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Sublethal HPH treatment is a sustainable tool that induces autolytic-like processes in the early gene expression of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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(Article begins on next page)

1 **Sublethal HPH treatment is a sustainable tool that induces autolytic-like processes in the early**  
2 **gene expression of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae***

3  
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**Abstract**

Sublethal HPH treatments have been demonstrated to impact the technological properties and functions of treated microorganisms by inducing specific enzymes/genes or modulating membrane structures and inducing autolysis. In this work, the early effects of a 100 MPa HPH treatment on the winery starter *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* ALEAFERM AROM grown in synthetic must were assessed. While there were no differences in cell cultivability during the first 48 h between treated and untreated cells, a reduction in volatile metabolites released by HPH-treated cells during the first 2 h was observed. This reduction was only temporary since after 48 h, volatile molecules reached similar or even higher concentrations compared with the control. Moreover, the gene expression response of HPH-treated cells was evaluated after 1 h of incubation and compared with that of untreated cells. A massive rearrangement of gene expression was observed with the identification of 1220 differentially expressed genes (DEGs). Most of the genes related to energetic metabolic pathways and ribosome structure were downregulated, while genes involved in ribosome maturation, transcription, DNA repair, response to stimuli and stress were upregulated. These findings suggest that HPH induces or promotes an autolytic-like behaviour that can be exploited in winemaking.

**Key words:** High-pressure homogenization, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, gene expression, volatile molecule profiles, autolysis

## 111 1. Introduction

112 High-pressure homogenization (HPH) has long been considered one of the most promising food processing technologies  
113 for the stabilization of liquid food and an alternative to thermal treatment (Bevilacqua et al., 2019; Carpentieri,  
114 Soltanipour, Ferrari, Pataro, & Donsi, 2021; Chevalier-Lucia & Picart-Palmade, 2019; Gottardi et al., 2021; Mesa et al.,  
115 2020; Wu et al., 2020). In fact, several papers report the effectiveness of HPH in deactivating pathogenic and spoilage  
116 microorganisms in model and real systems (Lanciotti et al., 1994; Guerzoni et al., 2002; Diels et al., 2003; Briñez et al.,  
117 2006a,b; Taylor et al., 2007; Pathanibul et al., 2009). Spatial pressure and velocity gradients, turbulence, impingement,  
118 cavitation and viscous shear have been identified as the primary mechanisms of microbial cell disruption and food  
119 constituent modification during HPH treatments. In fact, the mechanical stresses that the product encounters during the  
120 HPH process can generate different modifications on food constituents with very interesting industrial applications. For  
121 instance, HPH treatments can be exploited to produce stable emulsions, encapsulations and safer products, the latter  
122 through microbial, bacteriophage and enzyme inactivation (dos Santos Aguilar, Cristianini, & Sato, 2018; Levy, Okun,  
123 & Shpigelman, 2021; Liu & Kuo, 2016; Patrignani & Lanciotti, 2016). However, the effectiveness of HPH treatment,  
124 when applied to a food matrix, can depend on several factors, including the level of pressure applied, the number of cycles  
125 applied, the type of valve used, the composition of the food matrix, and the cell loads of naturally occurring  
126 microorganisms (Patrignani et al., 2016).

127 HPH can also be applied to recover intracellular components through cell disruption or to alter biopolymer (protein and  
128 sugar) structures, conferring new physical and physical-chemical properties (Comuzzo & Calligaris, 2019; Patrignani &  
129 Lanciotti, 2016). Most of the data presented in the literature deal with the use of HPH in the fruit and vegetable beverage  
130 and dairy sectors, while its use in the winemaking process has not been extensively studied (Comuzzo & Calligaris, 2019).  
131 In fact, HPH treatments have been mainly reported to improve the microbiological quality of wine by reducing the  
132 indigenous microbial cell loads present in must without affecting the nutritional and sensory properties of the final product  
133 (Puig, Olmos, Quevedo, Guamis, & Mínguez, 2008). Alternatively, HPH was applied at a high level (200–600 MPa, 1–3  
134 passes, or 150 MPa, 10 passes) directly on the microorganisms used as starters to obtain inactive dry yeasts or autolyzed  
135 cells to be used in the wineries as nutrients for starter cultures or colloidal supplements during wine ageing (Dimopoulos,  
136 Limnaios, Aerakis, Andreou, & Taoukis, 2021; Voce, Calligaris, & Comuzzo, 2021). In this regard, modulation of HPH  
137 processing parameters could be used to obtain different outcomes. Another interesting application could be represented  
138 by high-pressure homogenization when used at sublethal pressures (equal to or lower than 100 MPa) and applied to  
139 bacteria or yeasts to improve their metabolic and enzymatic activities, impacting the features of the final products  
140 (Lanciotti, Patrignani, Iucci, Saracino, & Guerzoni, 2007; Serrazanetti et al., 2015; Siroli et al., 2020; Tabanelli et al.,  
141 2014). This aspect could be fundamental for winery innovation and differentiation. For instance, Patrignani et al. (2013)  
142 applied HPH treatment (90 MPa) on different strains of *S. cerevisiae* and *S. bayanus* to be used as tirage solutions for  
143 sparkling wine refermentation. While the treatment poorly affected yeast viability immediately after HPH treatment and  
144 refermentation behaviour, treated cells underwent accelerated autolysis during the ageing period, suggesting that HPH  
145 treatment could have stimulated the enzymatic pool involved in the autolytic process. However, in that paper, only  
146 phenotypic features were observed without any investigation of the changes involved in the yeast general metabolism.  
147 Moreover, Serrazanetti et al. (2015), studying the effect of a 90 MPa HPH treatment on *S. bayanus*, reported an  
148 upregulation of *OLE1* and *ERG3*, which are involved in unsaturated FA biosynthesis, 60 and 100 min after the treatment,  
149 suggesting a quick readaptation of gene expression. Although several works on yeast and bacteria have focused on  
150 functional, cell membrane or few gene modifications upon HPH treatments, no data have been reported regarding the  
151 whole genome response in relation to the application of a sublethal HPH treatment. Since the comprehension of genetic  
152 changes is fundamental to explain the phenotypic behaviour of a specific strain, also from the perspective of its application  
153 in industry, the present work wanted to study the early effects of sublethal HPH treatment (100 MPa) on the transcriptome  
154 of a commercial strain of *S. cerevisiae* ALEAFERM AROM used in winemaking to better understand the shift towards  
155 an autolytic feature that can then be exploited for oenological purposes. In particular, the gene expression (within 1 h of  
156 HPH treatment), cultivability and volatile molecule profiles (during 48 h) obtained by incubating HPH-treated cells were  
157 compared with those obtained using untreated cells (treated with 0.1 MPa) in synthetic must to obtain data that are  
158 exploitable for the oenological field.

## 159 160 161 2. Materials and methods

### 162 2.1 Yeast stain applied and culture conditions

164 This experiment was performed with the commercial product ALEAFERM AROM (Alea Evolution s.r.l.), a  
165 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain specific for white wines endowed with technological properties such as alcohol tolerance  
166 (16%), cryotolerance, and fast fermentation kinetics. The strain was grown twice in yeast peptone dextrose (YPD) broth  
167 for 24 h at 30 °C before inoculum preparation. After 24 h, the inoculum was centrifuged (9000 rpm, 6 °C, 10 min) to  
168 remove the medium, and the pellet was resuspended in 600 mL of synthetic-must to reach a concentration of  
169 approximately 10<sup>6</sup> CFU/mL before treatment with HPH. The synthetic must was prepared according to the recipe as  
170 described in OIV-OENO 370-2012 made by the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV, 2012). The synthetic-  
171 must containing 230 g/L fermentable sugars (115 g/L glucose and 115 g/L fructose) was brought to pH 3.2 and filter  
172 sterilized (0.22 µm) (SARTOLAB 180C3) prior to its use.

## 173 2.2 HPH treatment

174 Three hundred out of 600 mL of the synthetic-must containing *S. cerevisiae* were treated with HPH. Homogenizing  
175 treatment was performed using a PANDA continuous high-pressure homogenizer (Niro Soavi, Parma, Italy). The inlet  
176 temperature of the cell suspension was 25 °C with an increasing rate of 2.0 °C/10 MPa. Cells were treated at 100 MPa for  
177 a few milliseconds and cooled by using a thermal exchanger (Niro Soavi, Parma, Italy), resulting in an outlet temperature  
178 of 15 °C. Upon treatment, 300 mL was split into three independent Erlenmeyer flasks (n=3). The remaining 300 mL of  
179 the synthetic-must containing *S. cerevisiae* was treated at 0.1 MPa and divided into three Erlenmeyer flasks and used as  
180 a control.

## 182 2.3 Fermentation and sample collection

183 All Erlenmeyer flasks (containing HPH-treated samples and controls) were incubated at 18 °C. Samples were collected  
184 after 1, 2, and 48 h for plate count and volatile molecule profile analyses and after 1 h for gene expression. Immediately  
185 after collection, samples for gene expression were mixed with 10 mL RNAProtect (Qiagen, Milano, Italia) and stored at  
186 -20 °C prior to RNA extraction.

## 188 2.5 Microbiological analyses

189 Samples collected at 1, 2, and 48 h upon HPH treatment were immediately serially diluted in sterile saline solution (NaCl,  
190 0.9%). The dilutions were plated onto YPD agar and incubated at 30 °C for 48 h before counting the colonies.

## 192 2.6 Sample volatile molecule analysis

193 Volatile molecule profiles were determined by solid phase microextraction combined with gas chromatography and mass  
194 spectrometry (SPME–GC/MS). A polyacrylate-coated fibre (85 µm) (Supelco Inc., Bellefonte, PA, USA) and a manual  
195 SPME holder (Supelco Inc., Bellefonte, PA, USA) were used in this study after preconditioning, according to the  
196 manufacturer’s instruction manual. Five millilitres of sample was placed in 10 mL glass vials and supplemented with 1 g  
197 of NaCl and 10 µL of 4-methyl-2-pentanol (Sigma, Milan, Italy) (final concentration 4 mg/L) as an internal standard. The  
198 samples were then equilibrated for 10 min at 45 °C. The SPME fibre was exposed to each sample for 30 min. Both the  
199 equilibration and absorption phases were carried out under stirring conditions. The adsorbed volatile molecules were  
200 desorbed in a gas chromatograph (GC) injector port in splitless mode at 250 °C for 10 min. GC–MS analyses were  
201 performed on an Agilent 7890A gas chromatograph (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) coupled to an Agilent  
202 5975C mass selective detector (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) operating in electron impact mode (ionization  
203 voltage 70 eV). A Chrompack CP-Wax 52 CB capillary column (50 m length, 0.32 mm ID) was used (Chrompack,  
204 Middelburg, The Netherlands). Volatile compounds were separated using helium as the carrier gas (1 mL/min). The  
205 temperature program was 50 °C for 2 min, then programmed at 1.5 °C/min to 65 °C and finally at 4.5 °C/min to 220 °C,  
206 which was maintained for 20 min. The injector, interface and ion source temperatures were 250, 250 and 230 °C,  
207 respectively. The identification of the molecules detected was confirmed by comparing mass spectra of compounds with  
208 those contained in the available database (NIST version 2011) and those of pure standards. Quantitative analyses were  
209 performed with the internal standard and expressed as equivalent ppm (ppm eq.). For each compound detected, the ppm  
210 eq. represents the amount of compound present in the headspace in dynamic equilibrium with the aqueous phase.

