

Wine Regions of France

ProvenceBeyond (Beyond the French Riviera) ®

Wine Maps: [[France](#) | [Côte du Rhône](#) | [Côte de Provence](#) | [Côte de Provence east](#)]

[[Bormes-les-Mimosas Vineyards](#) | [Hyeres Vineyards](#)]

Other Maps: [[Main Beyond Map](#) | [PACA Area map](#) | [Rail Map](#) | [Lavender Areas Map](#)]

The main French wine regions are shown by the colored areas on the map. The Beyond region (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur), shown by the white-bordered departements in the southeast, includes the southern part of the Côte du Rhône and the Côte de Provence wines.





French Wines Wine Labels

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Famous winemaker
Georges Duboeuf tasting
the grapes in Beaujolais

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Typical Bordeaux Wines' Label

How to Read a French Wine Label

The label of a bottle of wine is strictly controlled by the government to guarantee a wine's origin and vintage, or in other words, its flavor and quality. It bears:

- the name of the wine region such as Bordeaux, burgundy, Côtes du Rhone. It can be even more specific and give the name of a strictly defined area such as Médoc or Margaux in the Bordeaux region: the more specific, the better the wine is.
- a regional grading such as Grand Cru or Premier Cru Classe which denotes the best wines.
- the name of the property (or the producer) which is usually a Chateau, a Domain, or a Clos.
- the vintage of the wine, which is the year the grapes have been harvested



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April on Wine

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Fear not French Wine - A primer on what you're getting

© by April Eichmeier

Many people fear French wine: it's certainly not unjustified. California is nice: you know what kind of grapes are in the bottle, and to a certain extent, you know the characteristics. The French, though, produce some of the best stuff on the planet, and the most food-friendly. Fear of the unknown, though, can be a real deterrent: it is my hope that I'll help you make those first trepid steps into the French wine aisle.

Most important thing to know: Most French wine is named by the appellation system. In other words, the wine is labeled according to where it's made - like "Burgundy" or "Vouvray." If California ran on this system, we'd be drinking wine like "Alexander Valley" or "Paso Robles." The good news is that French law designates what grapes go into each wine (if grapes outside of the designees are included, the wine cannot carry the appellation label).

So, to help you relate the French regions to the grape varieties that may seem more familiar if you're used to U.S. wines, here's a handy-dandy table. While it's not fully comprehensive, I've tried to include the "biggies." It covers many of the main French wine regions.

REGION	GRAPE
Burgundy	Pinot Noir
Beaujolais	Gamay
Chablis	Chardonnay
Champagne	Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Noir
Bordeaux	Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon
Sauternes	Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon
Alsace	Gewürztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris
Northern Rhone (e.g. Hermitage)	Syrah, Marsanne, Roussanne
Southern Rhone (e.g. Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas)	Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, Mourvedre, Carignan, Roussanne
Languedoc-Roussillon	Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault, Mourvedre, Carignan, Marsanne, Roussanne
Loire	Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc, Pinot Noir
Vouvray	Chenin Blanc
Provence	Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Cinsault

For a comprehensive list, consult the *Oxford Companion to Wine (Second Edition)* by Jancis Robinson. In fact, most any question you might have is answered in this book. It's a great gift idea, too. ([Click here to buy it at a 30 percent discount from Amazon.com](#)).

COMPANY
- LOUIS JADOT -



Founded in 1859 by Louis Henry Denis Jadot, Maison Louis Jadot has always been situated in the heart of the vineyards, in the center of Beaune. Recently installed in an old building from the 19th century, the offices are situated above very old cellars from the 14th century connected with the "Couvent des Jacobins" cellars. This "Couvent" is the ideal venue for receiving visitors at Maison Louis Jadot.

Managed by three generations of the Jadot family and then by Mr. André Gagey for more than 30 years, Maison Louis Jadot is now directed by his son Mr. Pierre Henry Gagey, assisted by Mr. Jacques Lardière, who has been Louis Jadot's wine maker for more than 20 years.



Our new vinification cellars in Beaune and in Beaujolais, as well as the creation of the CADUS cooperage and the purchase of Château des Jacques in 1996 underline our aim of controlling the quality of our wines at each stage of their elaboration.

COMPANY
- CADUS COOPERAGE -

In 1996, Louis Jadot entered into a partnership with a firm of coopers from South-West France to form the Cadus Cooperage, established in Ladoix Serrigny (5 kilometers from Beaune). This ensures Louis Jadot improved control over the origin of the wood and the preparation of the barrels. Aging wine in wooden barrels is very important for the balance, aromas and the aging potential of a great wine.



