panighel, Gazzola, Flamini, & Curioni, 2015). It may also remove phenolic compounds (Ghanem *et al.*, 2017; Jiménez-Martínez, Bautista-Ortín, Gil-Muñoz, & Gómez-Plaza, 2019), which are associated with antioxidant activities (Dumitriu, de Lerma Extremera, Cotea, & Peinado, 2018) and the colour of red wine (Dordoni, Galasi, Colangelo, De Faveri, & Lambri, 2015). Previous studies have focused on the impact of bentonite fining on phenolic compounds in red wine, as extraction of phenolic compounds is critical for red wine quality (Dordoni, Galasi, *et al.*, 2015; Gómez-Plaza, Gil-Muñoz, López-Roca, De La Hera-Orts, & Martínez-Cultillas, 2000; Stanković, Jović, & Živković, 2004). Limited studies have been conducted to investigate the impact of bentonite fining on white wine phenolics (Dordoni, Colangelo, *et al.*,

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2015; Main & Morris, 1994). However, a recent review has revealed the importance of phenolics in white wine to the mouthfeel (Gawel, Smith, Cicerale, & Keast, 2017), and the interactions between phenolics, alcohol and acidity, which plays an important role in determining the mouthfeel and bitterness of white wine (Gawel, Schulkin, Day, Barker, & Smith, 2016). Thus, changes in phenolic concentration and phenolic composition would affect the quality of white wine. This study was aimed to investigate the impact of fining on the phenolic compounds in Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines using four different types of bentonite.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Chemicals

A range of phenolic standards at HPLC grade (>90% purity) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, except noted individually: gallic acid, protocatechuic acid, gallo catechin, caftaric acid, hydrobenzoic acid, epigallocatechin, catechin, vanilic acid (97.0%), caffeic acid, syringic acid, epicatechin, *p*-coumaric acid, rutin, epicatechin gallate, and quercetin. The solvents and chemicals used in HPLC analysis include acetonitrile and methanol (HPLC grade, Lichrosolv), ammonium dihydrogen phosphate (99% purity, AnalaR), and orthophosphoric acid (analytical grade, Ajax Finechem).

### Wine samples

Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines were donated by Waipara Hills Wines, New Zealand. Both wines were barrel fermented in 2018 using indigenous yeasts. Sauvignon Blanc was fermented with grape skin. Samples of both Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay were collected before bottling without any fining or filtration. Alcohol content, pH, residual sugar, and titratable acidity (TA) were determined on the wines (Iland, Bruer, Edwards, Weeks, & Wilkes, 2013).

### Bentonite treatments

Four types of bentonites used in this study were provided by Enartis Pacific Napier, New Zealand: pluxcompact (PCT, Ca bentonite), bentolit (BTL, Na-Ca bentonite), pluxbenton (PBN, Na bentonite), and sperimentale (SPM, Ca-Na bentonite). To determine bentonite addition rate for protein stabilization in wines, the heat test was carried out at 80 °C for 6 h. Bentonite requirements were determined at 50 mg/L for Chardonnay and at 30 mg/L for Sauvignon Blanc, respectively (Tian *et al.*, 2017). Bentonite treated wines were stationary incubated overnight at 4 °C, and centrifuged at 4000 g for 30 min. Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines without addition of bentonite were used as controls.

### Analysis of PR proteins by HPLC

The concentration of PR proteins in wines were determined using a reversed-phase HPLC method (Marangon, Van Sluyter, Haynes, & Waters, 2009). Samples (50 µL) were loaded at 1 mL/min flow rate onto a C8 column (4.6 x 250 mm, Vydac 208TP54, Grace Davison Discovery Sciences, Baulkham, Australia), fitted with a C8 guard column kit (4.6 x 5 mm, Vydac 208GK54, Grace Davison Discovery Sciences, Baulkham, Australia). The system was equilibrated in a mixture of 83% (v/v) solvent B (0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in 8% acetonitrile) and 17%