## 212 2.7 RNA extraction and sequencing

213 RNA extraction was performed using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Milano, Italy). Quality checks, cDNA preparation,  
214 and library preparation were performed by Galseq (Milan, Italy). Libraries were generated with the Illumina TruSeq  
215 Stranded mRNA Library Prep kit and sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq instrument using a 2x150 paired-end strategy. The  
216 quality of the fastq sequencing files was initially assessed with the FastQC tool  
217 (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). The reference genome for *S. cerevisiae*  
218 (GCF\_000146045.2\_R64\_genomic.fna.gz) and the associated GFF annotation file  
219 (GCF\_000146045.2\_R64\_genomic.gff.gz) were downloaded from the genome database of the NCBI repository  
220 ([https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/?term=Saccharomyces%20cerevisiae\[Organism\]&cmd=DetailsSearch](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/?term=Saccharomyces%20cerevisiae[Organism]&cmd=DetailsSearch)).  
221 The alignment was performed with the spliced aligner STAR v.2.5.0c (Dobin et al., 2013) using the --quantMode  
222 TranscriptomeSAM and GeneCounts parameters. Bam indexing was performed using samtools (H. Li et al., 2009).  
223 Bam/Bai pairs were manually inspected using the Integrative Genomics Viewer (Robinson et al., 2011). Differential gene  
224 expression analysis was performed using the DESeq2 tool (Love, Huber, & Anders, 2014). The contrast was defined as  
225 ‘Case’ vs. ‘Control’, where Case and Control represent the *treatment* and *absence of treatment* conditions. Differential  
226 analysis was performed on raw counts and visualization on rlog-transformed counts. The sample counts used for the  
227 analyses are reported in the supplementary table (**Table S1**). Only genes with  $|\log_2\text{Fold change}| \geq 1$  and  $\text{padj} < 0.05$  were  
228 considered significant differentially expressed genes (DEGs) (Table S2). padj is the p value adjusted using the Benjamini–  
229 Hochberg procedure. All DEGs were annotated according to the Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD,  
230 <http://www.yeastgenome.org/>), one of the renowned databases specific for *S. cerevisiae*. Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment  
231 analysis, Slim Term Mapper and KEGG pathways were performed using SGD, YeastMine  
232 (<https://yeastmine.yeastgenome.org/yeastmine/begin.do>), filtering enriched GOs at p value  $< 1 \times 10^{-4}$  and KEGG  
233 mapper (<https://www.genome.jp/kegg/mapper/>). In addition, the functions of the DEGs and the related biological

234 pathways were also confirmed one by one through functional annotation of the same websites and related reports. The  
235 interaction networks of DEGs were obtained using the STRING v11.5 database (<http://string-db.org/>).  
236

### 237 2.8 Validation of RNA-seq data

238 A total of eight DEGs were selected, and related primers for these eight genes were applied. In particular, primers for  
239 ACT1, BTN2, ATG8, ACC1 and HSP30 were taken from Hu et al. (2019), ADH1 and HXT1 from Nijland et al. (2017),  
240 MET17 from Wang et al. (2018) and ARO10 from Lee, Sung, Kim, & Hahn (2013). Primer sequences are reported in  
241 Table S3. RNA was extracted using MasterPure™ Complete DNA and RNA Purification (Lucigen). The yield and purity  
242 of each extraction were determined by measuring the absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm using a BioDrop mLITE  
243 (BioDrop, Milan, Italy). Reverse transcription into cDNA was performed using the Reverse Transcription System Kit  
244 (Promega, Wisconsin, WI, United States) following the manufacturer's instructions. Reverse transcription quantitative  
245 PCR (RT-qPCR/qPCR) was performed using a Rotor gene 6000 thermal cycler (Corbett Life Science, Mortlake, NSW,  
246 Australia). The ACT1 gene was used as a reference, and the fold change was quantified by the  $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$  method (Dong, Hu,  
247 Fan, & Chen, 2017). All tests were performed at least three times.  
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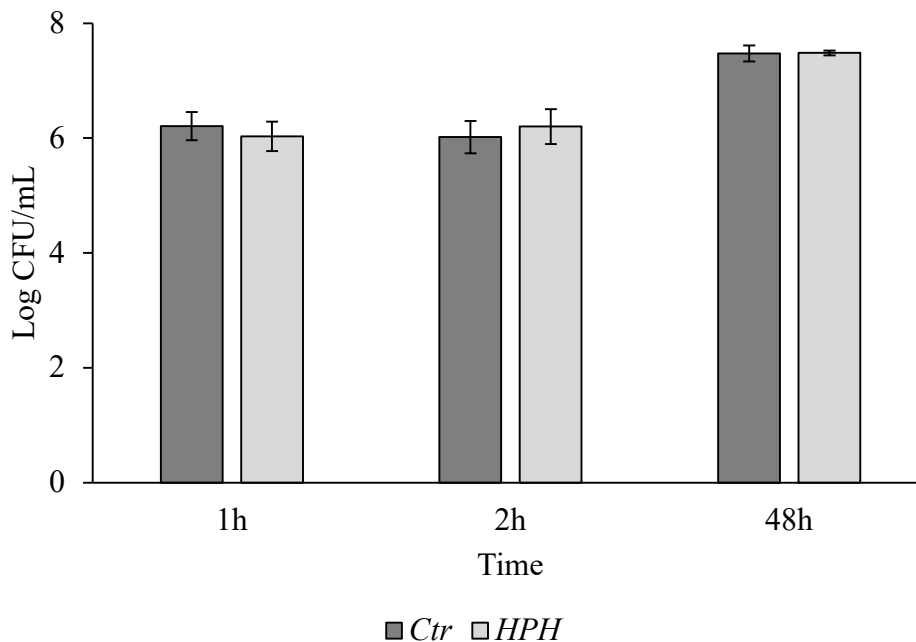
### 249 2.9 Statistical analysis

250 All the results were averages of at least three measurements taken from three experimental replicates. One-way ANOVA  
251 and Tukey's HSD test were carried out on the values found for the different parameters analysed, as well as on the absolute  
252 areas of the volatile compounds detected by SPME-GC-MS. Significant differences were considered at  $p < 0.05$ .  
253 ANOVA and principal component analysis (PCA) were carried out by the software Statistica for Windows (StatSoft,  
254 Tulsa, OK, USA), Version 8.0.  
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## 256 3. Results

### 257 3.1-Cell viability and volatile molecule profiles

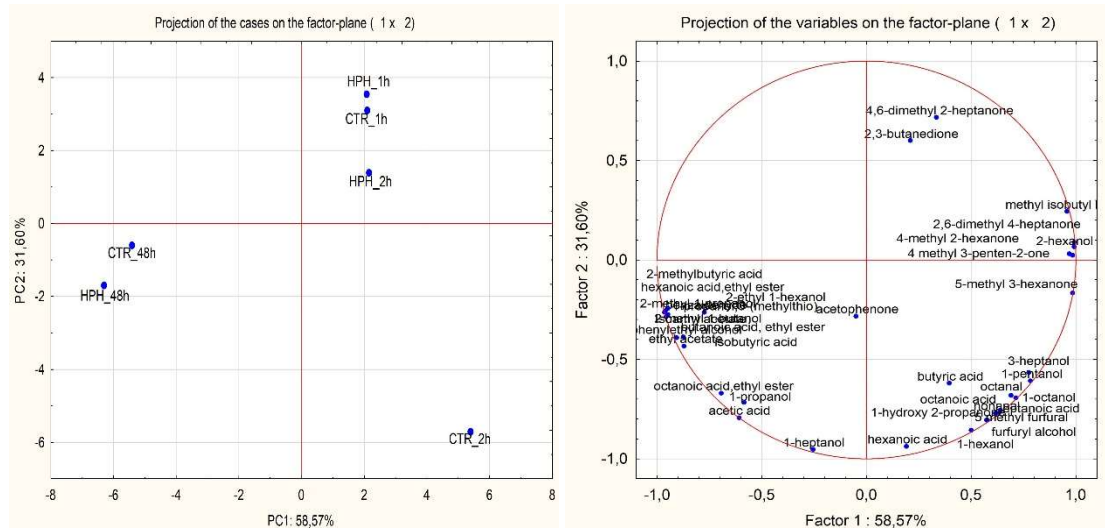
258 Compared with control cells, the cultivability and viability of *S. cerevisiae* ALEAFERM AROM were not affected by  
259 sublethal HPH treatment upon 1, 2 and 48 h incubation in a synthetic must rich in fermentable sugars (230 g/L). In fact,  
260 cell counts were the same as those counted in control samples treated only with 0.1 MPa (Fig. 1).  
261



262 **Figure 1.** Counts of yeasts incubated in synthetic-must after 1, 2 and 48 hours upon HPH treatment. Colony forming units  
263 (CFU) were obtained by plate counts and reported as concentration (Log CFU/mL). Cells were treated or not (Ctr) with  
264 HPH (100 MPa x 1 passage) before incubation. The trial was performed in triplicate (n=3).  
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267 At the same sampling times considered for cell counts, volatile molecule compounds were measured in treated and  
268 untreated samples. Approximately 41 volatile compounds were identified using SPME/GC-MS, mainly belonging to  
269 ketones, acids, alcohols, and aldehydes (Table 1). After 1 h of incubation in synthetic must, treated and untreated cells  
270 generated similar profiles but a higher concentration of ethanol and acetic acid in the control. After 2 h, HPH-treated cells  
271 produced fewer ketones (especially methyl isobutyl ketone, 4-methyl-2-hexanone and 2,6-dimethyl-4-heptanone),

