

1 **A new chromosomal rearrangement improves the adaptation of wine**
2 **yeasts to sulfite**

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17 Running title: New sulfite-resistant yeast genome reorganization

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24 **ORIGINALITY-SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

25 Microorganisms utilize a great variety of genetic strategies to adapt to natural
26 and human-made environments. Among them, genome-wide rearrangements constitute
27 a mechanism to rapidly evolve by generating phenotypic diversity. Sulfite is widely
28 used during winemaking because of its antimicrobial and antioxidant properties.
29 Therefore, wine yeast strains have developed specific genetic changes to increase its
30 resistance to sulfite. In this study, we have identified and characterized a novel
31 chromosomal rearrangement that increases the sulfite resistance of *Saccharomyces*
32 *cerevisiae* wine strains. Specifically, an inversion in chromosome XVI that involves the
33 promoter of the cell surface sulfite efflux pump *SSUI* increases its expression and the
34 strain sulfite tolerance. These data uncover a new genomic event that confers an
35 evolutive advantage to wine yeast strains.

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45 **ABSTRACT**

46 Sulfite-generating compounds are widely used during winemaking as
47 preservatives because of its antimicrobial and antioxidant properties. Thus, wine yeast
48 strains have developed different genetic strategies to increase its sulfite resistance. The
49 most efficient sulfite detoxification mechanism in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* uses a
50 plasma membrane protein called Ssu1 to efflux sulfite. In wine yeast strains, two
51 chromosomal translocations (VIIItXVI and XVtXVI) involving the *SSUI* promoter
52 region have been shown to up-regulate *SSUI* expression and, as a result, increase sulfite
53 tolerance. In this study, we have identified a novel chromosomal rearrangement that
54 triggers wine yeast sulfite adaptation. An inversion in chromosome XVI (inv-XVI)
55 probably due to sequence microhomology, which involves *SSUI* and *GCR1* regulatory
56 regions, increases the expression of *SSUI* and the sulfite resistance of a commercial
57 wine yeast strain. A detailed dissection of this chimeric *SSUI* promoter indicates that
58 both the removed *SSUI* promoter sequence and the relocated *GCR1* sequence contribute
59 to *SSUI* up-regulation and sulfite tolerance. However, no relevant function has been
60 attributed to the *SSUI*-promoter binding transcription factor Fzf1. These results unveil a
61 new genomic event that confers an evolutive advantage to wine yeast strains.

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63 **Keywords:** Chromosomal rearrangement, inversion, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *SSUI*,
64 sulfite resistance, wine yeast.

65

66 INTRODUCTION

67 Wine fermentation is a complex ecological and biochemical process that
68 involves the sequential growth of different microorganisms, mainly yeasts, but also
69 filamentous fungi, lactic and acetic acid bacteria (Bauer and Pretorius 2000; Beltrán et
70 al. 2002). However, the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* replaces other species
71 found in grape musts because of its higher tolerance to ethanol and the production of
72 heat via fermentation (Fleet, 2003; Goddard, 2008; Salvadó *et al.*, 2011). The use of this
73 yeast in winemaking dates back to about 7400 years in the Cradle of Civilization,
74 extending nowadays to all the temperate regions of the world (Bauer and Pretorius,
75 2000). Therefore, the wine strains of *S. cerevisiae* are highly specialized
76 microorganisms that have evolved to use the different ecological niches provided by
77 human activity. The specific genetic characteristics of the wine yeast strains are a
78 consequence of the process of domestication (Liti *et al.*, 2009; Almeida *et al.*, 2015;
79 Borneman *et al.*, 2016; Gayevskiy *et al.*, 2016; Gonçalves *et al.*, 2016; Legras *et al.*,
80 2018).

81 The study of patterns of genetic variation, population structure, and phenotypic
82 diversity among strains of *S. cerevisiae* from different fermentative environments shows
83 that the ecological specialization associated with human activity is accompanied by the
84 accumulation of a great variety of potentially adaptive genetic changes (Legras *et al.*,
85 2018; Peter *et al.*, 2018). This rapid evolution is due to the ability of yeast to reshape its
86 genome through expansion and contraction of gene families (Casadevall, 2008; Brown
87 *et al.*, 2010; Lin and Li, 2011), duplication of entire genomes (Marcet-Houben *et al.*,
88 2015), acquisition of new genes through introgression (Neafsey *et al.*, 2010; Strobe *et al.*,
89 *et al.*, 2015; Barbosa *et al.*, 2016) or horizontal gene transfer (Novo *et al.*, 2009;
90 Cheeseman *et al.*, 2014; Wisecaver and Rokas, 2015; Alexander *et al.*, 2016), and

91 directional selection (Hu *et al.*, 2014). Chromosomal rearrangements also underlie
92 adaptation by affecting the expression of genes located in the proximity of the
93 translocation breakpoints (Pérez-Ortín *et al.*, 2002; Zimmer *et al.*, 2014). All these
94 genetic events promote a quicker adaptation to environmental changes than spontaneous
95 mutations, which occur at comparatively lower rates (Doniger *et al.*, 2008).

96 Sulfite (SO_3^{2-}), which is produced by dissolution of sulfur dioxide (SO_2) in
97 water, is used during winemaking as a microbial inhibitor and antioxidant (Bauer and
98 Pretorius, 2000). Therefore, sulfite resistance is a desired trait for wine yeast strains
99 (Divol *et al.*, 2012). The most common mechanisms to cope with the stress produced by
100 sulfites include the increase in the production of acetaldehyde, which binds to SO_3^{2-} , the
101 regulation of the sulfite uptake pathway, and sulfite efflux through a plasma membrane
102 pump encoded by the *SSUI* gene (Casalone *et al.*, 1992). The latter is one of the most
103 effective mechanisms of sulfite resistance in *S. cerevisiae* (Avram and Bakalinsky,
104 1997; Avram *et al.*, 1999). Strains lacking *SSUI* gene are more sensitive to sulfite than
105 their wild-type counterparts, since *SSUI* deletion increases the accumulation of
106 intracellular sulfite (Avram and Bakalinsky, 1997; Nadai *et al.*, 2016). Another gene
107 involved in yeast sulfite resistance is the transcription factor *FZF1* (Casalone *et al.*,
108 1992, 1994; Avram *et al.*, 1999; Engle and Fay, 2012). *Fzf1* interacts with two regions
109 of DNA (CS1 and CS2) immediately upstream of *SSUI* and activates its transcription
110 (Avram *et al.* 1999; Saver *et al.*, 2005).

111 Among wine yeast strains, two chromosomal translocations (VIIItXVI and
112 XVtXVI) have been shown to provide up-regulation of *SSUI* expression and increased
113 sulfite tolerance (Pérez-Ortín *et al.*, 2002; Yuasa *et al.*, 2005; Zimmer *et al.*, 2014). In
114 both cases, the translocation involves the *SSUI* promoter and leads to its transcriptional
115 activation. A recent study showed that the *SSUI* translocations provide both ecological

116 divergence between wine and non-wine yeasts, due to sulfite resistance differences, and
117 reproductive isolation by reducing spore viability in hybrids (Hyma and Fay, 2012; Hou
118 et al. 2014; Clowers et al. 2015). In this work, we have identified an inversion in
119 chromosome XVI that increases the expression of *SSUI* and the sulfite resistance of an
120 industrial wine yeast strain. The aim of this work consists in the molecular and
121 phenotypical characterization of this novel chromosomal rearrangement involving the
122 yeast *SSUI* locus.