solvent A (80% acetonitrile, 0.1% (v/v) TFA). Column temperature was 35 °C. In this study, the peaks eluting between 9 and 12 min were assigned as TLPs and the peaks eluting between 18 and 25 min were assigned as chitinases (Marangon *et al.*, 2009; Salazar, López, Chiffelle, López, & Peña-Neira, 2012; Van Sluyter *et al.*, 2009). Quantification of TLPs and chitinases was conducted by comparison with the peak area of thaumatin from *Thaumatococcus daniellii* (Sigma-Aldrich, Auckland, New Zealand). The protein concentration was expressed as thaumatin equivalent (mg thaumatin/L).

### Determination of total phenolics

The concentrations of total phenolics in wine samples were determined using a micro scale protocol for the Folin-Ciocalteu colorimetric reaction method (Waterhouse, 2002). Total phenolics were quantified against a gallic acid standard curve (0 to 500 mg/L). The absorbance readings were taken at the wavelength of 765 nm on a Unicam Heλios UV-VIS Spectrophotometer (Cambridge, UK). Total phenolics were expressed as gallic acid equivalents (mg GAE/L).

### Phenolic composition analysis by HPLC

The analysis of phenolic composition was conducted using a method described by (Gómez-Alonso, García-Romero, & Hermosín-Gutiérrez, 2007) with minor modifications. An Agilent HPLC equipped with quaternary pump and diode-array detector (DAD) and fluorescence detector (FLD) was used as identification and confirmation for some phenolic compounds. After injecting 10 µL of wine sample, separation was conducted on an ACE 3µ C18 PFP 150 x 4.6 mm column (Advanced Chromatography Technologies, Aberdeen, Scotland) which was thermostat at 20 °C. The flow rate and solvent gradient used for separation are shown in Table 1. For detection of compounds, chromatograms were recorded at 280 nm, 320 nm, 360 nm, and 520 nm in the DAD and corresponding to excitation at 280 nm and emission at 320 nm in the FLD. Identification of compounds were carried out by comparing their retention times and spectra with those of standards. Quantification of phenolic compounds was carried out by area measurements at 280 nm, 320 nm and FLD separately. Quantitative assays were achieved using external calibration curves for all standard phenolics by dissolution of the standard solution accordingly.

### Statistical analysis

Data represent the means ± standard deviation of three replicates. The concentrations of phenolic compounds in wine samples were analysed by analysis of variance (ANOVA). Least significant difference (LSD, 5% level) was used to separate means when a significant P-value was obtained.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Wine analysis

#### Physicochemical parameters

Alcohol content, pH, titratable acidity (TA) and reducing sugar were determined at 13.4%, 3.36, 10.2 g/L and 1.88 g/L in Chardonnay, and at 13.6%, 3.65, 8.5 g/L and 2.05 g/L in Sauvignon Blanc. (Table 2). Both wines were

TABLE 1  
Ternary mobile phase gradient of the HPLC method for phenolic analysis,

| Time (min) | Flow rate (mL/min) | Solvent A (%) | Solvent B (%) | Solvent C (%) |
|------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0.0        | 0.8                | 100.0         | 0.0           | 0.0           |
| 2.0        | 0.8                | 100.0         | 0.0           | 0.0           |
| 5.0        | 0.8                | 93.6          | 6.4           | 0.0           |
| 17.0       | 0.8                | 2.8           | 11.2          | 86.0          |
| 22.0       | 0.8                | 3.6           | 14.4          | 82.0          |
| 29.5       | 0.8                | 4.2           | 16.8          | 79.0          |
| 55.0       | 0.8                | 6.6           | 26.4          | 67.0          |
| 70.0       | 0.8                | 10.0          | 40.0          | 50.0          |
| 75.0       | 0.8                | 10.0          | 40.0          | 50.0          |
| 78.0       | 0.8                | 36.0          | 64.0          | 0.0           |
| 81.0       | 0.8                | 36.0          | 64.0          | 0.0           |
| 86.0       | 0.8                | 100.0         | 0.0           | 0.0           |
| 90.0       | 0.8                | 100.0         | 0.0           | 0.0           |