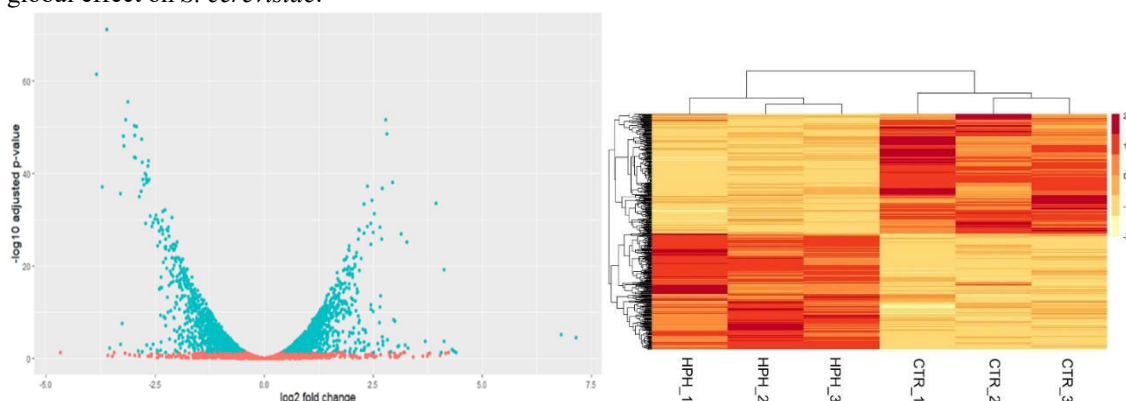
272 alcohols (such as ethanol, isoamyl alcohol, 1-hexanol, 1-octanol and furfuryl alcohol), acids (mainly acetic acid) and  
 273 esters (es. ethyl acetate), while higher amounts of phenyl-ethanol ( $p < 0.05$ ) were found. Higher production of this  
 274 molecule was maintained up to 48 h after incubation, when a significantly higher release of benzaldehyde, ethanol,  
 275 isoamyl alcohol, acetic acid, and octanoic acid ethyl ester was also observed in HPH-treated cells ( $p < 0.05$ ).  
 276 To better highlight the effects of HPH on the volatilome of treated cells, SPME/GC–MS data were analysed by PCA (Fig.  
 277 2). The projection of the samples is reported in Fig. 2a, where PC1 and PC2 can explain approximately 59 and 31% of  
 278 the total variance among the samples, respectively. Three main clusters were observed. The first one included all the  
 279 samples collected after 1 h of incubation and the sample with HPH-treated cells after 2 h of incubation. The second cluster  
 280 contained the untreated cells incubated for 2 h, while the third cluster was represented by samples collected after 48 h.  
 281



282 **Figure 2.** Projection on the factor plane (1x2) of HPH-treated (HPH) and untreated (CTR) cells of *S. cerevisiae* incubated  
 283 in synthetic must for 1, 2 and 48 h upon treatment (a) and the respective variables (b).  
 284  
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### 3.3 Global transcriptional changes

286 Gene expression of samples containing HPH-treated and untreated cells was analysed after 1 h of incubation in synthetic  
 287 must. As shown in Fig. 3, differentially expressed genes (DEGs) of HPH-treated and untreated cells were screened out.  
 288 A volcano plot (Fig. 3A) plotting  $\log_2$  (fold change) against  $-\log_{10}$  (adjusted p value) was generated to represent the  
 289 expression level difference and the statistically significant degree between the two samples. Each point represents a gene,  
 290 the blue spots represent significant DEGs, and the red spots represent genes that do not show significant differences. For  
 291 a global perspective on gene expression upon HPH, a heatmap representing the transcription levels of all DEGs was also  
 292 generated, showing a complete rearrangement of gene expression between treated and untreated cells (Fig. 3B). DEGs  
 293 with  $\text{padj} < 0.05$  were considered significantly different. According to this consideration, 1220 DEGs were identified,  
 294 including 562 upregulated genes and 658 downregulated genes. The large number of DEGs suggests that HPH had a  
 295 global effect on *S. cerevisiae*.  
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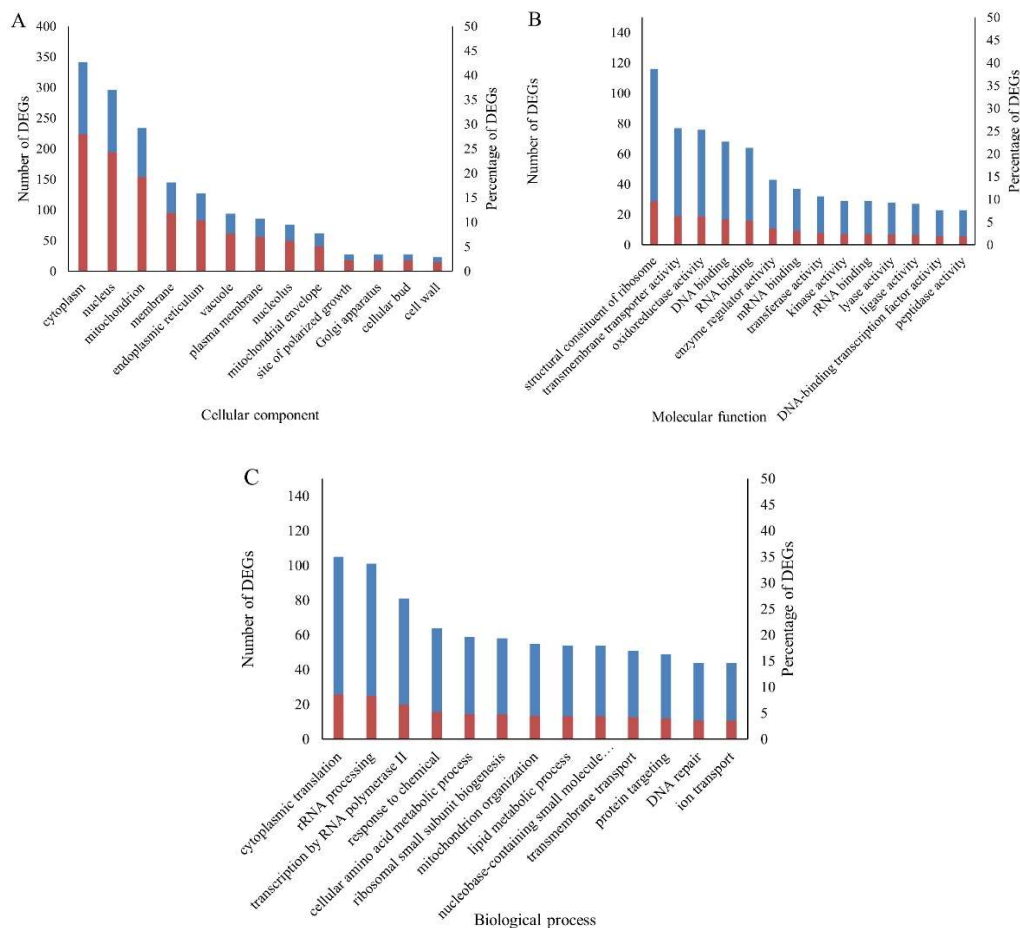
297 **Figure 3.** Screening and expression profiling of DEGs in HPH-treated and untreated cells of *S. cerevisiae* incubated for  
 298 1 h in synthetic must. A) Volcano plot for all differentially expressed genes (DEGs), which plotted the  $-\log_{10}$  adjusted p  
 299 value against  $\log_2$  fold change (FC). Each point represents a gene, the green dot represents a significant DEG, and the red  
 300 dot represents a gene that did not show a significant difference. B) Heatmap for DEGs using hierarchical clustering  
 301 analysis. The signal ratios are shown in a red–yellow colour scale, where red represents upregulation and light yellow  
 302 represents downregulation. Each column represents the expression value of the RNASeq performed on HPH-treated  
 303 (HPH) and untreated (CTR) cells upon 1 h incubation in synthetic must, while each row represents a DEG. CTR\_1-  
 304

305 CTR\_3: three biological replicates of the control group; HPH\_1-HPH\_3: three biological replicates of the HPH-treated  
 306 cells. **Colour should be used.**

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### 308 3.4 GO classification analyses

309 To gain insight into the functional categories, DEGs were categorized into functional GO categories (Table S4) using the  
 310 Yeast Gene Ontology (GO)-Slim bioprocess mapper (Dwight et al., 2002). **Figure 4** shows the distributions of the GO  
 311 terms in the biological process, molecular function, and cellular component categories. The most dominant subcategories  
 312 were involved in cytoplasm, nucleus, and mitochondrion (27.97, 24.28, 19.20%) for cellular component (**Fig. 4a**); in  
 313 structural constituent of ribosome, transmembrane transporter activity, and oxidoreductase activity (9.62, 6.38, 6.30%)  
 314 for molecular function (**Fig. 4b**); in cytoplasmic translation, rRNA processing, and transcription by RNA polymerase II  
 315 (8.60, 8.12, 6.64%) for biological process (**Fig. 4c**). Looking more specifically at the functions, downregulated genes  
 316 were mainly involved in cytoplasmic translation, cellular amino acid metabolic process, and nucleobase-containing small  
 317 molecule metabolic process, while upregulated genes were mainly involved in transcription by RNA polymerase II,  
 318 rRNA processing, and response to chemicals (**Table S5-S6**). Related to KEGG pathways, HPH induced a downregulation  
 319 of 214 genes involved in all metabolic pathways (carbohydrates, lipids, and amino acids), 129 in biosynthesis of secondary  
 320 metabolites and 86 genes of ribosome, while it induced an upregulation of 26 genes involved in metabolic pathways  
 321 (mainly sulfur metabolism, acylglycerol degradation, arginine biosynthesis and aromatic amino acid metabolism), 19  
 322 genes of spliceosome and 12 in MAPK signalling pathway (**Table S2**).  
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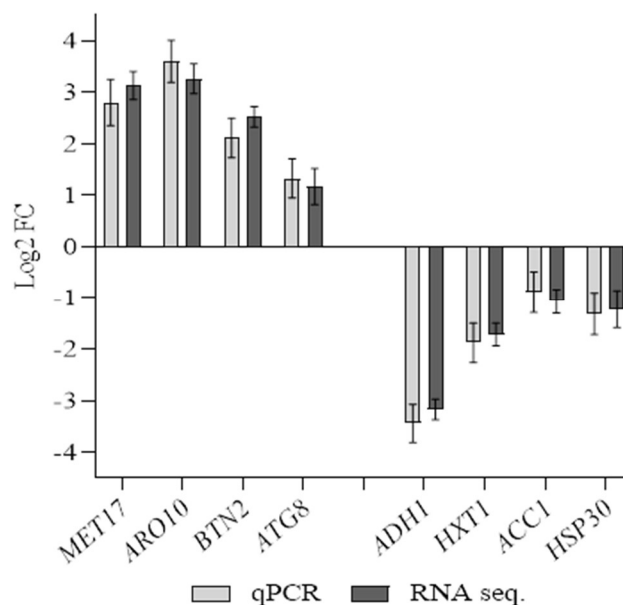
327 **Figure 4.** Classifications of the DEGs belonging to cells treated or untreated with HPH and subsequently grown for 1 h  
 328 in synthetic must. The DEGs were classified into 3 functional categories using the Yeast GO-Slim bioprocess mapper:  
 329 cellular component (a), molecular function (b) and biological process (c). **Colour should be used.**

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### 331 3.5 RNA-seq expression validation by quantitative real-time PCR

332 To quantitatively determine the reliability of the transcriptome results, we detected the expression of eight candidate  
 333 DEGs using reverse transcription quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR). These candidates included four upregulated (MET17,  
 334 ARO10, BTN2, and ATG8) and four downregulated genes (ADH1, HXT1, ACC1, and HSP30). A high consistency was  
 335 displayed between the RNA-seq and RT-qPCR data (**Fig. 5**), proving the validity of RNA-seq data for genes with distinct  
 336 transcript abundance.