COMPANY
- CHATEAU DES JACQUES -



The wines of the Beaujolais region have always been a key constituent of our range of wines.

With the acquisition of the Château des Jacques in 1996, in Romanèche Thorins (in the North of the Beaujolais area) Louis Jadot became the first Burgundy house to own a major Beaujolais vineyard.

The wine-making facilities are completely modern. The property has superb 16th century cellars, allowing the Château to age a large proportion of the Moulin à Vent (the 5 Clos in particular : Clos de Rocheigrès, Clos des Thorins, La Roche, Champ de Cour, Clos du Grand Carquelin – see the Vines Chapter) in oak barrels.



A new cuverie called "La Combe aux Jacques" was built in 1998, a few kilometers from the Château des Jacques. It is dedicated to the vinification of a more and more important part of our Beaujolais wines bought in grapes, Beaujolais Villages in particular, and guarantees an even higher quality to our clients.

COMPANIES

- Louis Jadot
- Château des Jacques

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- VINEYARDS -



It is from its land that Burgundy gains its richness and diversity. The originality and characters of the wines stem directly from the grapes. At Maison Louis Jadot the choice of the grapes is our number one priority ; our philosophy is to respect the origin of the grapes. Therefore the villages and growths of Burgundy are individually expressed in all the wines that carry our name.

Maison Louis Jadot controls a 105 hectare "domaine" in Burgundy with more than 70 hectares in the Côte d'Or, exclusively in Premier and Grand Cru. In fact, this domaine is divided in 4 :

- "Domaine Louis Jadot"; comprising 37 hectares in the Côte d'Or and 36 hectares in Beaujolais (Château des Jacques).
- "Domaine Gagey"; comprising 8 hectares in the Côte d'Or.
- "Domaine des Héritiers Louis Jadot"; comprising 16 hectares in the Côte d'Or.
- "Domaine du Duc de Magenta"; comprising 9 hectares in the Côte d'Or.



Moreover, we have established a strong, long term partnership with many wine growers who allow us to vinify their grapes broadening our range of appellations.

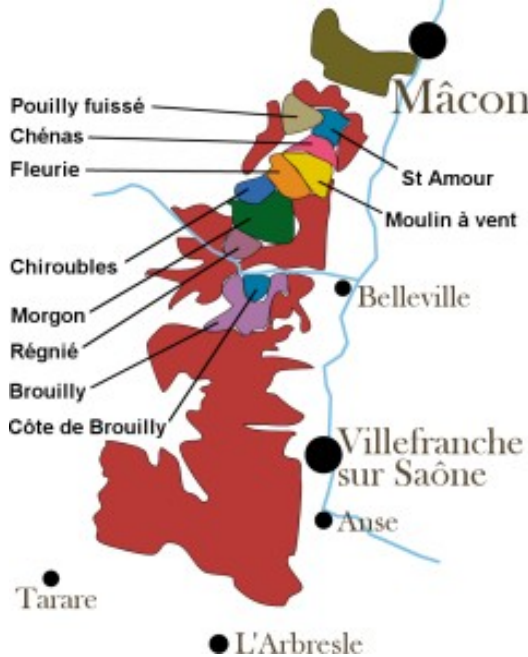
The Château des Jacques, bought in 1996, comprises 27 hectares (67.5 acres) of Moulin à Vent and 9 hectares (22.5 acres) of Bourgogne or Beaujolais-Villages Blanc.

The Moulin à Vent vineyard is divided into 5 separate Clos: Grand Carquelin, Champ de Cour, Les Thorins, La Roche et Rochegrès. They are all situated near the famous MOULIN A VENT on the hill sides of the appellation, near Fleurie.



Wines of France - Beaujolais

Search in the Beaujolais Family



Officially and legally attached with Burgundy as far as wine is concerned, the Beaujolais region however benefits from an acknowledged specificity. Indeed, everybody has heard about the arrival of the Beaujolais Nouveau every third Thursday of November.

At the extreme South of Burgundy, the Beaujolais spread over 23000 ha and 96 communes of the Saône, the Loire and the Rhone, thus constituting a region of 50km from North to South on an average 15km from East to West.