Solvent A: 0.05M  $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$ , pH=2.6; Solvent B: 100% acetonitrile; Solvent C: 0.2M  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ , pH=1.5

TABLE 2  
Analysis of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wine physicochemical parameters,

| Parameters           | Chardonnay  | Sauvignon Blanc |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Alcohol (%)          | 13.4 ± 0.07 | 13.6 ± 0.14     |
| pH                   | 3.36 ± 0.01 | 3.65 ± 0.01     |
| TA (g/L)             | 10.2 ± 0.08 | 8.5 ± 0.12      |
| Residual sugar (g/L) | 1.88 ± 0.04 | 2.05 ± 0.07     |

fermented to dryness with residual sugar level lower than 4 g/L. Comparing to Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc had a higher pH, which may partially explain its lower bentonite requirement for protein stabilization, as high wine pH could reduce the potential to form protein haze in response to heat (Mesquita *et al.*, 2001).

#### **Protein removal by bentonite fining**

The concentrations of TLPs and chitinases in Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines were determined at 84.3 mg/L and 5.7 mg/L, and at 49.4 mg/L and 3.0 mg/L, respectively (Table 3), which are within the concentration range reported in previous studies (Le Bourse *et al.*, 2011; Tian *et al.*, 2017). Comparing to Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay had higher concentration of TLPs and chitinases, which could lead to a high bentonite requirement for protein stabilization as PR proteins have a linear correlation with bentonite requirement (Tian *et al.*, 2017). After bentonite fining, the concentration of TLPs in Chardonnay was reduced to 5.3 mg/L, 4.9 mg/L, 4.6 mg/L and 3.9 mg/L by adding 50 mg/L of PCT, BTL, PBN and SPM, respectively. Chitinases in Chardonnay were completely removed after bentonite fining. Both TLPs and

chitinases in Sauvignon Blanc were completely removed after bentonite fining. Four types of bentonite samples (PCT, BTL, PBN and SPM) at the same addition rate have shown similar efficiency in removing PR proteins in both Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines, but the bentonite lees formation varied among the different types of bentonites with BTL (Na-Ca bentonite) resulting in the most fluffy lees and SPM (Ca-Na bentonite) the most compact lees (Fig. 1). To reduce the loss of wine volume due to bentonite lees formation, SPM is recommended for protein stabilization in comparison with the other three types of bentonite samples.

#### **Bentonite fining impacts on phenolic substances**

Phenolic compounds identified and quantified in this study are shown in Fig. 2. The concentration of total phenolics in Chardonnay was determined at 107.8 mg/L, and it decreased to 94.8 mg/L, 98.9 mg/L, 95.3 mg/L and 95.3 mg/L after bentonite fining with PCT, BTL, PBN and SPM, respectively (Table 4). The concentrations of individual phenolic compounds determined in all wine samples are in the concentration ranges reported previously (Gawel *et al.*, 2017; Goldberg, Karumanchiri, Soleas, & Tsang,

TABLE 3

Concentrations (mg/L) of TLPs and chitinases in Chardonnay (CH) and Sauvignon Blanc (SB) wines and wines treated with different types of bentonite,

| Treatment    | TLPs *     | Chitinases * (mg/L)* |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| CH (control) | 84.3 ± 0.3 | 5.7 ± 0.2            |
| CH + PCT     | 5.3 ± 0.2  | ND                   |
| CH + BTL     | 4.9 ± 0.3  | ND                   |
| CH + PBN     | 4.6 ± 0.1  | ND                   |
| CH + SPM     | 3.9 ± 0.2  | ND                   |
| SB (control) | 49.4 ± 0.2 | 3.0 ± 0.3            |
| SB + PCT     | ND         | ND                   |
| SB + BTL     | ND         | ND                   |
| SB + PBN     | ND         | ND                   |
| SB + SPM     | ND         | ND                   |

\*Concentrations of TLP and chitinases determined by HPLC and expressed as thaumatin equivalent (mg thaumatin/L). ND: not detected.