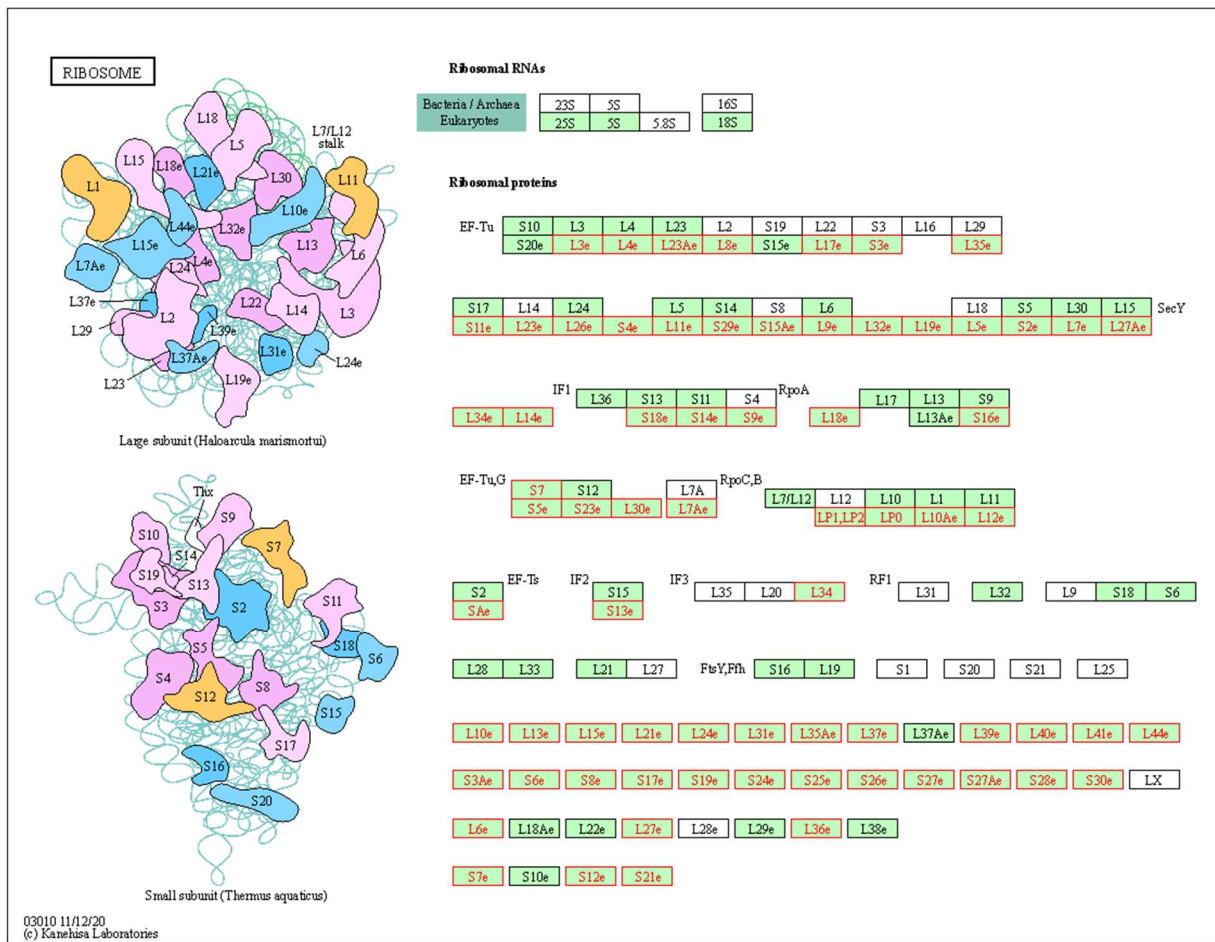


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**Figure 5.** Validation of RNA sequencing data through qPCR. For qPCR data, the fold change indicates the ratio of the mRNA level of genes in the acetic acid group against the control group. ACT1 served as a reference in qPCR.

### 3.6. DEGs involved in cytoplasmic translation

Most of the genes of *S. cerevisiae* related to cytosolic ribosome machinery were downregulated upon HPH treatment and subsequent 1 h incubation in synthetic must. In fact, at least 100 genes related to ribosomes were DEGs, and their expression was significantly reduced (mainly *RPS3*, *RPS12*, *RPL3*, *RPS7A*, *RPL2B* and *RPP1B*) (Fig. 6; Tables S2 and S5). On the other hand, looking at the mitoribosome, the two rRNAs that compose the small and large subunits of the mitochondrial ribosomes (*15S rRNA* and *21S rRNA*) were upregulated upon HPH, with increases of 7.1 and 6.8 Log2 FC, respectively. Moreover, considering the 74 annotated mitoribosomal protein genes (MRPGs), 10 were DEGs, and among them, 8 were upregulated (mainly *RSM28*, *MRPS17* and *RSM27*), together with genes involved in mitochondrial transport (i.e., *TOM5*, *TOM7*, *PAM16*, *MMT1*).



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Figure 6. Visualization of KEGG ribosome pathway genes related to *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The red genes are those downregulated 1 h upon HPH treatment. **Colour should be used.**

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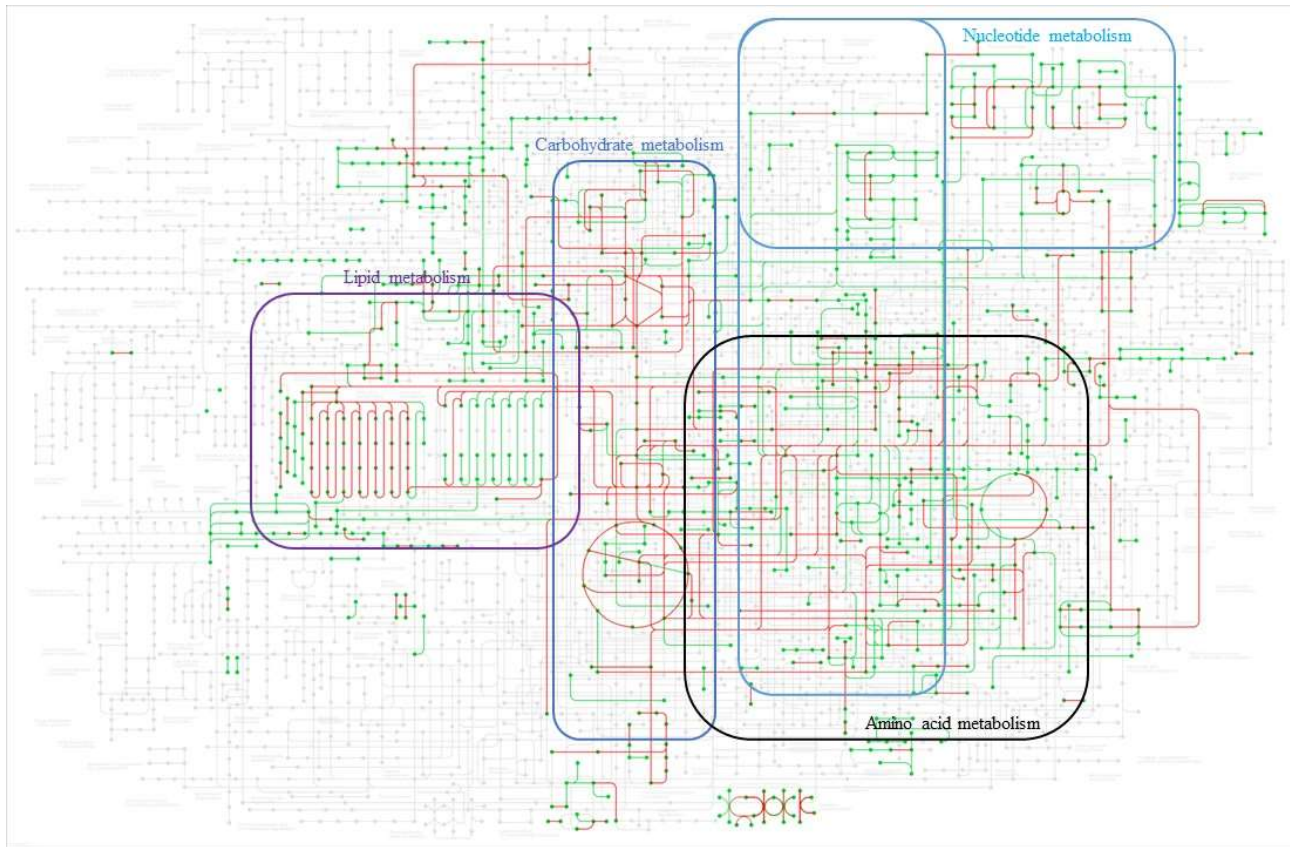
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RNA metabolic processes were also upregulated (Table S2 and S6). Sixty-seven genes were involved in transcription by RNA polymerase II. For instance, *RPO21*, *RPC10*, *RPB4* and *RPB9* are genes coding for proteins that are part of the RNA polymerase II subunits, while *TAF7*, *TAF8*, *TAF11*, and *TAF13* are basal transcription factors belonging to the TATA binding protein-associated factor (TAF) genes. Among the 61 genes involved in rRNA processing, 6 were ribosomal RNA processing (RRP) genes (*RRP14*, *RRP15*, *RRP17*, *RRP36*, *RRP45* and *RRP8*), and 14 were small nucleolar RNAs (snoRNAs, mainly *snR55*, *snR39B*, *snR83*, *snR51*, *snR17a*, and *snR78*), both involved in ribosome biogenesis and rRNA maturation. Even the regulator of ribosome synthesis gene (*RRS1*), which is required for nuclear export of the 60S pre-ribosomal subunit, was upregulated in HPH-treated cells. Other upregulated genes were those related to mRNA maturation. Other genes involved in mRNA export to the cytoplasm (*HRB1*), or mRNA decapping (*EDC1*) were also upregulated. Eventually, 19 genes involved in the spliceosome machinery were upregulated, such as *SNU23* and *SNU66*, both components of U4/U6. U5 small nuclear ribonucleoproteins (snRNP) complex, *YHC1*, component of the U1 snRNP complex required for pre-mRNA splicing; *HSH49*, U2-snRNP associated splicing factor, *SLU7*, an RNA splicing factor, and *PRP21*, *PRP24* and *PRP3* required for spliceosome assembly, *SPP2* required for the final stages of spliceosome maturation and activation, and *SME1*, *SMD3*, part of the spliceosomal U1, U2, U4, and U5 snRNPs (Fig. 7).