123

124 RESULTS

125

126 Identification of a sulfite-resistant wine yeast strain lacking VIII_tXVI and XV_tXVI 127 chromosomal rearrangements

128 During the process of phenotypic characterization of the commercial wine yeast
129 strain P5 (García-Ríos *et al.*, 2014, 2017), we decided to determine its sulfite resistance.
130 For this purpose, we tested growth and viability by performing yeast spot assays in solid
131 media containing increasing concentrations of K₂S₂O₅. For a better comparison, we
132 included two sulfite resistant strains, T73 and VLI, which harbor genomic translocations
133 affecting the *SSUI* locus that have been previously characterized (VIII_tXVI and
134 XV_tXVI, respectively), and the control wine yeast strain P24 with no *SSUI*
135 rearrangements (Goto-Yamamoto *et al.*, 1998; Pérez-Ortín *et al.*, 2002; Zimmer *et al.*,
136 2014; García-Ríos *et al.*, 2017). No growth differences in a medium without sulfites
137 were observed among the wine yeast strains (Figure 1A). Upon addition of K₂S₂O₅, the
138 P24 control strain displayed a slight sensitivity at 3 mM and no growth at 4 mM
139 K₂S₂O₅, whereas the P5 strain was as resistant to sulfite as the T73 and VL1 reference
140 strains (Figure 1A). When assayed in liquid medium, we observed a very slight growth
141 defect for the T73 and VL1 strains as compared to the P5 strain under normal
142 conditions, which was enhanced in the presence of 4 mM K₂S₂O₅ (Figure 1B). Again,
143 T73, VL1 and P5 strains were all more resistant to sulfite than the P24 control strain
144 (Figure 1B).

145 Previous studies have demonstrated that the resistance of yeast cells to sulfite is
146 mainly determined by the expression of its *SSUI* gene (Avram and Bakalinsky, 1997).
147 Therefore, to explore the potential mechanisms responsible for these phenotypic

148 differences, we first determined the expression levels of *SSUI* mRNA by RT-qPCR in
149 the absence of $K_2S_2O_5$. As Figure 1C shows, the P5 yeast strain displayed the highest
150 *SSUI* mRNA levels, followed by VLI and T73 strains respectively. The control P24
151 strain showed the lowest *SSUI* expression, which is consistent with its high sensitivity
152 to sulfite (Figure 1A). No induction of *SSUI* expression by sulfite addition was
153 observed for any of the studied yeast strains (data not shown).

154 To characterize the molecular bases of the elevated *SSUI* expression observed in
155 the P5 wine yeast strain, we designed PCR primers to distinguish between a wild-type
156 *SSUI* locus (nt-XVI), and the VIIItXVI and XVtXVI translocations (Figure 2). We
157 observed specific bands that corresponded to the VIIItXVI and XVtXVI translocations
158 only in T73 and VLI strains, respectively (Figure 2). Moreover, a PCR product
159 indicative of a wild-type *SSUI* allele was also present in T73, VLI and P24 strains.
160 Remarkably, the P5 sulfite-resistant strain neither presented the chromosomal
161 rearrangements previously described nor the wild-type *SSUI* allele. Taken together,
162 these results suggest that a novel genetic mechanism triggers the elevated expression of
163 *SSUI* in the P5 wine strain, which results in greater resistance to sulfite.

164

165 **The P5 wine yeast strain displays an inversion on chromosome XVI that involves**
166 **the *SSUI* promoter region**

167 The greater *SSUI* expression of the P5 strain prompted us to sequence its
168 promoter region by using a reverse oligonucleotide within *SSUI* coding sequence
169 (CDS). No abnormal sequences were observed up to 488 bp downstream of the *SSUI*
170 CDS. However, the sequence identified beyond that point was identical to the promoter
171 region 814 bp upstream of the *GCRI* gene CDS, which is normally located 38.5 Kb

172 away from the *SSUI* gene in chromosome XVI. An additional sequencing with a
173 reverse oligonucleotide within *GCRI* CDS supported that a chromosome XVI
174 reorganization, with breakpoints located at *SSUI* and *GCRI* promoters, had occurred in
175 the wine yeast strain P5 (see Figure 3A for a schematic representation of the
176 chromosome XVI inversion present in the P5 strain). To investigate the potential
177 molecular mechanism responsible for such an inversion, we aligned the nucleotide
178 sequence within both junctions of the inversion (Figure 3B; inv-XVI C and inv-XVI D
179 rev) and from the natural chromosome XVI (Figure 3B; nt-XVI A and nt-XVI B).
180 Approximately half of this sequence (18 out of 37 nucleotides) was identical among the
181 four fragments, which suggests that this illegitimate recombination has occurred
182 probably due to sequence microhomology.

183 To further characterize the chromosome XVI inversion (inv-XVI) as compared
184 to other chromosomal organizations, we designed specific primer pairs to amplify the
185 native *SSUI* (F1 and R1) and *GCRI* (F2 and R2) promoter regions (Figure 3A). In a
186 PCR contain all four primers, the T73, VL1 and P24 strains showed two bands
187 corresponding to the amplification of wild-type *SSUI* (F1-R1: 1256 bp) and *GCRI* (F2-
188 R2: 2088 bp) (Figure 3B). Importantly, the P5 strain did not exhibit any of these bands,
189 instead, P5 displayed two bands corresponding to the amplification with the F1-F2 and
190 R1-R2 primer pairs (1866 and 1634 bp, respectively) (Figure 3B). These results
191 demonstrate that the wine yeast strain P5 contains a large chromosome XVI inversion
192 with breakpoints located 488 bp upstream of the *SSUI* CDS and 814 bp upstream of the
193 *GCRI* CDS. Then, we decided to explore the presence of additional yeast strains with a
194 similar inversion at the *SSUI* locus of chromosome XVI. For this purpose, we extracted
195 the genomic DNA from 132 *S. cerevisiae* strains from different geographical origins
196 and isolation sources (Table S1), and used them as templates to perform specific PCRs

197 with the four primers described above (Figure 3C; F1, R1, F2 and R2). Most strains
198 (106 out of 132) displayed a PCR pattern (2088 bp + 1256 bp) consistent with a wild-
199 type *SSUI* locus (Table S1). A significant proportion of the strains (25 out of 132)
200 exhibited only a 2088 bp band, but lacked the 1256 bp band corresponding to the native
201 *SSUI* promoter (Table S1). This result was consistent with these 25 yeast strains
202 containing a chromosomal rearrangement at the *SSUI* locus different from the
203 chromosome XVI inversion described in the P5 strain, and probably due to either a
204 VIIItXVI or a XVtXVI translocation. These results suggest that the inv-XVI present in
205 the P5 yeast strain could be the consequence of a recent genetic rearrangement that did
206 not spread yet among wine strains.

207

208 **The Fzf1 transcription factor is not responsible for the increased *SSUI* expression**
209 **and sulfite resistance of the P5 wine strain**

210 The 488 bp fragment of *SSUI* promoter conserved in the P5 inv-XVI contains
211 the binding sites for the Fzf1 transcription factor, which contributes to the basal
212 expression of the *SSUI* gene (Figure 3A; Fzf1 binding sites located at -442 (CS1) and -
213 387 bp (CS2) of *SSUI* CDS; Sarver and DeRisi, 2005; Avram et al., 1999). First, we
214 determined the expression levels of *FZF1* in all wine strains included in this study. In
215 this case, the strain P5 exhibited the lowest levels of *FZF1* mRNA (Figure S1). Then,
216 we analyzed the implication of the transcriptional factor Fzf1 in the expression of *SSUI*
217 observed in the P5 strain. For this purpose, the *FZF1* gene was deleted from a haploid
218 version of P5 strain, and its effect on sulfite resistance and *SSUI* expression studied.
219 Neither the growth in sulfite-containing media nor the expression of the *SSUI* gene of
220 the P5 strain was altered when its *FZF1* gene was deleted (Figure 4). These data suggest

221 that the Fzf1 transcription factor does not account for the increased *SSUI* expression
222 and sulfite resistance displayed by the P5 wine strain.