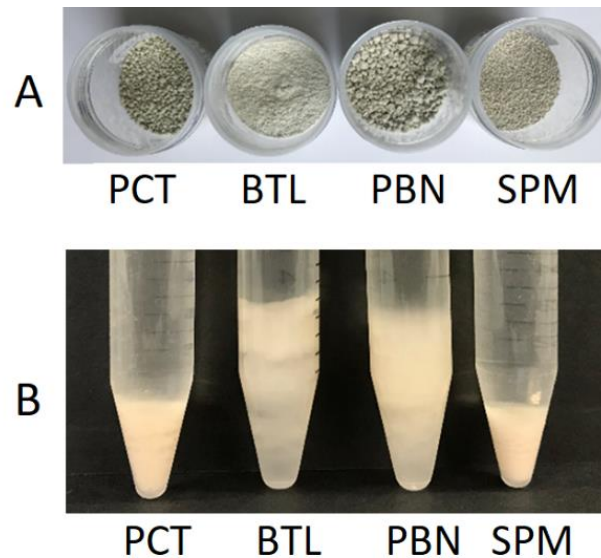


FIGURE 1

Particle sizes (A) of four bentonites used and lees formed (B) at addition rate of 50 mg/L

1999). All phenolic compounds in Chardonnay (Table 4) were determined at lower concentrations compared to those in Sauvignon Blanc (Table 5). For Chardonnay wines, there were no significant differences for most of phenolic compounds observed among treatments, except for caffeic acid, *p*-coumaric acid and gallo catechin. The concentration of caffeic acid decreased significantly in Chardonnay after treatment with PCT, BTL and PBN, and the concentration of *p*-coumaric acid was significantly reduced in Chardonnay treated with PCT and BTL. All types of bentonite tested in this study showed significantly decreased the concentration of gallo catechin in Chardonnay, which may result in lower bitterness and astringency in wine. In addition, no caftaric acid was found in Chardonnay wines, indicating the

occurrence of enzymatic oxidation during grape processing (Singleton, Salgues, Zaya, & Trousdale, 1985).

The concentration of total phenolics in Sauvignon Blanc was determined at 414.8 mg/L (Table 5), which was higher than in Chardonnay, because Sauvignon Blanc was fermented with grape skin. After bentonite fining with PCT, BTL, PBN and SPM, the concentration of total phenolics decreased significantly to 409.4 mg/L, 340.4 mg/L, 398.9 mg/L and 394.3 mg/L, respectively. Reduction of total phenolics in white wine may reduce the perception of astringency, bitterness, hotness and viscosity (Gawel *et al.*, 2016), but the effect is also dependent on pH and alcohol content of wine (Gawel, Van Sluyter, Smith, & Waters, 2013). There were significant differences in the