### 3.7 DEGs involved in the main metabolic processes and energy metabolism

From a metabolic point of view, HPH-treated cells incubated for 1 h in synthetic must showed a downregulation of almost all the cell metabolic pathways (Fig. 7, Table S2). Specifically, downregulation included most of the genes involved in central carbon metabolism (such as *PGK1*, *PGII*, *ENO1*, *ENO2*, *TDH3* and *TPH1*, among the most repressed ones), alcoholic fermentation (i.e., *PDC1*, *PDC5*, *ADH1*, and *ADH2*), lipid metabolism (in particular those related to fatty acid and sphingolipid biosynthesis, such as *FAS1*, *FAS2*, *ACC1*, *FAA1*, *FAA3*, *LCB3*, *ELO2*, *ELO3*, *YSR3*, *LAC1*, and *ERG10*), and biosynthesis of cofactors (*ADE12*, *ADE13* and *ADK1* for adenine ribonucleotide biosynthesis, *THI4* and *THI6* for thiamine biosynthesis) (Tables S2 and S6). Regarding amino acid metabolism, HPH downregulated genes involved in aromatic amino acid metabolism (such as *ARO1*, *ARO2*, *ARO4*, *TRP2*, *TRP3*, and *TRP5*), arginine biosynthesis (*ARG2*, *ARG4*, *ARG7*, *CAR1*, and *CAR2*), branched-chain amino acid metabolism (*LEU1*, *LEU4*, *ILV3* and *ILV5*), and alanine, aspartate and glutamate metabolism (*GDH1*, *GDH3*, *GLT1*, *AAT2*, and *ASP1*). Upregulation was only related to some

385 genes involved in phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan biosynthesis (*ARO7*, *ARO9*, and *ARO10*), arginine biosynthesis  
386 (*ARG3* and *ARG80*), sulfur metabolism and assimilatory sulfate reduction (*MET3*, *MET16*, and *MET14*) (Tables S2 and  
387 S5).  
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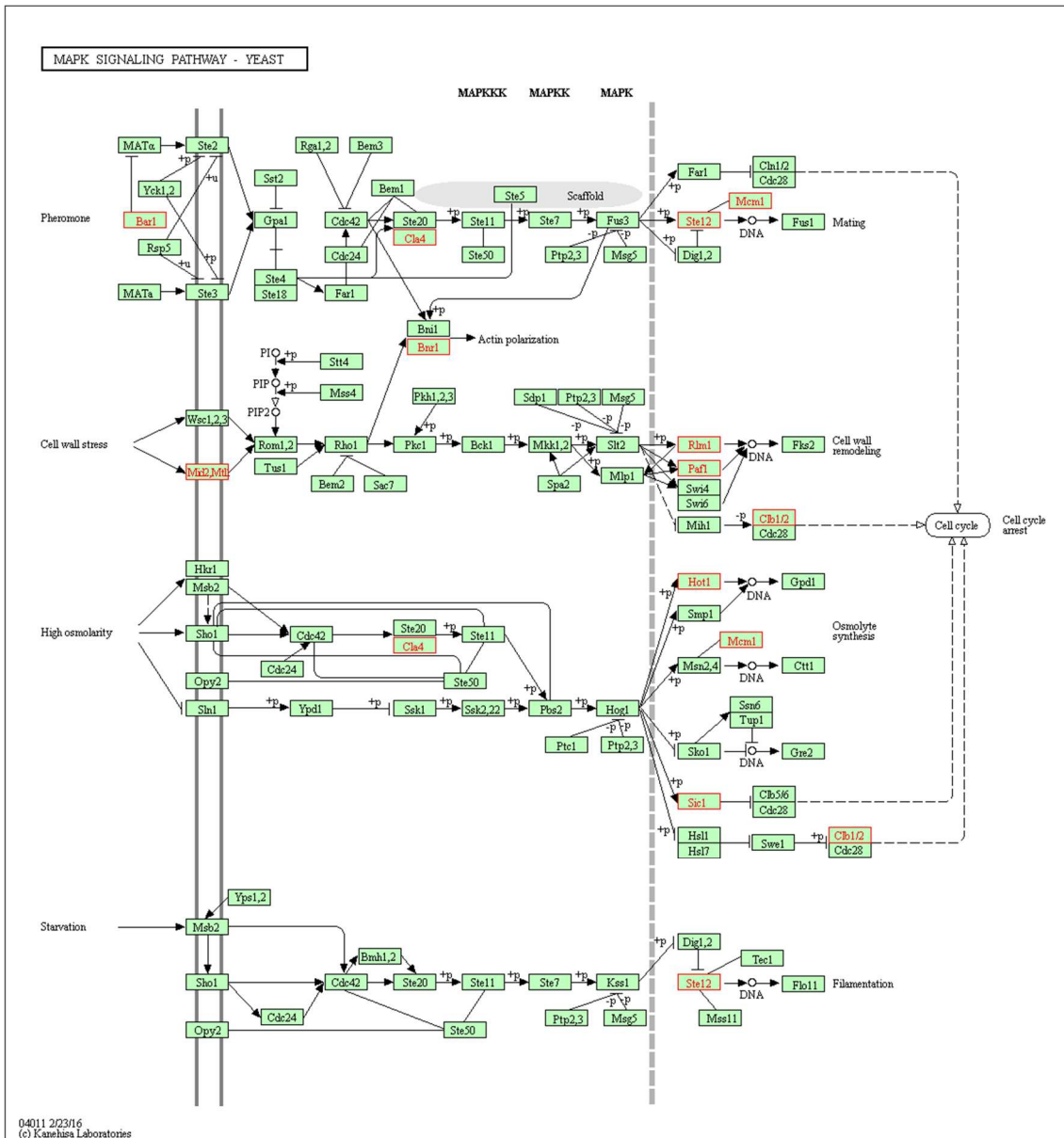
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391 Figure 7. Visualization of KEGG Metabolic pathways present in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (green). The red nodes and  
392 lines represent all the pathways affected by the downregulated genes 1 h upon HPH treatment. **Colour should be used.**  
393

### 394 3.8 Transmembrane transport

395 Even the uptake and transport of various compounds and metals were inhibited by HPH. In total, 90 genes related to  
396 transmembrane transport were downregulated, such as plasma membrane H<sup>+</sup> and P-type ATPase (*PMA1*, *PMA2*, *ENAI*),  
397 mitochondrial ATP synthase (*ATP1*, *ATP2*), vacuolar H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase (*VMA2*, *VMA3*, *VMA5*), amino acid transport (*AGP1*,  
398 *AGP2*, *GAP1*, *PUT4*, *SAM3*, *HNMI*, *TAT2*, and *YPQ2*), sugar transport (*HXT1*, *HXT17*, *CIN10*, *GLK1*, *HXX1*), and zinc  
399 and iron transport (*FTR1*, *SIT1*, *ZRT1*, *ZRT2*, *ZRC1*).  
400