223

224 **The ectopic expression of the P5 chimeric *SSUI* allele confers resistance to sulfite-**
225 **sensitive strains.**

226 To further ascertain the contribution of the P5 *SSUI* allele to sulfite resistance,
227 we amplified by PCR the natural wild-type *SSUI* allele (*WT-SSUI*) and the chimeric P5
228 *SSUI* allele (*P5-SSUI*) (containing either 810 or 1148 bp from their respective promoter
229 regions, *SSUI* CDS and terminator), and cloned them into a centromeric yeast
230 expression vector (pRS416; Sikorski and Hieter, 1989) (see Figure 5A for a schematic
231 representation). Both plasmids and empty vector were transformed into the wine yeast
232 strain P24 and the laboratory BY4743 strain, lacking either *SSUI* or *FZF1* genes (*ssu1Δ*
233 and *fzf1Δ* strains), all of them sensitive to sulfite. The plasmid expressing the wild-type
234 *SSUI* allele (*WT-SSUI*) increased *SSUI* mRNA levels except in the case of the BY4743
235 *fzf1Δ* strain, whereas the construct containing the chimeric *P5-SSUI* allele conferred the
236 highest expression independently of Fzf1 (Figure 5). To test the effect of the *P5-SSUI*
237 allele on sulfite resistance, we performed a yeast growth assay in media with increasing
238 concentrations of K₂S₂O₅. Notably, as compared to empty vector, the *P5-SSUI* allele
239 was able to confer resistance to all the sulfite-sensitive strains assayed, whereas the *WT-*
240 *SSUI* allele did not endow the sensitive strains with a higher sulfite tolerance (Figure 6).
241 These results indicate that the expression of *SSUI* gene under the control of the
242 chimeric *SSUI* promoter present in the wine yeast strain P5 is able by itself to increase
243 the sulfite resistance of different yeast strains.

244

245 **The partial deletion of *SSUI* promoter is sufficient to increase expression and to**
246 **confer sulfite resistance.**

247 To determine the contribution of the *GCR1* promoter sequence acquired by the
248 *P5-SSUI* recombinant allele to its expression and sulfite resistance, we cloned a
249 truncated *SSUI* allele (*trunc-SSUI*), which only contained the 488 bp from the *SSUI*
250 natural promoter region, but no *GCR1* sequence, into the pRS416 vector (as depicted in
251 Figure 5A). The plasmid containing the *trunc-SSUI* allele was transformed into the
252 sulfite-sensitive P24, BY4743 *ssu1Δ* and BY4743 *fzf1Δ* yeast strains. Then the *SSUI*
253 mRNA levels and the sulfite resistance were assayed in comparison to the same strains
254 expressing the *WT-SSUI* and *P5-SSUI* alleles. Interestingly, yeast strains with the
255 *trunc-SSUI* plasmid displayed *SSUI* mRNA levels higher than those expressing the
256 *WT-SSUI* allele, but slightly lower than the *P5-SSUI* transformed cells (Figure 5).
257 Regarding growth in K₂S₂O₅-containing media, the *trunc-SSUI* allele increased the
258 resistance to sulfite of all the strains in a similar manner to the *P5-SSUI* chimeric allele
259 (Figure 6).

260 To discard a potential contribution of the pRS416 sequence to *SSUI* expression
261 and sulfite resistance conferred by the cloned *trunc-SSUI* allele, we integrated the
262 nourseothricin resistance gene (*clonNAT*) at -488 bp from the *SSUI* CDS of the wild-
263 type and *fzf1Δ* laboratory BY4741 yeast strain. This genomic integration mimics the
264 *trunc-SSUI* allele because it lacks the original sequence 488 bp downstream of the *WT-*
265 *SSUI* and *P5-SSUI* alleles. Again, *SSUI* expression and sulfite growth assays
266 demonstrated that the removal of the *SSUI* promoter region beyond 488 increased *SSUI*
267 mRNA levels and conferred sulfite resistance in an *Fzf1*-independent way (Figure 7).
268 Taken together, these results strongly suggest that the *inv-XVI* present in the P5 wine
269 yeast strain eliminates a portion of the *SSUI* promoter region that was limiting *SSUI*

270 expression and sulfite resistance, and introduces a new *GCRI* sequence that further
271 increases *SSUI* mRNA levels.

272

273 **DISCUSSION**

274 The stresses that yeast cells encounter during wine fermentations include the
275 elevated content of sugar in grape musts, the high ethanol concentrations achieved, the
276 temperature of the different fermentation types, and the sulfite added as an antimicrobial
277 and antioxidant agent (Bauer and Pretorius, 2000; Divol *et al.*, 2012). These
278 environmental stresses exerted for hundreds of years and thousands of generations have
279 caused wine yeasts to evolve rapidly, shaping their genome through different genetic
280 mechanisms (Marsit and Dequin, 2015; Guillamón and Barrio, 2017; Legras *et al.*,
281 2018).

282 Previous studies have shown that different chromosomal rearrangements of the
283 wine yeast *SSUI* gene have led to an increase in their resistance against the stress
284 generated by the sulfites added during the must fermentation process. In an initial study,
285 we described that a translocation between chromosomes XVI and VIII (VIIItXVI)
286 located the *SSUI* gene under the promoter region of the *EMC34* regulatory region,
287 leading to a new *SSUI* promoter, which increased *SSUI* expression and tolerance to
288 sulfites (Pérez-Ortín *et al.*, 2002). A later study, showed that a translocation between
289 chromosomes XVI and XV (XVtXVI) positioned the *SSUI* gene under the control of
290 the promoter region of *ADHI*, a constitutively expressed gene encoding for the enzyme
291 alcohol dehydrogenase (Zimmer *et al.*, 2014). Again, this rearrangement enhanced the
292 basal expression of *SSUI* and improved sulfite resistance. In the present work, we have
293 identified and characterized a novel reorganization on chromosome XVI that involves

294 the *SSUI* gene. Specifically, we have identified an inversion in chromosome XVI (inv-
295 XVI) that increases the sulfite resistance capacity of the P5 wine yeast strain to a similar
296 strength of that of the VIIItXVI and XVtXVI translocations (Figure 1). We observed
297 that the yeast strain with the highest *SSUI* expression (P5) was the most resistant to
298 sulfite, whereas the most sensitive strain (P24) exhibited the lowest *SSUI* expression
299 (Figure 1). However, in the case of the T73 and VL1 yeast strains, *SSUI* mRNA levels
300 did not fit with their relative sulfite resistance probably due to the contribution of other
301 factors to yeast sulfite tolerance (Figure 1; Zimmer et al., 2014). No correlation was
302 observed between *FZF1* mRNA levels and sulfite resistance (Figure 1 and S1).

303 The molecular basis responsible for the increased expression of the different
304 *SSUI* alleles is not fully understood. The VIIItXVI reorganization present in the T73
305 and other wine strains conserved the two Fzf1-binding sites (CS1 and CS2) contained in
306 the original *SSUI* promoter region (Pérez-Ortín *et al.*, 2002). Moreover, cells acquired a
307 piece of *ECM34* promoter containing 76-bp repeats, whose number influences *SSUI*
308 expression and sulfite resistance (Pérez-Ortín *et al.*, 2002; Yuasa *et al.*, 2005). The
309 XVtXVI event occurred at an AT-rich region within the *ADHI* promoter on
310 chromosome XV (Zimmer *et al.*, 2014). This translocation eliminated the Fzf1-binding
311 sites present in the native *SSUI* promoter, but added an Fzf1 and an Adr1 consensus-
312 binding site (Zimmer *et al.*, 2014). The contribution of these regulatory elements to
313 *SSUI* expression has not been elucidated yet. To gain insight into the reasons
314 responsible for the increased *SSUI* expression conferred by the *GCRI-SSUI* regulatory
315 region present in the P5 wine strain, we compared how a battery of promoter constructs
316 (*WT-SSUI*, *P5-SSUI* and *trunc-SSUI*) influenced the expression of *SSUI* and the sulfite
317 adaptation of various yeast strains (P24, BY4743 *ssu1Δ* and BY4743 *fzf1Δ*). Our results
318 indicate that both the *GCRI* sequence positioned upstream of *SSUI* and the removal of