Today, the Beaujolais produces on average 1 400 000 hl of red wines. This production is spreading over 3 appellations : **Beaujolais**, **Beaujolais supérieur** et **Beaujolais villages** and 10 vintages :

- **Brouilly, Côtes de Brouilly, Régnié,**
- **Chiroubles, Fleurie, Morgon,**
- **Moulin à vent, Chénas, Juliéna, Saint-Amour.**

Only the Beaujolais and Beaujolais nouveau offer the possibility to have red and rosé **new season's wine** or **new wine**.



Extract from "Guide Hachette des vins 2000" (Hachette wines guide 2000)

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Winery: [Louis Jadot](#)

Wine: **1996 Moulin-à-Vent Château des Jacques Clos des Thorins**

Score: **88**

Price: \$NA

Country: France

Region: Beaujolais

Issue: Jan 01, 1998

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Lots of character here. Gamy and mineral notes underpin ripe, dark fruit flavors of cassis and licorice; it's firm yet juicy, concentrated yet clean. A beautiful example of the traditional style. From a new line of Beaujolais from Jadot that are not yet imported into the U.S. Drink now through 2002 .
(TM)

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Winery: [Louis Jadot](#)

Wine: **1999 Beaune Clos des Ursules**

Score: **82**

Price: \$50

Country: France

Region: Burgundy

Issue: Jan 01, 2002

Soft and supple red Burgundy, offering a plummy core. Medium-bodied, it turns a bit short on the finish. Drink now through 2003. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. (PM)

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Questions and answer faq

◆ **What is Maison Joseph Drouhin's business ?**

Joseph Drouhin is a Propriétaire, Négociant and Eleveur in Burgundy : we own vineyards, purchase grapes from other proprietors, vinify and care for the wines in our historical cellars of Beaune.

◆ **What is the annual turnover of Maison Joseph Drouhin ?**

In 1998 : 174 000 000 FF.

◆ **What percentage of Drouhin wines are exported ?**

80 % to more than 60 countries.

◆ **Does Drouhin sell varietal wines ?**

No. All Drouhin wines are Burgundies ("Appellations Contrôlées"). Drouhin also own vineyards in Oregon (USA) : Domaine Drouhin Oregon, mainly producing Pinot Noir wines but also, in limited quantity, some Chardonnay.

◆ **Does Drouhin market wines under other brand names ?**

No. We exclusively sell under one name : Joseph Drouhin ("Joseph Drouhin" being registered).

By the way, our corks are all branded with the name Joseph Drouhin together with the individual appellations and vintages.

◆ **How many appellations does Drouhin produce ?**

Around 80, covering the whole of Burgundy from Chablis to Beaujolais.

◆ **What is the origin of the barrels ?**

Drouhin uses a variety of French oak for their barrels. Most are from Burgundy, but

there are also a few from Nivernais, Allier and Vosges. The staves are left to dry for three years and then slightly burnt, a treatment which is more important than the actual origin of the wood.

◆ **Besides Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, does Drouhin grow other traditional grapes ?**

Yes, we produce a small amount of Aligoté and in our vineyard at Clos des Mouches there are also some Pinot Gris vines to add softness, finesse and complexity.

◆ **How old are the vines ?**

Drouhin is one of the few proprietors in Burgundy who still has pre-war vines (going back to 1935 at Clos des Mouches). The yield may be extremely small but the quality of the wines produced is outstanding. The average age of the vines in our Domaine is 30 years.

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VOLNAY

In the Côte de Beaune, not far from Beaune, the lovely and tiny village of Volnay is surrounded by vineyards. The slope faces East/South-East and benefits from a privileged position and plenty of sunshine. From the village itself, the view is superb.

Crowned by a limestone plateau, the Volnay vineyards have a subsoil of Argovian marlstone, and in the bordering parts of Pommard and Meursault, a layer of Bathonian limestone.

The grape variety is 100% Pinot Noir.

Joseph Drouhin owns vineyards in Volnay but also buys grapes from excellent Premier Crus such as Volnay Chevret. The grapes, as delicate as the wines they produce, are handled with the utmost care.

Volnay combines distinction, nobility, finesse, and elegance.

The colour has shades going all the way from light vermilion to the deepest ruby. Its delicate bouquet is reminiscent of red berries and violets, and its tannins blend harmoniously into an elegant and complex aftertaste.

Volnay is a wine much sought after by connoisseurs, collectors and wine lovers alike.