### 401 3.9 DEGs involved in stress and chemical response

402 Sixty-three genes related to chemical, osmotic and oxidative stress were upregulated in response to HPH (Table S2 and  
403 S5), including chaperone- or chaperone-related genes (*CDC37*, *CUR1*, *SIS1*, *HSP4*, *HSP82*, *SSA4*), components of the  
404 MAPK pathway (*RLM1*, *RP11*, *STE12*, *MID2*, *MTL1*, *PAF1*, *CLB2* and *BAR1*, **Fig. 8**); osmotic stress genes (*MOT3*,  
405 *ROX1*); and genes involved in DNA repair (*PPH3*, *RAD59*, *POL32*, *RAD10*, *PSY3*, *DPB1*, *WSS1*, *IRC4*, *AHC1*, *MPH1*,  
406 *SHU2*, *RAD34*, and *YKU70*). On the other hand, 49 stress-related genes were downregulated, including genes coding for  
407 peroxidase and oxidoreductase (such as *GRX2*, *TSA1*, *PRX1* and *CTTI*) (Table S2 and S6).  
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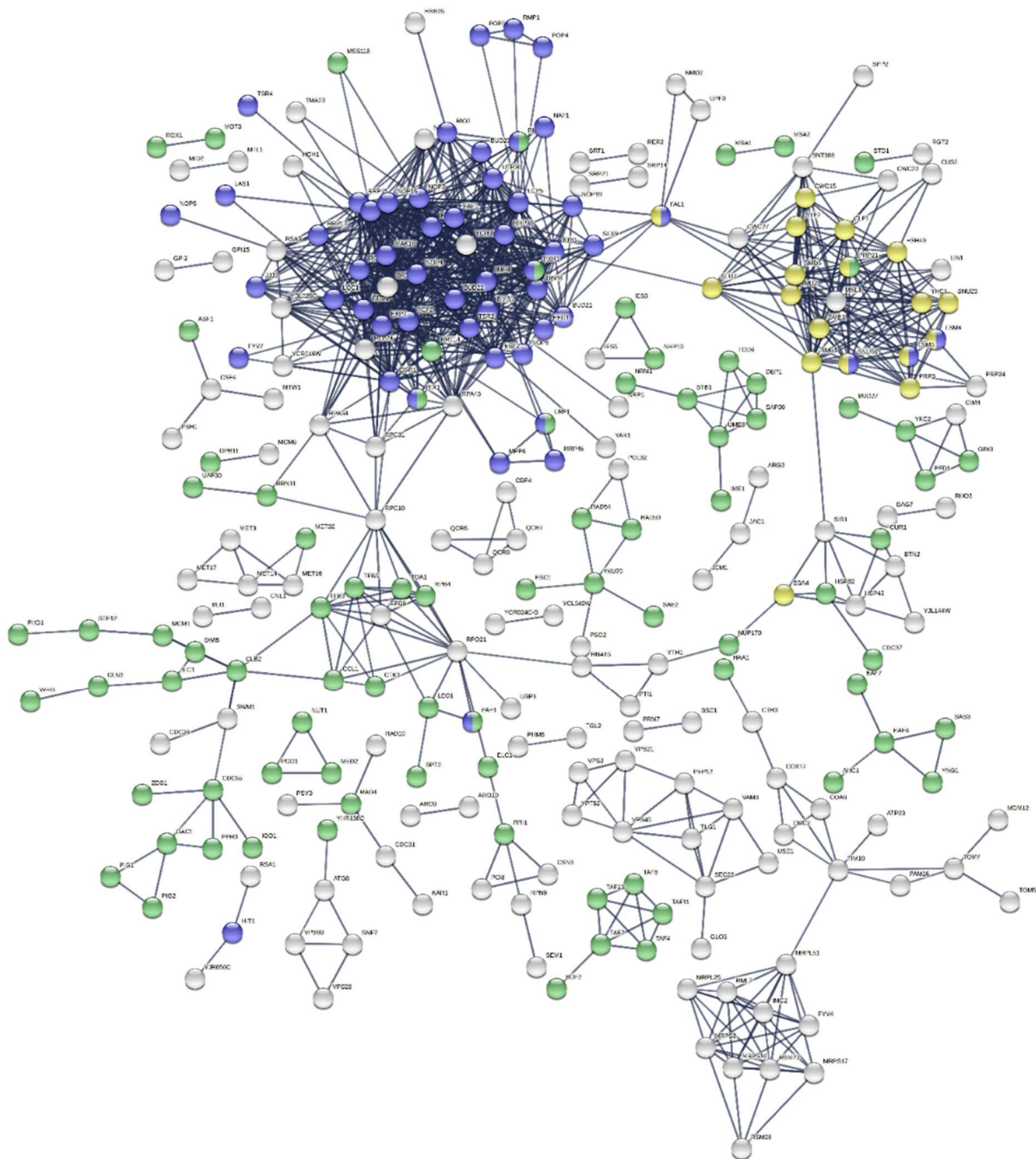


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Figure 8. Visualization of KEGG MAPK signalling pathway genes related to *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The red genes are those upregulated 1 h upon HPH treatment. **Colour should be used.**

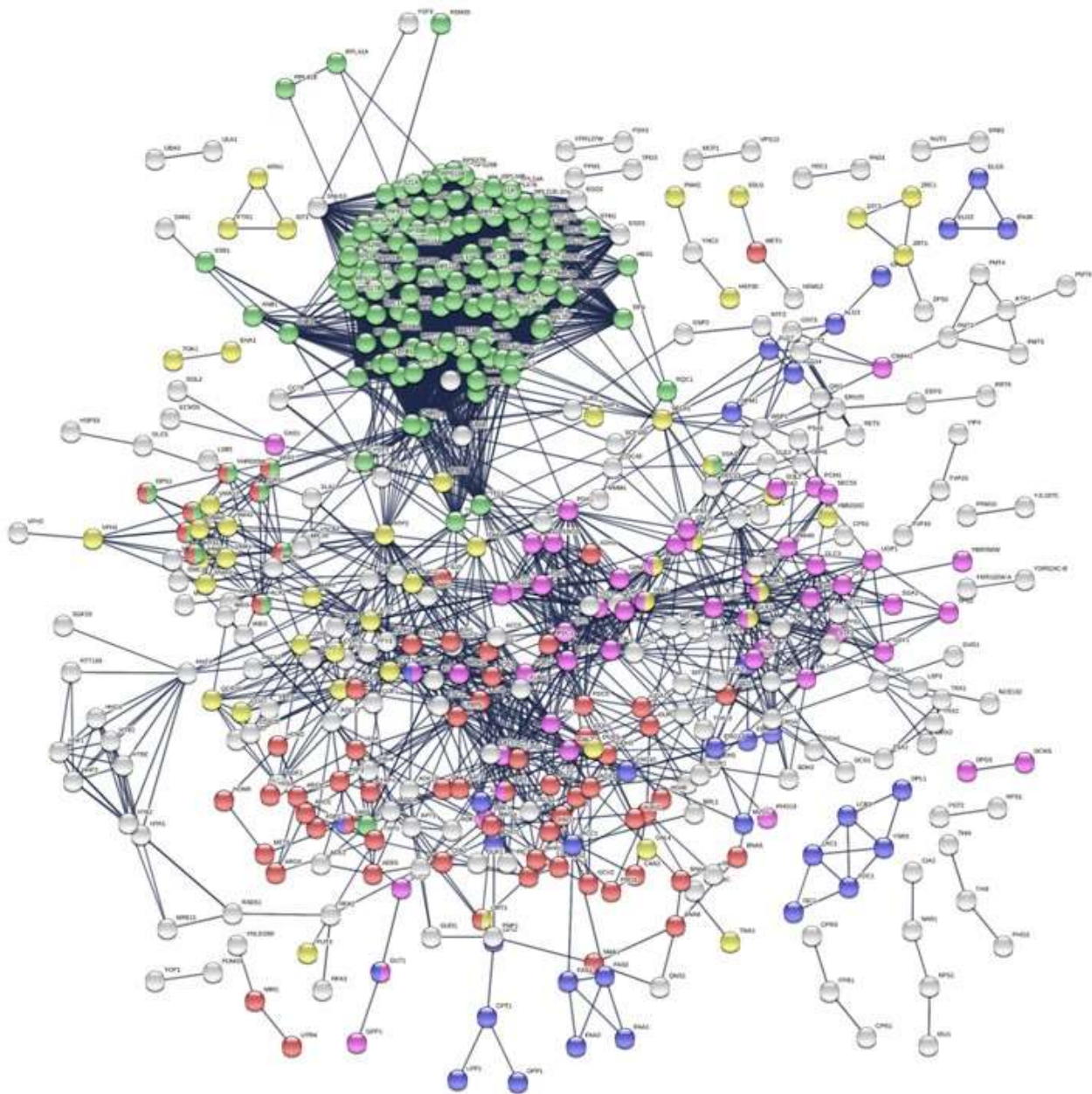
### 3.10 Interactions of the identified DEGs

The results were integrated and predicted in the STRING database (<http://stringdb.org/>) (Szkarczyk et al., 2015). **Figure 9** shows the different interaction networks of upregulated and downregulated DEGs after 1 h of HPH treatment and subsequent incubation in synthetic must. Among the upregulated DEGs, two main clusters with close and extensive interactions (confidence score > 0.9) were formed, containing genes involved in ribosome biogenesis (such as *RRP8*, *RRP15*, *RRP17*, *RRP36*, and *RRP45*) and spliceosome formation (including *SME1*, *HSH49*, *SMD2*, *SMB2*, and *PRP3*). Moreover, another cluster with less extensive interactions made of genes involved in the regulation of primary metabolic processes, such as the polymerase II transcription process (*TFB5*, *TOA1*, *RPB4*, *TAF7*) and histone acetylation (*AHC1*, *EAF6*, *SAS3*, *YNG1*, *EAF7*), was observed.



422  
 423 **Figure 9.** Interaction network of upregulated DEGs with a confidence score > 0.9. Interactions are indicated by edges,  
 424 with thicker edges having stronger associations. The edges indicate both functional and physical protein associations.  
 425 Colours represent genes in specific GO biological processes (green: regulation of primary metabolic process; blue: rRNA  
 426 processing; yellow: spliceosome). **Colour should be used.**  
 427

428 The downregulated genes clustered in two main groups, one with closer and more extensive interactions related to  
 429 ribosome components and another with wider and restricted interactions containing genes involved in principal cell  
 430 metabolism (confidence score > 0.9) (**Fig. 10**). The genes present in these two clusters were mainly involved in glycolysis  
 431 and the TCA cycle (including *PFK2*, *TKL2*, *PGI1*, *ENO1*, *ENO2*, *TDH2*) and cytosolic ribosome biogenesis and  
 432 translation (including RPL and RPS genes).



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**Figure 10.** Interaction network of downregulated DEGs with a confidence score > 0.9. Interactions are indicated by edges, with thicker edges having stronger associations. The edges indicate both functional and physical protein associations. Colours represent genes in specific GO biological processes (green: translation; yellow: transmembrane transport; red: amino acid metabolic process; pink: carbohydrate metabolic process; blue: lipid metabolic process). **Colour should be used.**

### 3. Discussion

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The use of HPH to modulate microbial functions, including microbial metabolism, has been described by several authors. In particular, sublethal treatments, 100 MPa or lower, should not affect the cultivability of *S. cerevisiae* or other microorganisms, as reported by (Braschi et al., 2021; Comuzzo et al., 2015; Patrignani et al., 2013; Patrignani, Vannini, Kamdem, Lanciotti, & Guerzoni, 2009; Siroli et al., 2020). Indeed, Lanciotti et al. (2007) reported that the application of HPH at sublethal levels (50-100 MPa) was useful to modify the metabolism of the pretreated cells of lactic acid bacteria without any changes in cell viability. Additionally, in our work, no significant modifications in cell viability were observed on *S. cerevisiae* ALEAFERM AROM treated at 100 MPa and subsequently incubated in synthetic must for 48 h, demonstrating the high strain tolerance to pressure stress. Although species and strain dependent, this feature has already been well documented in the literature (Comuzzo & Calligaris, 2019; Dimopoulos, Tsantes, & Taoukis, 2020; Iwahashi, Nwaka, & Obuchi, 2000; Patrignani et al., 2013). According to Serrazanetti et al. (2015), immediately after sublethal treatment (80 MPa), only 30% of *S. bayanus* L951 cells collapsed or lost their turgor due to cell wall and membrane damage. However, during the following 2-3 h of treatment, the number of collapsed cells decreased, while the percentage of budding cells doubled. Although these

454 structural changes were transient, the quick stress induced by sublethal levels of HPH seemed sufficient to promote cell  
455 autolysis during wine ageing (Comuzzo et al., 2015; Patrignani et al., 2013). However, the autolysis of yeast takes place  
456 very slowly, and the process lasts from a few months to several years. Patrignani et al. (2013) applied HPH at 90 MPa to  
457 different yeasts prior to their use in the preparation of tirage solutions for sparkling wines. The effects on yeast cell  
458 viability, fermentation, and death kinetics during secondary fermentation and ageing (where autolytic phenomena take  
459 place) were determined. The results showed that the cell counts of *S. bayanus* and *S. cerevisiae* strains were not affected  
460 by an HPH of 90 MPa, and all strains were able to multiply and start fermentative activity during the preparation of the  
461 tirage solution. The SEM microphotographs obtained on the wines aged for 40 days indicated an acceleration of the  
462 autolytic phenomena for all the strains treated with HPH treatment, although no viability changes were observed during  
463 the cell pretreatment. These results may have great potential for sparkling wine producers who seek to accelerate ageing  
464 on lees without detrimental effects on product quality. In fact, in the oenological field, yeast autolysis is an enzymatic  
465 self-degradation process of cellular constituents (Martínez et al., 2018) that leads to changes in wine volatile profiles and  
466 sensory characteristics.