319 the *SSUI* sequence downstream of -488 bp contribute to the elevated *SSUI* mRNA
320 levels and sulfite resistance provided by the chimeric *GCR1-SSUI* promoter exhibited
321 by the P5 wine yeast strain. Despite the chimeric *P5-SSUI* promoter conserves both
322 original Fzf1-binding sites, the deletion of *FZF1* did not alter *SSUI* expression and
323 sulfite resistance (Figures 5-7). In fact, although *SSUI* is influenced by different stress
324 responses, including low oxygen and nitric oxide, its level of expression is not regulated
325 by sulfite present in the external milieu or into the cell (Sarver and DeRisi, 2005; Yuasa
326 *et al.*, 2005; Aranda *et al.*, 2006). There is only a previously described example of an
327 industrial strain (71B) that harbors a sulfur-inducible *SSUI* gene that may have gained a
328 new regulatory system (Nardi *et al.*, 2010). However, we did not observe any sulfite-
329 dependent regulation for the *P5-SSUI* allele. Further studies would be necessary to
330 decipher which transcription factors and *cis* elements enhance *SSUI* expression in the
331 different sulfite-resistant wine yeast strains.

332 Although we performed a screening of 132 different *S. cerevisiae* yeast strains,
333 we were unable to identify an *inv-XVI* event similar to the chromosomal reorganization
334 exhibited by the P5 wine strain (Table S1). We suggest that the *inv-XVI* could be a
335 recent genetic event in the evolution of wine yeasts that did not disseminate yet. We
336 consider that, from a genetic point of view, the inversion affecting the P5 strain could be
337 more beneficial than the *VIIItXVI* and *XVtXVI* translocations because the supergene
338 architecture generated by major chromosomal inversions, due to the localized reduction
339 in recombination within, offers a mechanism to the maintenance of balanced
340 polymorphism at multiple coadapted and tightly linked elements, without compromising
341 the viability of the heterozygous spores. In fact, the spore viability of a P5/BY4743
342 crossed strain resulted to be 100% as for the original P5 and BY4743 strains.
343 Contrastingly, *SSUI* translocations not only could generate an ecological differentiation

344 but also a reproductive barrier between wine and non-wine *S. cerevisiae* populations by
345 reducing spore viability in hybrids (Hyma and Fay, 2012; Hou *et al.*, 2014; Clowers *et*
346 *al.*, 2015). The *inv-XVI* identified here has a great potential to be used in breeding
347 programs for sulfite resistance improvement in wine yeasts since it would not affect the
348 viability of heterozygous spores, unlike previously described *SSUI* translocations.

349 **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

350

351 **Yeast strains and plasmids.** The yeast strains genotyped for the *SSU1* locus are listed
352 in Table S1, whereas the yeast strains and plasmids used in the main figures of this
353 study are described in Table S2. We used the pAG25 plasmid as a template and specific
354 oligonucleotides to generate integrative cassettes to truncate the genomic copy of *SSU1*
355 promoter and to delete *FZF1* gene in the haploid version of the P5 strain. To construct
356 the pRS416-based plasmids expressing chimeric *SSU1*, wild-type *SSU1* and truncated
357 *SSU1*, 1148, 810 and 488 bp were respectively amplified from the promoter region of
358 the *SSU1* gene of either P5 or BY4743 strains. The oligonucleotides used were
359 SSU1_P5XhoI-F, SSU1_XhoI-F, promSSU1native_XhoI-F and SSU1_BamHI-R
360 (Table S3). The PCR products and the plasmid were digested with the restriction
361 enzymes *BamHI* (FastDigest, Thermo) and *XhoI* (FastDigest, Thermo) and ligation was
362 performed. PCR amplifications were performed with the Phusion DNA polymerase
363 (Finnzymes), and the cloned insert was sequenced. One Shot TOP10 chemically
364 competent *Escherichia coli* cells (Invitrogen) were used to isolate and amplify plasmids.

365

366 **Culture conditions.** Yeast cultures were incubated at 28°C. Sulfite tolerance was
367 determined on YPD medium [1% (w/v) yeast extract, 2% (w/v) bacteriological peptone,
368 2% (w/v) glucose] containing 75 mM L-tartaric acid (TA) at pH 3.5 as previously
369 described (Park *et al.*, 1999). The addition of sulfite to the agar medium after
370 autoclaving, but just before pouring, was not effective. Therefore, sulfite-containing
371 plates were prepared by spreading an appropriate amount of freshly filter-sterilized 1M
372 K₂O₅S₂ stock solution on the top of YPD + TA plates. The strains transformed with the

373 plasmid pRS416 were selected on SC-Ura plates [0.17% (w/v) yeast nitrogen base
374 without amino acids and without ammonium sulfate (Difco), 0.5% (w/v) ammonium
375 sulfate (Panreac), 2% (w/v) glucose (Panreac), 2 g L⁻¹ Kaiser drop-out (Formedium)
376 and 2% (w/v) agar (Pronadisa)]. Likewise, liquid SC-Ura medium was used to keep the
377 pRS416 plasmid during overnight growth. All other yeast precultures were carried out
378 in YPD + TA under the same conditions. To assay solid growth, yeast cells were
379 cultivated to exponential phase, and then spotted on 10-fold serial dilutions starting at
380 an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1, and incubated at 28°C for 3 days. The assays were performed on YPD
381 + TA plates with concentrations of K₂O₅S₂ up to 4 mM. Growth rate in liquid medium
382 was monitored by determining optical density at 600 nm in a SPECTROstar Omega
383 instrument (BMG Labtech, Offenburg, Germany). Measurements were taken every 30
384 min for 4 days after 20 seconds pre-shaking. Microplate wells were filled with the
385 required volume of inoculum and 0.25 mL of medium to always ensure an initial OD of
386 approximately 0.1 (inoculum level of about 10⁶ cells mL⁻¹). Growth parameters were
387 calculated from each treatment by directly fitting OD measurements versus time to the
388 reparametrized Gompertz equation proposed by Zwietering *et al.*, (1990):

389
$$y = D * \exp \{ -\exp [((\mu_{\max} * e) / D) * (\lambda - t)] + 1 \}$$

390 where $y = \ln(OD_t / OD_0)$, OD_0 is the initial OD and OD_t is the OD at time t ; $D =$
391 $\ln(OD_t / OD_0)$ is the asymptotic maximum, μ_{\max} is the maximum specific growth rate
392 (h^{-1}), and λ is the lag phase period (h) (Aguilera *et al.*, 2007). To test the spore viability,
393 sporulation was induced by incubating cells on acetate medium (1% potassium acetate
394 and 2% agar) for 5 days at 30°C. Following the preliminary digestion of the asci walls
395 with 2 mg mL⁻¹ glucuronidase (Sigma), spores were dissected using micromanipulator
396 (Singer instruments, United Kingdom). Viability was calculated as the percentage of

397 spores (from a total of 40 analyzed spores per strain) able to form a colony on YPD agar
398 after 48-72 h at 28°C.

399

400 **RNA analyses.** Total RNA extraction and cellular mRNA levels were determined by
401 RT-qPCR as previously described (Sanvisens *et al.*, 2014). The SSU1q_F/SSU1q_R,
402 FZF1q_F/FZF1q_R and ACT1q_F/ACT1q_R primer pairs were used to determine the
403 levels of *SSU1*, *FZF1* and *ACT1* mRNAs, respectively (Table S3). The data and error
404 bars represent the average and the standard deviation of three independent biological
405 samples.