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Winery: [Joseph Drouhin](#)

Wine: 1999 Volnay

Score: 83

Price: \$30

Country: France

Region: Burgundy

Issue: Jan 01, 2002

A bit diffuse, this wine lacks a bit of focus, but it still delivers nice red and black fruit. Medium-bodied, it turns somewhat crisp on the finish. Drink now. (PM)

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Chateau Gloria 2000 – Bordeaux Futures

St. Julien Bordeaux

A pretty, juicy wine, with velvety cherry and toasted oak character. Medium- to full-bodied, with good tannins and a medium to long finish. Score range: 89-91 Wine Spectator

Henri Martin, Gloria's owner and once Mayor of Saint Julien was one of Médoc's legendary figures. In 1956 he became President of the Interprofessional Committee of Bordeaux Wines.

Beginning in the 1940's, Henri Martin assembled the vineyards of Château Gloria with parcels of land from such neighboring vineyards as Léoville-Poyferré, Gruaud-Larose, Saint Pierre and Duhart-Milon. The property is now run and managed by his son-in-law, Jean-Louis Triaud.

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot

The wine is fermented in stainless steel vats and spends 16 months in barrels.

rws25096 **\$29.90**



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Winery: **Château Gloria**

Wine: **1995 St. -Julien**

Score: **90**

Price: \$25

Country: France

Region: Bordeaux

Issue: Jan 31, 1998

Rather tough now, but with seriously good fruit concentration. Cherry and wet earth aromas. Medium-bodied, with full tannins and a tannic finish. Will improve with age. Best after 2002. (JS)

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Château d'Ampuis

E. GUIGAL



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Virtual Visit

The Vineyard



"Nature cannot be ordered about, except by obeying her "
(Bacon)

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The Domaine GUIGAL owns, in Condrieu and in Côte-Rôtie, illustrious plots from which spring notably the Condrieu La Doriane and the famous Côte-Rôtie La Mouline, La Turque and La Landonne, as well as the Château d'Ampuis. It processes and produces, in its cellars, besides high-class appellations from the Northern part of the Rhône Valley (Côte-Rôtie, Condrieu, Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage), those from the Southern side as well (Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas, Tavel and Côtes-du-Rhône).



Wine growing has always been undertaken with due and constant regard for the environment. In fact, a well-planned fight against vine diseases and parasites allow grapes grown within the estate to fully reveal the complexity of the finest soils of Condrieu and of Côte-Rôtie.



The job of selecting and achieving excellence in the process of wine production, carried on from generation to generation, allows Domaine GUIGAL to make available, every year, the Condrieu and the Côte-Rôtie Brune & Blonde, which constitute bench-marks in these two prestigious appellations.



The vineyard of Côte-Rôtie, which extends over nearly two hundred hectares, is constituted of Côte Brune, upstream from the Reynard, and Cote Blonde, situated downstream. The vines were planted by the Romans and have existed here for nearly 24 centuries.



Côte Brune is characterised by the almost exclusive presence of the syrah, a grape-variety that gives powerful and virile wines. On the other hand, the wines from Côte Blonde offers a very seductive smoothness, being rich in viognier, which refines the syrah. The yield of this historic, but always fertile, vineyard has, long since, been purposely restricted.





In this antique theatre, curiously enough, bliss flows down from the terrace to the arena. The Condrieu appellation comprises about a hundred hectares. Overhanging the right bank of the Rhône, this vineyard is composed solely of viognier, a vine imported from Dalmatia by the emperor Probus in the beginning of the Christian era. Out of this successful settlement was born a unique white wine of a golden colour, tender and refined, with subtle, delicate aromas of apricot and peach, which are both complex and persistent.



Terrace growing as well as the steep slopes, with an inclination of more than 65 %, necessitate manual work on the highly slanting vineyards of Domaine GUIGAL.





TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Côte-Rôtie

Product name :	Côte-Rôtie
Geology of the soil :	Plots on steep terraces. Côte Blonde: Flinty limestone soil. Côte Brune: Soil with a high iron oxide content.
Grape varieties :	Syrah 96%, Viognier 4%.
Average age of the vines :	Approximately 35 years.
Vinification :	Closed stainless steel vats. Automatic crushing. Alcoholic fermentation under controlled temperatures. On-skin fermentation over a 3-week period.
Ageing :	At least 36 months in oak casks.
Yield :	38 Hl / Hectare.
Tasting features of the wine :	
• Appearance :	Dark, deep colour.
• On the nose :	Spices, small soft fruit and delicate woody aromas.
• On the palate :	A tannic, elegant wine. Raspberry, mulberry and vanilla aromas.
• Main qualities :	A harmonious balance between an imperceptible acidity and strongly present tannins mellowed by prolonged refining in the wood.
Cellaring :	Can be laid down for approximately 20 years.
Suggestions for serving :	Game, red meat and cheese.