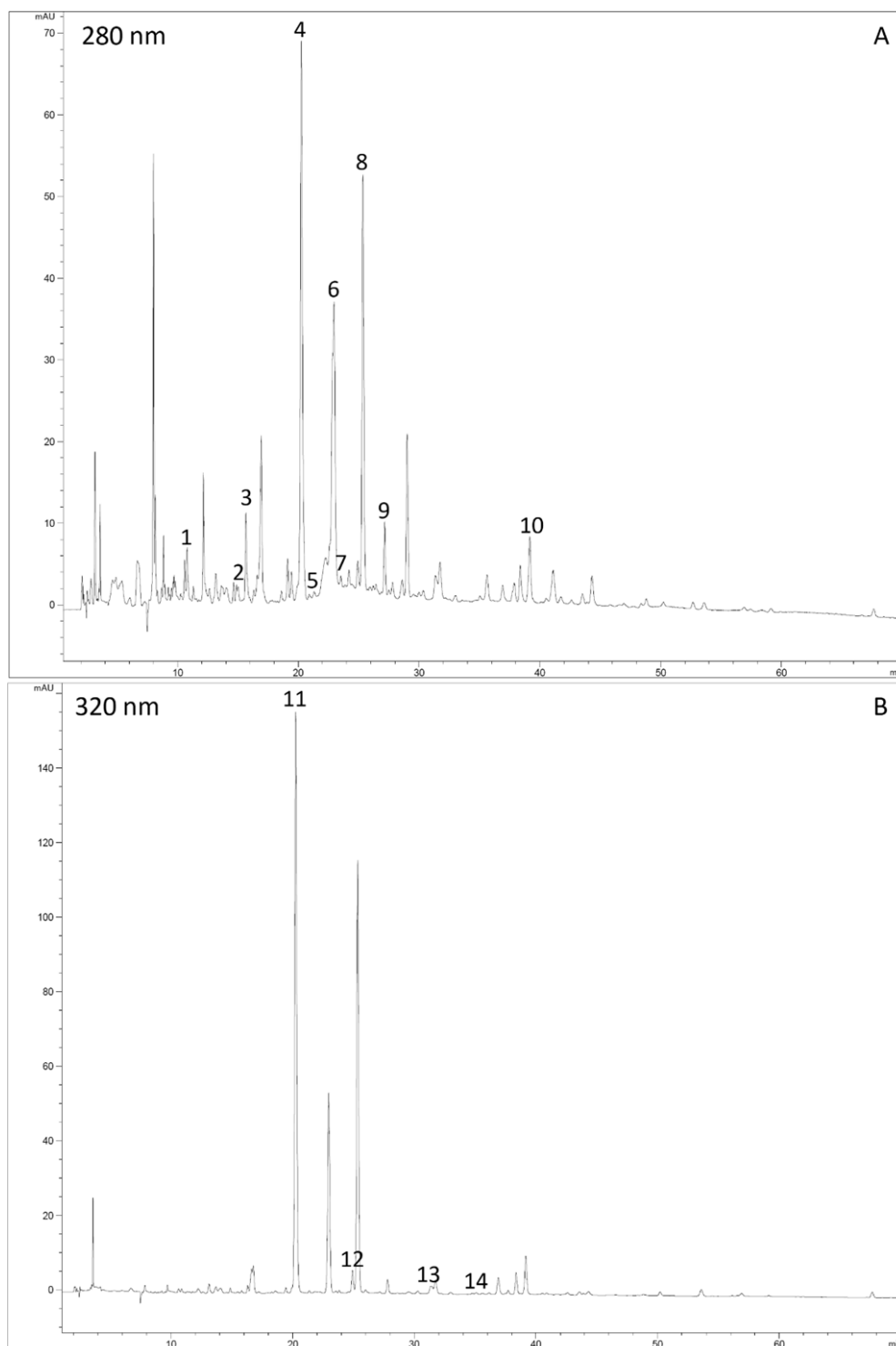


FIGURE 2

HPLC chromatograms of phenolics identified and quantified at 280 nm (A) and 320 nm (B). 1: gallic acid; 2: protocatechuic acid; 3: gallo catechin; 4: hydrobenzoic acid; 5: epigallocatechin; 6: catechin; 7: vanilic acid; 8: syringic acid; 9: epicatechin; 10: epicatechin gallate; 11: caftaric acid; 12: caffeic acid; 13: p-coumaric acid; 14: ferulic acid.

concentrations of gallic acid, vanilic acid, caffeic acid, caftaric acid, epicatechin gallate, gallo catechin, catechin and epicatechin among treatments. Comparing within the four types of bentonites, SPM (Ca-Na bentonite) resulted in the lowest concentrations of caftaric acid and flavanols, particularly epicatechin gallate, gallo catechin, catechin and

epicatechin. The significantly reduced caftaric acid found in SPM treated Sauvignon Blanc could negatively contribute to the mouthfeel of wine as caftaric acid could reduce burning and drying sensations without adding bitterness to white wine (Gawel, Schulkin, Smith, & Waters, 2014).