406

407 **Detection of the inversion within yeast population.** The DNA extraction of the
408 different strains was carried as previously described (Querol *et al.*, 1992). To rapidly
409 screen the genetic rearrangements involving the *SSU1* gene (nt-XVI, VIIItXVI,
410 XVtXVI or inv-XVI), PCR tests were performed with appropriate primers (Table S3).

411

412 **Statistical analyses.** The results are expressed as mean and standard deviation of at
413 least 3 independent biological replicates. To evaluate statistical significance, tailed t-
414 student tests were applied. The asterisk (*) indicates statistically significant differences
415 with p -value ≤ 0.05 . Phenotypic data were fitted to the reparametrized Gompertz model
416 by non-linear least-squares fitting using the Gauss-Newton algorithm as implemented in
417 the nls function in the R statistical software, v.3.0.

418

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426 strain.

427

428 **Disclosure Declaration**

429 The authors declare no conflict of interest associated with this manuscript.

430

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584

585 **Figure Legends**

586

587 **Figure 1. Comparison of yeast strains holding different chromosomal**
588 **rearrangements in *SSUI* gene.** T73, VLI, P5 and P24 wine yeast strains were assayed
589 for growth on YPD + TA media with the different concentrations of K₂S₂O₅ in solid (A)
590 and liquid (B) media. C: Expression levels of *SSUI* mRNA after 6 h of growth in YPD
591 + TA obtained from RT-qPCR normalized with the constitutive gene *ACT1*. The
592 asterisk (*) indicates significant differences (p-value ≤ 0.05) compared to P5.

593

594 **Figure 2. Detection of *SSUI*-mediated chromosomal translocations VIIItXVI and**
595 **XVtXVI.** Detection of the different chromosome XVI translocations by PCR. T73
596 showed a band corresponding to VIIItXVI (ECM34D and *SSUI*_R oligonucleotides).
597 VL1 showed an XVtXVI specific band (*ADHI*_F and R1 oligonucleotides). T73, VL1
598 and P24 conserved a wild-type *SSUI* allele (F1 and R1 oligonucleotides). P5 only
599 displayed a band for the amplification of *GCRI* used as DNA control (*NOG*_F and
600 *NOG*_R oligonucleotides).

601

602 **Figure 3. Genomic characterization of the chromosome XVI inversion present in**
603 **the P5 wine yeast strain.** A: Schematic representation of the region of chromosome
604 XVI comprising the *SSUI* gene and the 38.5 Kb inversion present in P5 strain. One of
605 the breakpoints is located 488 bp upstream of the *SSUI* CDS, whereas the other one
606 maps to 814 bp upstream of the *GCRI* CDS. CS1 and CS2 represent the Fzf1-binding
607 sites. B: Microhomology regions involved in the crossing-over that generated the

608 inversion in chromosome XVI. Black and white boxes highlight *GCRI* and *SSUI*
609 promoter sequences, respectively. Perfect sequence matches are shown in capitals, and
610 middle script corresponds to base pairs that are lost during the process. C: Detection of
611 the inv-XVI by PCR. T73, VL1 and P24 showed two bands corresponding to the
612 amplification of F1-R1 and F2-R2 (1256 and 2088 bp, respectively), while P5 exhibited
613 two bands corresponding to the amplification of F1-F2 and R1-R2 (1866 and 1634 bp,
614 respectively).

615

616 **Figure 4. The transcriptional factor Fzf1 is not required for sulfite resistance and**
617 ***SSUI* expression in the P5 strain.** A: Wild-type and *fzf1*Δ haploid P5 strains were
618 assayed for growth on YPD + TA media with the different concentrations of K₂S₂O₅. B:
619 Expression levels of *SSUI* mRNA after 6 h of growth in YPD + TA obtained from RT-
620 qPCR normalized with the constitutive gene *ACT1*. The asterisk (*) indicates significant
621 differences (p-value≤0.05) compared to P5.

622

623 **Figure 5. Effect of different promoters on *SSUI* expression.** A: Schematic
624 representation of the different *SSUI* promoter regions contained in the pRS416-*SSUI*
625 plasmids. Wild-type *SSUI* (810 bp promoter), chimeric P5 *SSUI* (1148 bp promoter),
626 truncated *SSUI* (488 bp promoter). B-D: Haploid P24 (B), BY4743 *ssu1*Δ (C) and
627 BY4743 *fzf1*Δ (D) yeast strains transformed with pRS416 (vector), pRS416-chimeric-
628 P5-*SSUI* (*P5-SSUI*) pRS416-truncated-*SSUI* (*trunc-SSUI*), and pRS416-wild-type-
629 *SSUI* (*WT-SSUI*) were growth and *SSUI* mRNA levels determined by RT-qPCR with
630 specific oligonucleotides. *ACT1* mRNA levels were used to normalize. The asterisk (*)
631 indicates significant differences (p-value≤0.05) compared to cells with empty vector.

632

633 **Figure 6. Effect of different *SSUI* promoters on sulfite resistance.** The yeast strains
634 obtained in Figure 5 were growth on YPD + TA plates containing different
635 concentrations of $K_2S_2O_5$.

636

637 **Figure 7. Deletion of a portion of *SSUI* promoter increases expression and sulfite**
638 **resistance.** A cassette conferring resistance to nourseothricin (clonNAT) was
639 integrated at -488 bp from *SSUI* CDS of the laboratory BY4741 and BY4741 *fzf1* Δ
640 haploid yeast strains. *SSUI* mRNA levels (A) and sulfite resistance (B) was determined
641 as described in Figure 1. The asterisk (*) indicates significant differences (p-
642 value \leq 0.05) compared to BY4741 and BY4741 *fzf1* Δ .

643

644 **Supplementary figure legend**

645

646 **Figure S1. Expression levels of *FZF1* in various wine yeast strains.** T73, VLI, P5
647 and P24 yeast strains were cultivated for 6 h in YPD + TA, total RNA was extracted,
648 and *FZF1* mRNA levels determined by RT-qPCR with specific oligonucleotides. *ACT1*
649 mRNA levels were used to normalize. The asterisk (*) indicates significant differences
650 (p-value \leq 0.05) compared to P5.