467 Although no differences in viability were observed, HPH-treated yeast showed a shift in volatile molecule production. In  
468 fact, within the first 2 h of incubation in synthetic must, HPH-treated cells produced fewer ketones, alcohols, acids and  
469 esters, while they generated higher amounts of 2-phenylethanol ( $p < 0.05$ ). 2-Phenylethanol, other than representing an  
470 important wine aroma with a characteristic rose-like scent able to impart positive sensorial features to the final wine, was  
471 proposed as a possible quorum sensing molecule for *S. cerevisiae* produced during the stationary phase. Its presence  
472 promotes cell adhesion, cell elongation, bipolar growth, and pseudohyphae formation (Jagtap, Bedekar, & Rao, 2020).  
473 After 48 h of incubation, the higher production of 2-phenylethanol was maintained together with a significant increase in  
474 benzaldehyde (able to confer almond notes), ethanol, isoamyl alcohol (alcoholic, winey, fruity notes), acetic acid, and  
475 ethyl octanoate (fruity, fat aroma) ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared with the control. Additionally, Comuzzo et al. (2015) showed an  
476 increase in alcohols, particularly 2-phenylethanol, and esters, mainly ethyl octanoate, in *S. bayanus* powder after HPH  
477 treatment, confirming the changes in the volatile molecule patterns. Moreover, according to the authors, the presence of  
478 higher amounts of alcohols and ethyl esters also represented evidence about the ability of HPH to induce autolysis in wine  
479 yeast. From this perspective, from a technological point of view, the application of sublethal HPH stress to the initial  
480 yeast starter could represent a tool to promote autolytic processes that can then impart specific features to the final product.  
481 The use of autolyzed cells obtained with HPH can have significant relapses on winemaking protocols (Voce et al., 2021).  
482 In fact, in the field of winemaking, where commercial starters are usually applied, positive modifications of the sensorial  
483 properties of the final wine could be considered a strategy to expand product diversity. The fact that HPH can induce  
484 autolytic processes in yeasts and how this can impact wine production has been already described in several publications  
485 from a phenotypic point of view (Comuzzo et al., 2015; Patrignani et al., 2013; Voce et al., 2021). Therefore, in this work,  
486 we focused on the gene expression profile of HPH-treated cells after incubation for 1 h in synthetic must confirm the  
487 induction of the autolytic process. As expected, compared to control samples, HPH induced an entire reprogramming of  
488 the cell translational apparatus, as shown in Figure 3, with 1220 differentially expressed genes between HPH-treated  
489 samples and their controls. (X. Li et al., 2020; Xu, Wang, & Li, 2014a, 2014b) studied the autolysis of brewer's yeasts  
490 through transcriptomic, proteomic and microarray analyses. They observed a high proportion of downregulated genes  
491 with respect to upregulated ones. In particular, X. Li et al. (2020) observed 1187 or 971 downregulated and 115 or 39  
492 upregulated genes, depending on the process applied to induce autolysis (i.e., enzymatic process or heat treatment,  
493 respectively). Similar behaviour was also reported during autolysis of *Kluyveromyces marxianus* subjected to vacuum  
494 negative pressure and high temperature (X. Li et al., 2022). In our work, HPH induced the upregulation of 562 genes and  
495 the downregulation of 658. The higher ratio of downregulated/upregulated genes that was observed may depend on the  
496 HPH treatment, performed with one pass at sublethal pressure, that does not induce a complete autolytic process. In fact,  
497 to obtain complete autolysis of all the cells, higher pressures and more passes are required (Voce et al., 2021). Sublethal  
498 HPH treatment downregulated genes involved in cytoplasmic translation and metabolic pathways, while it upregulated  
499 those contributing to transcription, ribosome biogenesis and stress response. To the best of our knowledge, there are no  
500 published data that describe the gene expression of *S. cerevisiae* upon sublethal HPH treatment in must. However,  
501 according to X. Li et al. (2020), genes involved in energy production/utilization and protein metabolism were  
502 downregulated during autolysis of baker's yeast upon enzymatic processing or heat treatment, while genes related to cell  
503 wall organization and biogenesis, starvation and DNA damage response were upregulated. In another work, autolysis of  
504 *K. marxianus* revealed a downregulation of genes related to purine and pyrimidine metabolism, DNA transcription and  
505 translation (X. Li et al., 2022). Xu et al. (2014a), instead, studied spontaneous autolysis in lager brewer's yeast with a  
506 microarray and observed a downregulation of carbohydrate and energy metabolism, cellular amino acid metabolic  
507 processes, cell response to various stresses (such as oxidative stress, salt stress, and osmotic stress), transcription and  
508 translation.

509 Cytoplasmic translation is a complex process in which ribosomes synthesize proteins after the process of DNA-to-RNA  
510 transcription. The production of yeast ribosomes requires the dedication of a considerable part of RNA polymerase II  
511 activity to RP gene transcription (Pérez-Ortín, Medina, & Jordán-Pla, 2011). Even 90% of yeast spliceosome activity is  
512 dedicated to the production of mature RP mRNAs, and 34% of total ribosomes work in the translation of RP transcripts.  
513 Furthermore, small nucleolar RNAs (snoRNAs) are fundamental for the posttranscriptional modifications of rRNAs.  
514 Therefore, changes in the expression of one of these three components may affect ribosome biogenesis but also the entire  
515 energy balance and vital state of the cells or the way back around. Genes involved in ribosome biogenesis were among

516 those affected the most by HPH treatment. *S. cerevisiae* ALEAFERM AROM subjected to HPH showed a downregulation  
517 of 86 genes coding for ribosome components (mainly RPs). Due to this dramatic reduction in RPG expression, yeast cells  
518 enhanced the gene transcription process by upregulating factors involved in gene repression/promotion and assembly of  
519 the transcriptional machinery. In fact, among the upregulated genes, there are those coding for components of RNA  
520 polymerase II (*RPO21*, *RPB4*, *RPB9*, *RPC10*) or those involved in RNA polymerase II transcription initiation (*es. TAF4*).  
521 RNA polymerase II is the enzyme responsible for mRNA and snRNA transcription (Hsin & Manley, 2012). Transcription  
522 was also promoted by the downregulation of *ASCI*, which may even favour frameshifting. Although it induced a  
523 downregulation of RPGs, HPH-treated cells also showed an upregulation of 8 MRPGs, RPs produced outside the  
524 mitochondria but that are meant for that organelle. This entire behaviour was already observed in yeast cells that  
525 underwent cell death upon acetic acid and ethanol stress (R. Li et al., 2017; Monticolo, Palomba, & Chiusano, 2021). In  
526 particular, it was hypothesized that yeast cells might use mitochondrial ribosomes or change the ribosome components to  
527 synthesize additional proteins to resist external stress (R. Li et al., 2017). An overall readaptation of the ribosome  
528 machinery may also be suggested by the upregulation of snoRNAs. These molecules are involved in different biological  
529 processes, including rRNA modifications. For instance, *snR17A* is involved in cleaving and editing primary rRNA  
530 transcripts, while *snR39B*, *snR54*, *snR57* and *snR78* guide methylation or pseudouridylation of the rRNAs large and small  
531 subunit. These posttranscriptional modifications increase the diversity of rRNA composition and activity. Therefore,  
532 changes in snoRNA expression levels suggest different patterns of rRNA structure organization during exposure to HPH.  
533 Under stress conditions, yeast cells should form so-called “stress ribosomes” (Ghulam, Catala, & Abou Elela, 2020).  
534 These “stress machineries” are obtained by the differential usage of paralogues. In our work, it was not possible to observe  
535 a direct change in the relative proportion between orthologues, but the formation of a “stress ribosome” may be  
536 hypothesized due to all modifications reported. Posttranslational modifications of mRNA were also affected by HPH. For  
537 instance, *EDC1*, which is involved in mRNA decapping, was upregulated. This may lead to increased mRNA decay.  
538 Eventually, HPH induced an upregulation of at least 23 genes involved in the spliceosome. The spliceosome is the cellular  
539 machinery that regulates both quantitative and qualitative gene expression through mRNA splicing (Chanarat & Svasti,  
540 2020). However, it can also repress protein-coding gene expression by promoting nuclear turnover of spliced RNA  
541 products (Volanakis et al., 2013). Reprogramming of the overall translation apparatus, together with rRNA modifications  
542 and mRNA decapping, are relevant events that have been reported in yeast during programmed cell death induced by  
543 acetic acid (Monticolo et al., 2021). If translational machinery and transcription processes were altered from one side,  
544 then all metabolic pathways were downregulated. For instance, the expression of genes involved in glycolysis (30 DEGs)  
545 and the TCA cycle (17 DEGs) was reduced. Although low gene expression is not directly correlated with protein  
546 abundance and/or activity, this aspect was supported by the lower ethanol concentration measured in samples containing  
547 HPH-treated cells during the first 2 h of incubation compared with control samples. This was supported by the fact that  
548 the key genes of alcoholic fermentation (*PDC1*, *PDC5*, *ADH1*, and *ADH2*) were especially downregulated. Even electron  
549 transport and membrane-associated energy processes were downregulated upon HPH treatment. In fact, our results  
550 showed that membrane H<sup>+</sup> and P-type ATPase (*PMA1*, *PMA2*, *ENA1*), mitochondrial ATP synthase (*ATP1* and *ATP2*),  
551 and vacuolar H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase (*VMA1*, *VMA2* and *VMA3*) were all downregulated, as previously reported during autolysis (Xu  
552 et al., 2014a, 2014b). Lipid metabolism was also downregulated, with 50 DEGs involved in sphingolipid metabolism,  
553 fatty acid degradation and biosynthesis. This is slightly in contrast with what was reported by (Serrazanetti et al., 2015),  
554 who observed higher expression of *OLE1*, *ERG3*, and *ERG11* after HPH. However, in that case, another yeast species  
555 was used, and the cells were grown in Sabouraud medium and not synthetic must, as in our case. The stressful condition  
556 related to the synthetic must (high sugar content) may have played a role in slower membrane readaptation. Even amino  
557 acid metabolism and related transporters were downregulated, in line with what was reported by Xu et al. (2014a, 2014b).  
558 Specific upregulation of *ARO9* and *ARO10* (1.8 and 3.2 Log<sub>2</sub> FC) was observed as described by the same authors. These  
559 two genes encode an aminotransferase and a decarboxylase, respectively, that play an important role in the Ehrlich  
560 pathway. For instance, through these enzymes, phenylalanine is converted into phenylacetaldehyde, which can then be  
561 turned into 2-phenylethanol through alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH). The main genes encoding alcohol dehydrogenases  
562 in *S. cerevisiae* are 5 (*ADH1*, *ADH2*, *ADH3*, *ADH4*, and *ADH5*). The final reaction can be catalysed by any of these  
563 alcohol dehydrogenases (Dai, Xia, Yang, & Chen, 2021). However, only the coexpression of *ADH* and *ARO10* seems  
564 necessary to increase the concentration of 2-phenylethanol by 6.5-fold (Shen, Nishimura, Matsuda, Ishii, & Kondo, 2016).  
565 In our work, three out of five *ADH* genes were downregulated. However, an increase in 2-phenylethanol was observed  
566 after 2 and 48 h of incubation in samples containing HPH-treated cells. The fact that *BAT2* and *ADH7* were not  
567 downregulated may suggest that the upregulation of *ARO10* is maintained for a longer time or may even impact the  
568 production of isoamyl alcohol from leucine in the late phase of incubation (Yuan, Chen, Mishra, & Ching, 2017). The  
569 production of these volatile molecules, as mentioned already before, represents an important aspect in winemaking since  
570 they confer rose-like and winey/fruity notes, respectively. Other upregulated genes of the sulfur assimilation pathway, in  
571 particular, *MET3*, *MET14*, and *MET16*, are involved in the first three steps of sulfate reduction to sulfite. According to  
572 Hine et al. (2015), the production of hydrogen sulfide is a biosynthetic intermediate that possesses other functions for  
573 signalling, yeast detoxification, and lifespan extension. According to Xu et al. (2014b), during autolysis, yeast cells  
574 activate responses to DNA damage, pH, and starvation, while they reduce genes that react to chemical stimulus, oxidative  
575 stress, salt stress, and osmotic stress. In our case, sublethal HPH activated the expression of genes with chaperone or  
576 chaperone-like functions, MAPK pathway-related and DNA repair. Among the chaperone genes, *CDC37*, *CDC31*, *SSA4*,  
577 *CURI*, and *SIS1* are all proteins involved in the sorting, recovery, or removal of misfolded proteins. Moreover, HSP42