TABLE 4  
Phenolic compounds (mg/L) in Chardonnay (CH) wines and wines treated with different types of bentonite.

| Phenolic compounds           | Control                   | Bentonite treatment       |                           |                           |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                              |                           | PCT                       | BTL                       | PBN                       | SPM                       |
| <b>Hydroxybenzoic acids</b>  |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Gallic acid                  | 0.09 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.03 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.05 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.01 | 0.03 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.05 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.01 |
| Protocatechuic acid          | 0.41 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06  | 0.38 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.07  | 0.30 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.32 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.00  | 0.28 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.02  |
| Vanilic acid                 | 0.38 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.39 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.36 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.38 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.02  | 0.38 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  |
| Syringic acid                | 1.29 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 1.23 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.04  | 1.24 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 1.24 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 1.29 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06  |
| Hydrobenzoic acid            | 0.80 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.10  | 0.75 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.08  | 0.69 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.02  | 0.68 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06  | 0.68 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06  |
| <b>Hydroxycinnamic acids</b> |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Caffeic acid                 | 0.38 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.30 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.29 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.30 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.33 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.02 |
| <i>p</i> -coumaric acid      | 0.28 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.20 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.04  | 0.20 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.21 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.01 | 0.22 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.01 |
| Ferulic acid                 | 0.12 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.03  | 0.12 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.02  | 0.12 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.02  | 0.11 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.00  | 0.13 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  |
| Caftaric acid                | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        |
| <b>Flavonols</b>             |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Rutin                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        |
| Quercetin                    | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        |
| <b>Flavanols</b>             |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Epicatechin gallate          | 0.37 ± 0.19               | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        |
| Gallocatechin                | 16.28 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.86 | 13.09 <sup>b</sup> ± 1.22 | 10.90 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.00 | 11.49 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.47 | 10.81 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.26 |
| Epigallocatechin             | 2.47 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.47  | 2.41 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.38  | 2.12 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.09  | 2.24 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06  | 2.03 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  |
| Catechin                     | 0.63 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.05  | 0.57 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.09  | 0.56 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.10  | 0.57 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.09  | 0.57 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.09  |
| Epicatechin                  | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        | ND                        |
| <b>Total phenolics*</b>      | 107.8 <sup>a</sup> ± 2.0  | 94.8 <sup>b</sup> ± 1.3   | 98.9 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.4   | 95.3 <sup>b</sup> ± 2.5   | 95.3 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.4   |

ND: not detected; different letters in the same row indicate a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) according to one-way ANOVA and LSD test; \*Concentration of total phenolics is expressed as gallic acid equivalent (mg GAE/L).

TABLE 5  
Phenolic compounds (mg/L) in Sauvignon Blanc (SB) wines and wines treated with different types of bentonite.