651

Figure 1

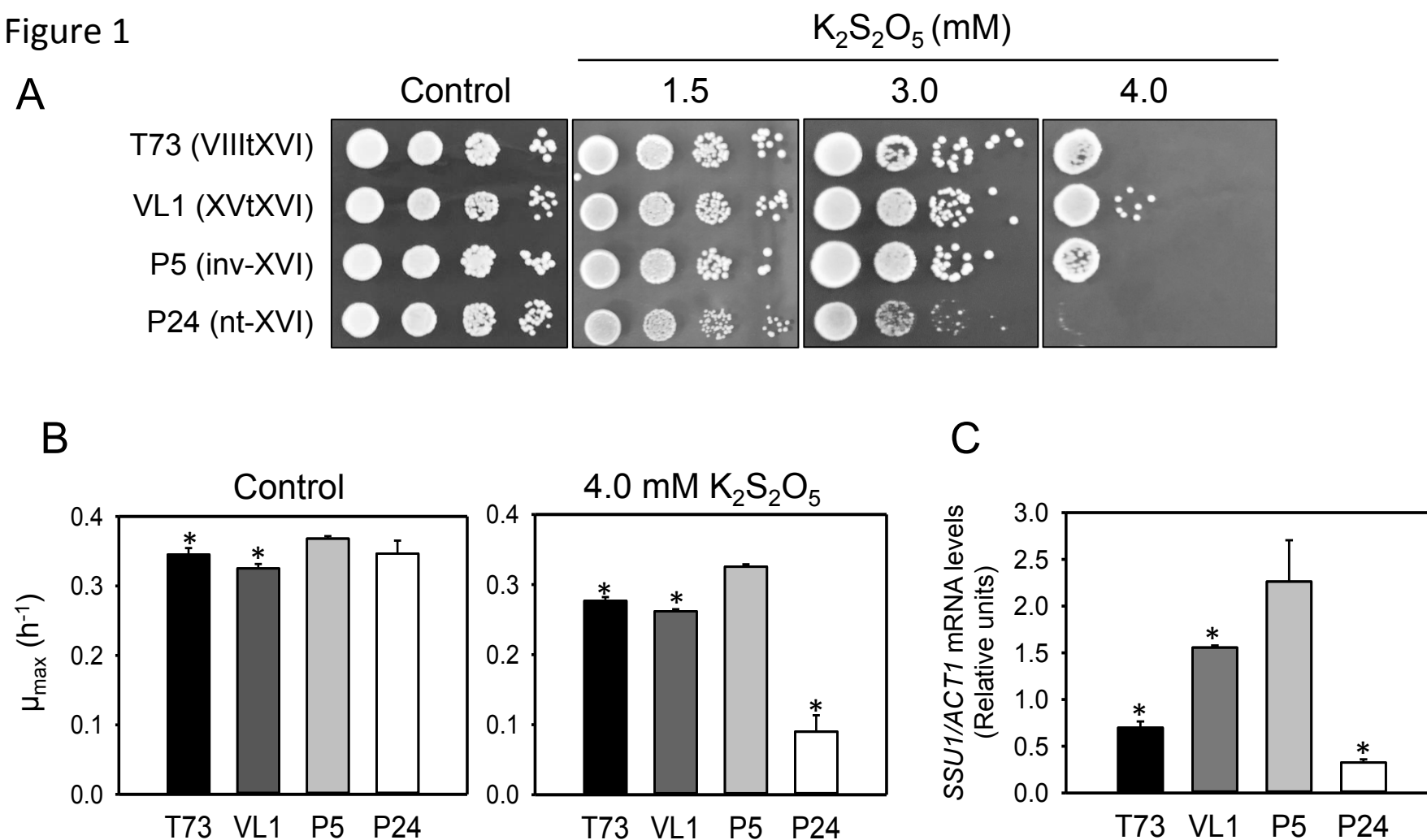


Figure 2

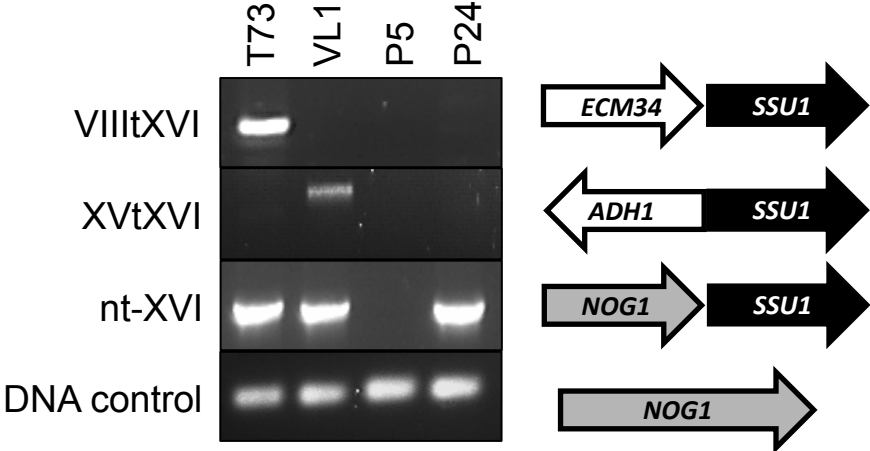


Figure 3

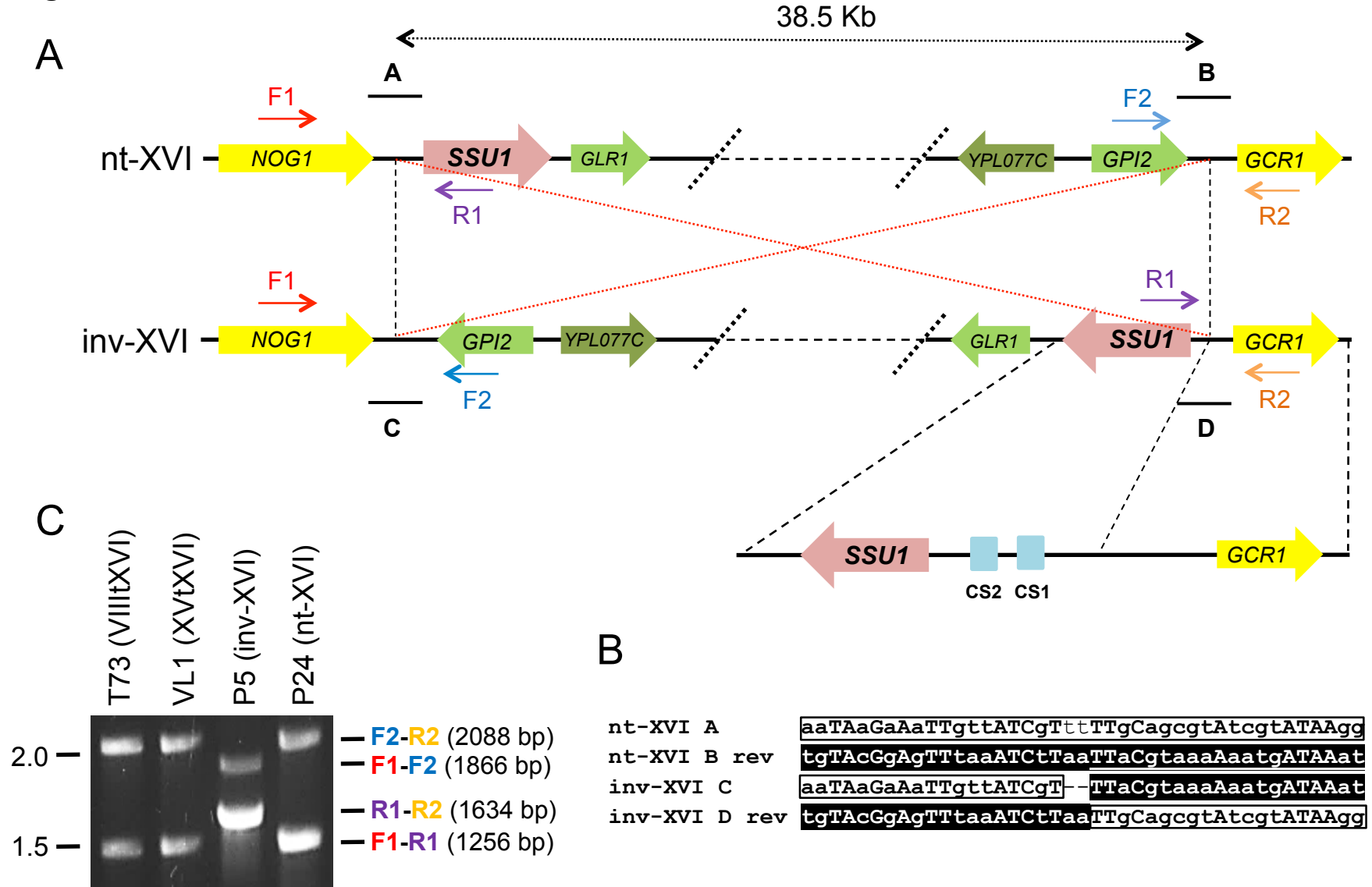


Figure 4