578 and HSP82 are chaperones induced in response to DNA stress. The fact that HPH may have caused DNA stress conditions  
579 is also supported by the observation that genes related to DNA repair (*PPH3*, *RAD59*, *POL32*, *RAD10*, *PSY3*, *DPB1*,  
580 *WSSI*, *IRC4*, *AHCI1*, *MPH1*, *SHU2*, *RAD34*, and *YKU70*) were upregulated, reflecting possible severe DNA damage. (X.  
581 Li et al., 2020). Eventually, downregulated genes were more related to oxidoreductive processes (such as *GRX2*, *TSA1*,  
582 *CTT1*) and involved in the osmotic stress response (*ENAI* and *MET22*). Eventually, 12 genes in the MAPK pathway were  
583 upregulated. They act as sensors or modulators of cell wall integrity; therefore, their downregulation is associated with  
584 autolytic processes (X. Li et al., 2020). The fact that sublethal treatment did not affect cell viability may explain why we  
585 did not observe their complete downregulation. In fact, despite a few specific processes or pathways that may suggest  
586 that the cells are trying to cope with the external stress imposed, all the other results show that the production and  
587 utilization of energy are significantly inhibited. This is in line with what has been reported by several authors (X. Li et  
588 al., 2020; Xu et al., 2014b), describing autolysis as a process in which cells gradually lose their activity, resulting in  
589 accelerated cell death.

#### 591 4. Conclusions

592 The results of this work showed for the first time that HPH treatment may induce a perturbation of the whole gene  
593 expression profile similar to what was observed in brewer's yeast autolysis or cell death upon chemical stress. The fact  
594 that the viability of the yeast upon HPH did not significantly change may be because a nonlethal treatment was imposed.  
595 However, the application of such a level of pressure was able to induce gene reprogramming, which was able to modify  
596 yeast metabolism and lead to the production of alcohols that have a positive effect on the volatiles and sensorial features  
597 of the product at 48 h. Moreover, HPH pretreatment induced an overall status of autolysis. This feature could be  
598 interesting, especially for white wines from Burgundy, Champagne, Cava or Franciacorta, to accelerate the process and  
599 reduce the cost of production. Although these are preliminary results and they regard only the very early response to HPH,  
600 further studies are required to better explain how gene expression and metabolites will evolve and change during alcoholic  
601 fermentation and to implement specific protocols for winemaking.

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605 We would like to thank Galseq s.r.l. for their support and assistance at several points of the analyses.

#### 607 Appendix A. Supplementary material

608 Supplementary Table 1 (Table S1)  
609 Supplementary Table 2 (Table S2)  
610 Supplementary Table 3 (Table S3)  
611 Supplementary Table 4 (Table S4)  
612 Supplementary Table 5 (Table S5)  
613 Supplementary Table 6 (Table S6)

#### 616 Author contributions

617 **Daive Gottardi**: Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Software, Validation, Visualization, Writing - original  
618 draft, Writing - review & editing, Visualization; **Lorenzo Siroli**: Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing - review &  
619 editing; **Giacomo Braschi**: Data curation, Formal analysis, Visualization, Software, Writing - review & editing;  
620 **Samantha Rossi**: Software, Visualization, Writing - review & editing; **Diana I. Serrazanetti**: Conceptualization,  
621 Investigation, Methodology; **Francesca Patrignani**: Conceptualization, Project administration, Writing - review &  
622 editing; **Rosalba Lanciotti**: Conceptualization, Project administration, Writing - review & editing

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heptanal	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
octanal	0.34	0.21	0.07	0.86*	0.08	0.00	0.00
nonanal	0.29	0.34	0.38	1.47*	0.38	0.22	0.35
benzaldehyde	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.63*
5 methyl-furfural	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.45*	0.15	0.00	0.00
<i>total</i>	<i>0.93</i>	<i>0.55</i>	<i>0.45</i>	<i>5.78*</i>	<i>0.61</i>	<i>0.34</i>	<i>0.98*</i>
<b><u>Ketones</u></b>							
diacetyl	0.00	0.14	0.67	0.00	0.87	0.15	0.16
methyl isobutyl ketone	1.39	4.41	4.49	4.38*	3.43	0.60	0.54
5-methyl 3-hexanone	0.00	0.67	0.71	1.15	0.67	0.08	0.07
4-methyl 2-hexanone	0.65	1.67	1.92	2.24*	1.57	0.41	0.45
4,6-dimethyl 2-heptanone	0.00	0.22	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4 methyl 3-penten-2-one	3.03	5.77	5.63	7.02	6.84	2.29	2.69
2,6-dimethyl 4-heptanone	0.30	14.78	14.38	17.76*	12.70	0.12	0.29
1-hydroxy 2-propanone	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.10*	0.13	0.00	0.00
acetophenone	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.25	0.08	0.12
<i>total</i>	<i>5.38</i>	<i>27.66</i>	<i>27.95</i>	<i>34.73*</i>	<i>26.45</i>	<i>3.73</i>	<i>4.32</i>
<b><u>Alcohols</u></b>							
ethanol	0.55	15.08*	11.20	18.43*	15.16	76.10	90.82*
1-propanol	0.00	0.28	0.21	0.41	0.17	0.45	0.47
isobutanol	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.22	4.05
isoamyl alcohol	0.00	1.65	1.44	2.50*	1.50	28.75	31.36*
2-hexanol	1.44	1.77	1.65	2.04	1.71	0.55	0.56
3-heptanol	0.44	0.45	0.35	0.74	0.35	0.24	0.29
1-pentanol	0.20	0.22	0.23	0.64	0.25	0.08	0.14
1-hexanol	0.34	0.83	0.73	5.57*	1.11	1.07	1.22
1-Heptanol	0.06	0.68	0.65	1.72*	0.90	1.23	1.62
2-Ethylhexanol	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.28
1-octanol	0.00	0.31	0.25	1.95*	0.80	0.12	0.13
furfuryl alcohol	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.38*	0.13	0.00	0.00
methionol	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.89
2-phenylethanol	0.00	0.19	0.32	2.18	3.96*	7.74	9.62*
<i>total</i>	<i>4.84</i>	<i>21.46*</i>	<i>17.04</i>	<i>39.57*</i>	<i>26.04</i>	<i>121.56</i>	<i>141.44*</i>
<b><u>Acids</u></b>							
Acetic acid	0.00	1.12*	0.30	7.40*	2.38	8.53	9.50*
propanoic acid, 2-methyl	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.15	0.50	0.67
butanoic acid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.31	0.08	0.09
Butanoic acid, 2-methyl-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	1.00
hexanoic acid	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.74*	0.81	0.71	0.69
heptanoic acid	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.58*	0.51	0.00	0.00
octanoic acid	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.91*	0.51	0.00	0.00
<i>total</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>1.12*</i>	<i>0.30</i>	<i>13.05*</i>	<i>4.67</i>	<i>10.52</i>	<i>11.94*</i>
<b><u>Esters</u></b>							
ethyl acetate	0.37	0.79	0.88	2.05*	0.58	5.88	5.15
butanoic acid, ethyl ester	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.21

1-butanol,3-methyl-acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.64
hexanoic acid, ethyl ester	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.74
octanoic acid, ethyl ester	0.00	0.10	0.15	1.07*	0.06	1.25	2.07*
<i>total</i>	<i>0.37</i>	<i>0.89</i>	<i>1.03</i>	<i>3.12*</i>	<i>0.64</i>	<i>8.56</i>	<i>8.81</i>

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