| Phenolic compounds           | Control                   | Bentonite treatment       |                           |                           |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|                              |                           | PCT                       | BTL                       | PBN                       | SPM                       |
| <b>Hydroxybenzoic acids</b>  |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Gallic acid                  | 1.67 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.03  | 1.46 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.00  | 1.43 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.04  | 1.44 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.06  | 1.48 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  |
| Protocatechuic acid          | 0.75 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.07  | 0.71 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06  | 0.65 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.66 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.67 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  |
| Vanilic acid                 | 0.80 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.08  | 0.52 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.10 | 0.50 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.10  | 0.43 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.02  | 0.42 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  |
| Syringic acid                | 13.29 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.43 | 12.78 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.12 | 12.88 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06 | 12.90 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.03 | 12.93 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01 |
| Hydrobenzoic acid            | 0.92 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.03  | 0.93 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.02  | 0.96 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.04  | 0.97 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.03  | 0.85 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.03  |
| <b>Hydroxycinnamic acids</b> |                           |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Caffeic acid                 | 0.79 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.11  | 0.46 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.09 | 0.52 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.13 | 0.41 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.02  | 0.31 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01  |
| <i>p</i> -coumaric acid      | 0.71 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.69 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.68 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.66 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.00  | 0.56 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.02  |
| Ferulic acid                 | 0.27 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.07  | 0.31 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.30 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01  | 0.26 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.06  | 0.22 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.00  |
| Caftaric acid                | 55.28 <sup>a</sup> ± 1.52 | 42.41 <sup>b</sup> ± 1.84 | 43.87 <sup>b</sup> ± 2.64 | 41.67 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.08 | 24.58 <sup>c</sup> ± 2.81 |

TABLE 5 (CONTINUED)

| Phenolic compounds      | Control                   | Bentonite treatment       |                            |                            |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
|                         |                           | PCT                       | BTL                        | PBN                        | SPM                       |
| <b>Flavonols</b>        |                           |                           |                            |                            |                           |
| Rutin                   | ND                        | ND                        | ND                         | ND                         | ND                        |
| Quercetin               | ND                        | ND                        | ND                         | ND                         | ND                        |
| <b>Flavanols</b>        |                           |                           |                            |                            |                           |
| Epicatechin gallate     | 4.16 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.07  | 3.92 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.05  | 3.99 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.13   | 3.90 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.05   | 3.19 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.14  |
| Gallocatechin           | 23.07 <sup>a</sup> ± 1.04 | 21.51 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.08 | 21.71 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.52  | 21.29 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.35  | 18.51 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.44 |
| Epigallocatechin        | 5.45 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.04  | 5.03 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.42  | 4.39 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.44   | 4.53 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.62   | 5.40 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.23  |
| Catechin                | 19.86 <sup>a</sup> ± 2.20 | 14.58 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.73 | 15.56 <sup>ab</sup> ± 0.91 | 13.85 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.04  | 13.72 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.99 |
| Epicatechin             | 9.26 <sup>a</sup> ± 1.55  | 4.68 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.64  | 5.15 <sup>b</sup> ± 1.29   | 4.10 <sup>bc</sup> ± 0.13  | 0.74 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.24  |
| <b>Total phenolics*</b> | 414.8 <sup>a</sup> ± 7.1  | 409.4 <sup>ab</sup> ± 2.0 | 340.4 <sup>c</sup> ± 4.6   | 398.9 <sup>ab</sup> ± 10.9 | 394.3 <sup>b</sup> ± 6.3  |

ND: not detected; different letters in the same row indicate a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) according to one-way ANOVA and LSD test; \*Concentration of total phenolics is expressed as gallic acid equivalent (mg GAE/L).

## CONCLUSIONS

Bentonite fining is a common method used in wine industry to remove excess proteins in white wine before bottling. Addition of bentonite not only removes proteins but also phenolic compounds. This study investigated the impact of bentonite fining on phenolic composition in Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines. Bentonite fining significantly decreased the concentration of phenolic compounds in both wines due to the adsorption to bentonite or the interaction between proteins and phenolics. The decrease of individual phenolic compounds by bentonite fining varied depending on the type of bentonite with SPM (Ca-Na bentonite) in removing certain phenolic compounds associated with astringency, bitterness and hotness, which may consequently affect the mouthfeel and texture of resultant white wine. Thus, when selecting bentonite for protein stabilization, winemakers should also consider the negative impact on reduction of phenolic compounds by bentonite fining, in addition to the lees formation and the loss of aroma compounds.

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