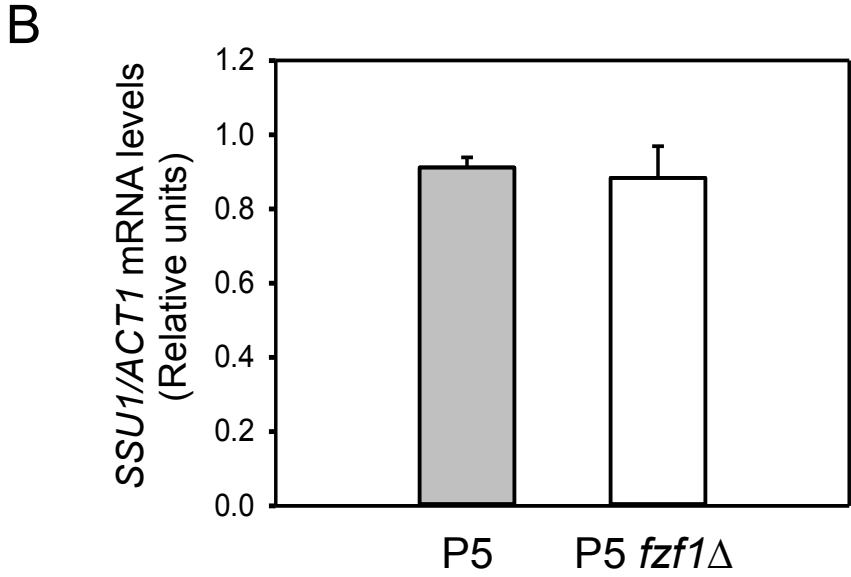
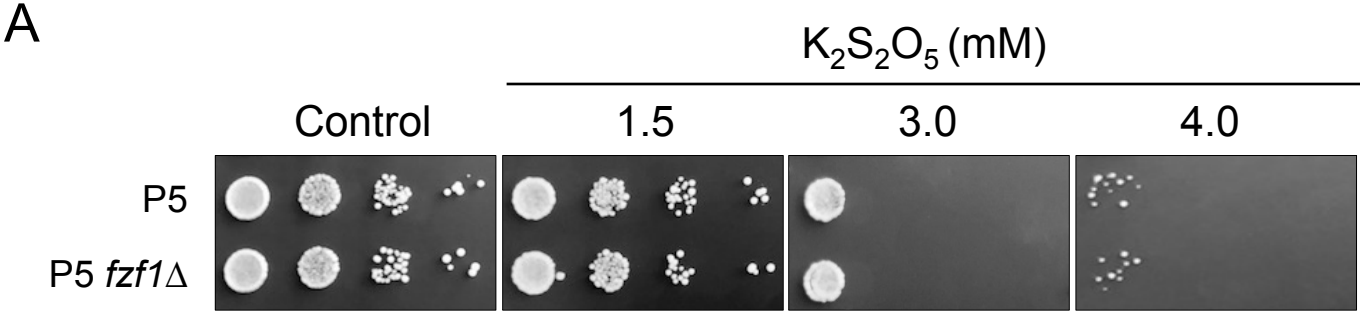
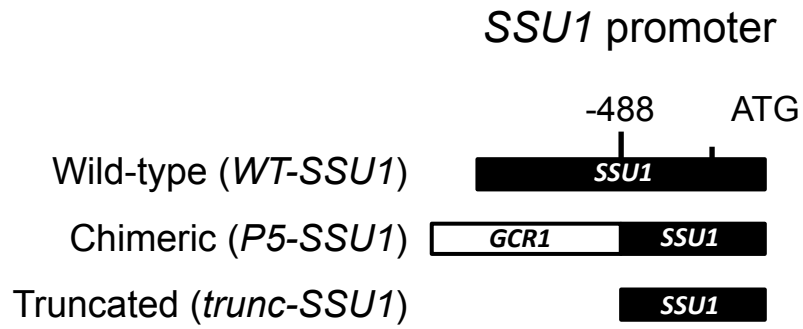
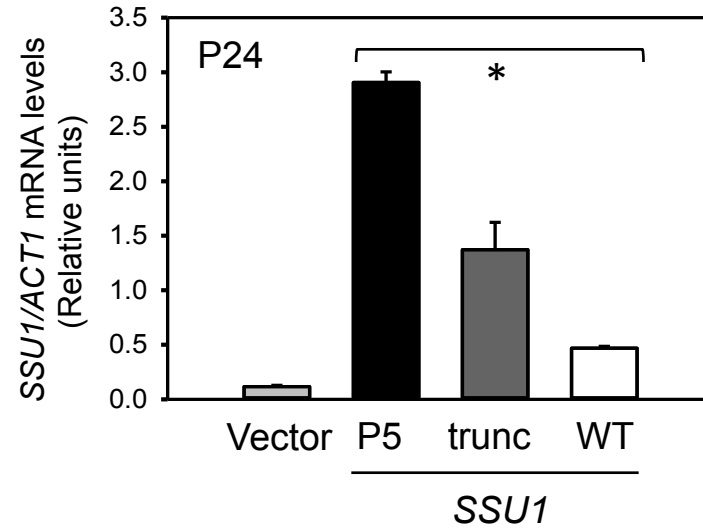


Figure 5

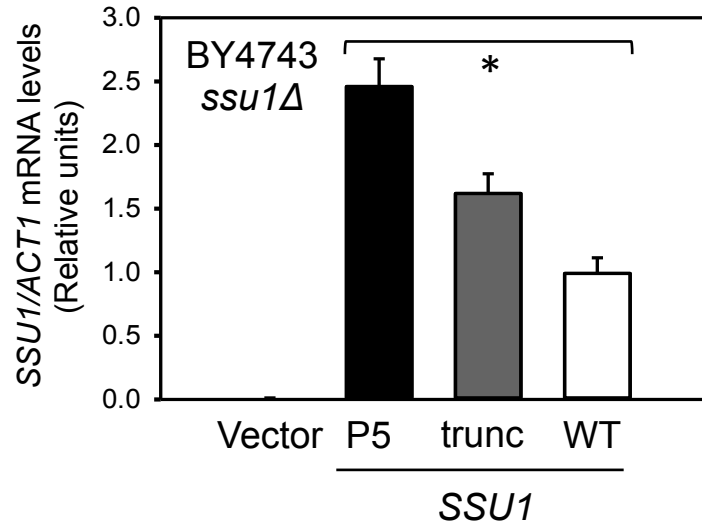
A



B



C



D

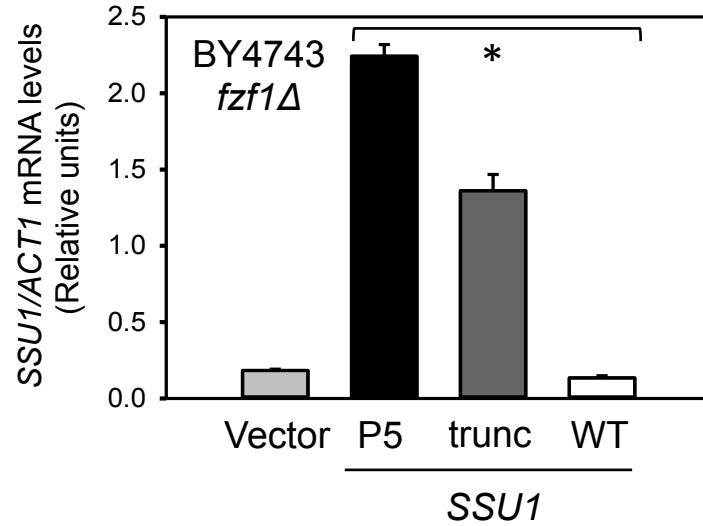


Figure 6

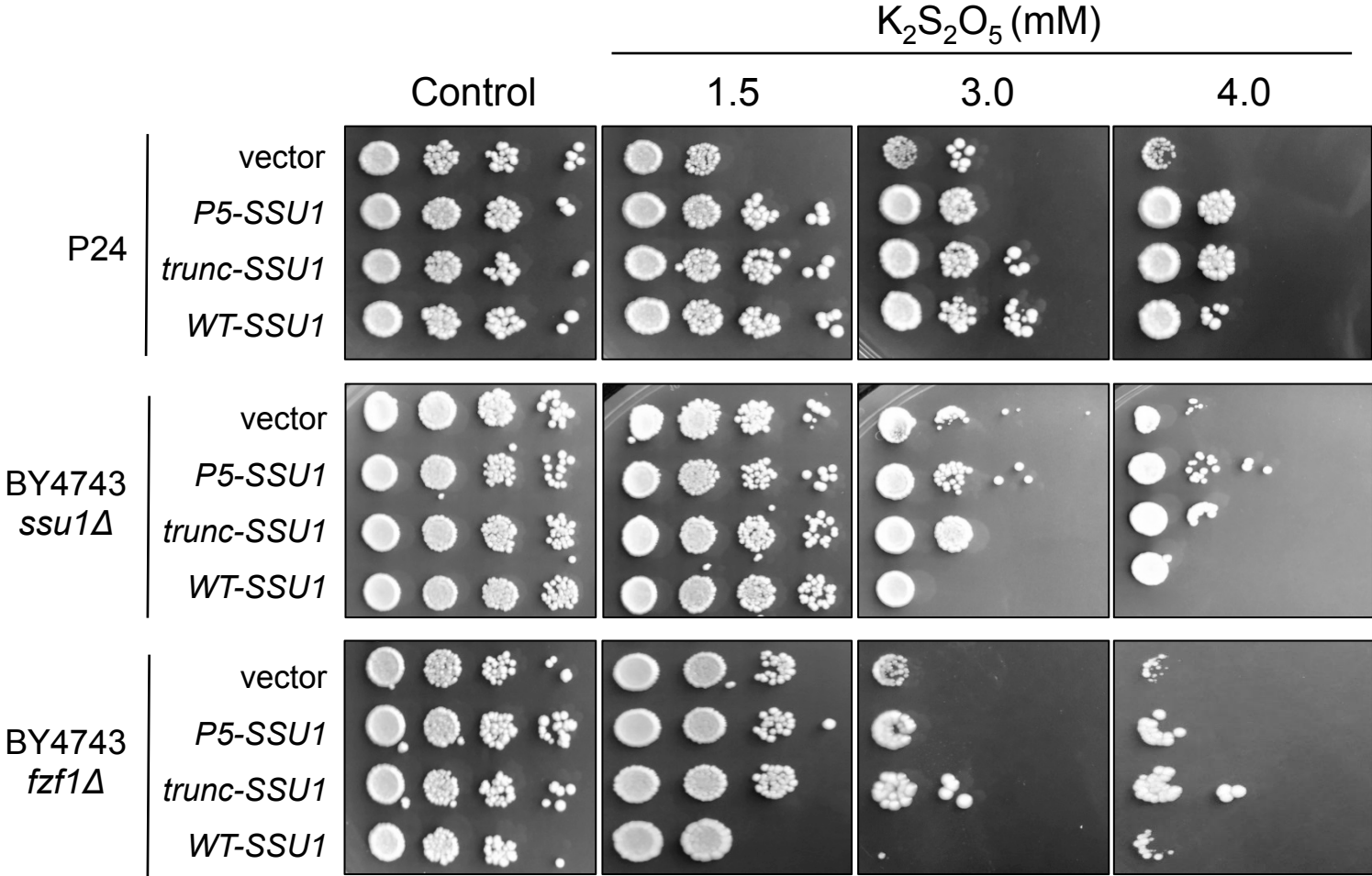


Figure 7

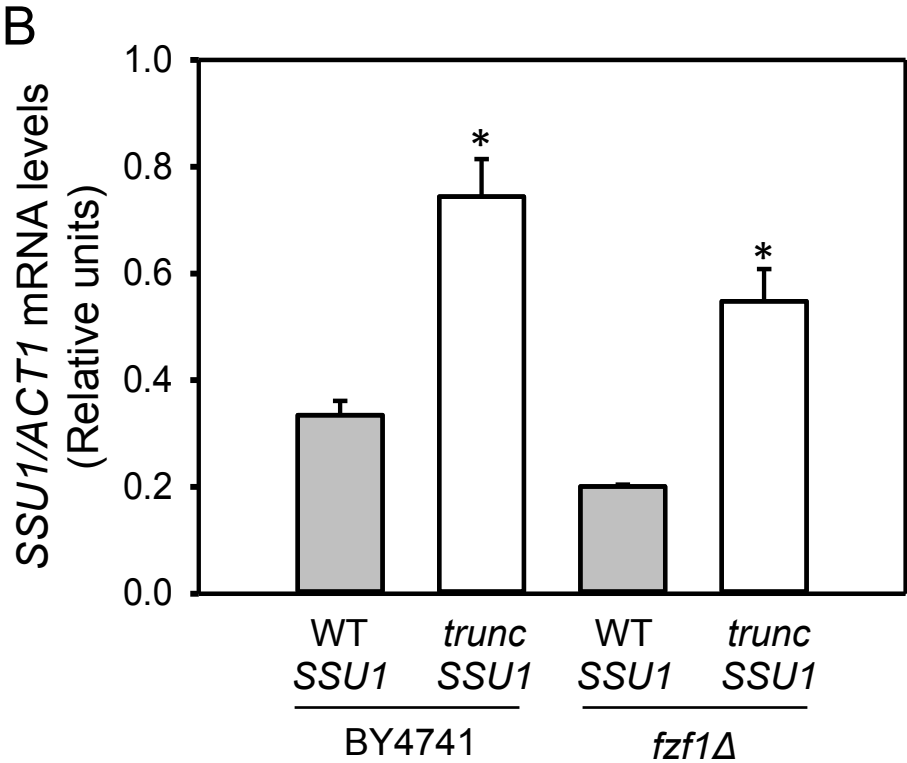
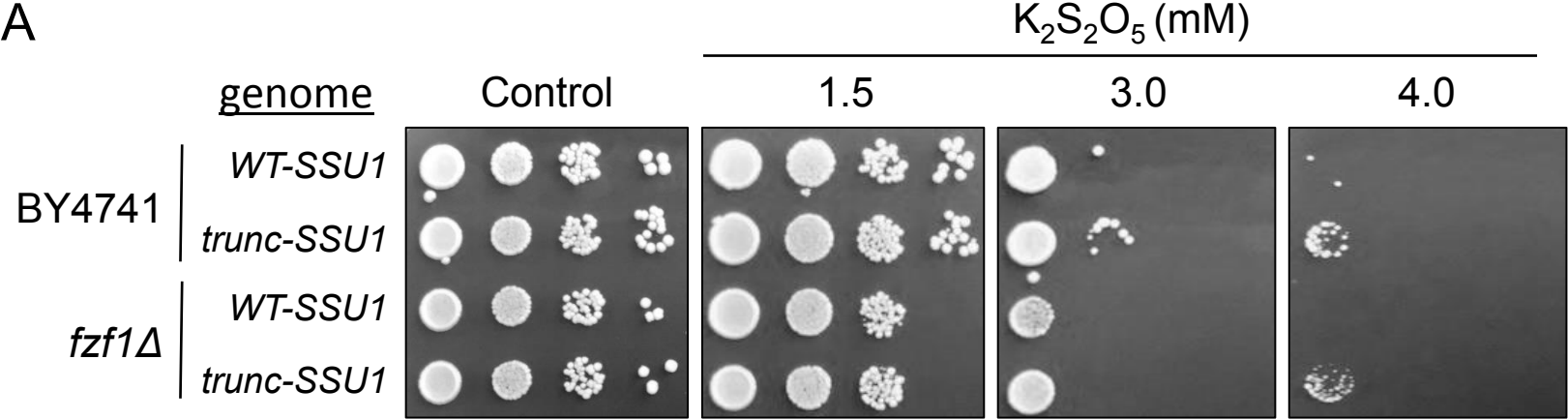


Figure S1