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Winery: **E. Guigal**

Wine: **1998 Côte-Rôtie Brune et Blonde**

Score: **93**

Caresse the palate. Elegant, with mineral, red and black fruit and supple tannins. Seductive balance on the fresh finish, where the firm tannins make a surprise appearance that suggests a bit of cellar time is needed to bring out the best of this red. Best from 2003 through 2010. 31,665 cases made. (PM)

Cellar Selection

Price: \$38

Country: France

Region: Rhône

Issue: Dec 15, 2001

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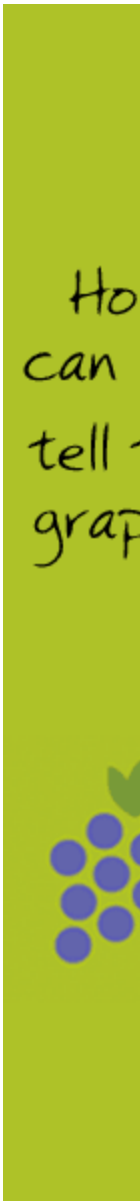
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Laurus

Côtes du Rhône Red

Vinification

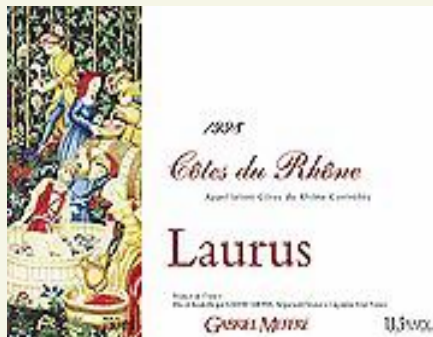
Upon arriving in the cellar, the grapes are destemmed and crushed. Each grape variety is vinified separately with the aim of extracting the best aromas. Fermentation temperatures are maintained at 28/30°C and maceration lasts 15 to 20 days with two or three pump-overs daily. 50% of the Syrah is matured in 275-liter oak Laurus barrels (1/3 new, 2/3 one and two-year barrels) for 9 months, providing rich aromas, balance and structure.

Grapes

*Grenache 55%
Syrah 45%*

Soils

Calcareous and clayey soils.



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[Tasting Notes](#)

Tasting Notes

A deep purple-red robe. The nose is intense and full, with aromas of red and black fruits around a soft vanilla-oak core imparted by the barrel-ageing of the Syrah. On the palate, the intense black-fruit character is confirmed and supported by a strong tannic structure.

[Wine Waiter's Advice](#)

Wine Waiter's Advice

Grilled poultry and meats with sauces accompany the Côtes-du-Rhône Laurus red. It is also excellent with cheese and cold starters, it should be ideally served at 18°/ 20°C.

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Last Medals & Rewards

Silver Raimbaut - Concours Jury Consommateurs in Vacqueyras - June 1996
Bronze Medal - International Wine & Spirit Competition - May 1997
Seal of Approval - International Wine Challenge - 1998

[Some History](#)

Some History

In the XVIIth Century, the "Coste du Rhone" was the name of an administrative area of the "Viguerie of Uzès", known for the quality of its wines. In 1650, a law was promulgated to protect and ensure their origin and quality. Little by little, the "Coste du Rhône" became the "Côtes du Rhône", encompassing all the vineyards on each side of the Rhône river. The official creation of the Appellation dates from Nov. 19th 1937.

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May 8, 2002

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Found	2 ratings
Sort	Score Price Vintage Winery
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Winery: [Gabriel Meffre](#)

Wine: 1999 Côtes du Rhône Laurus

Score: 84

Plum, leather and smoke notes provide complexity in this appealing, medium-bodied red. Has a long and juicy, tannic finish. Drink now through 2003. 6,665 cases made. (PM)

Price: \$12

Country: France

Region: Rhône

Issue: Sep 15, 2001

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Winery: [Gabriel Meffre](#)

Wine: 1999 Côtes du Rhône White Laurus

Score: 79

Buttery style, with some citrus notes; rather neutral character. (PM)

Price: \$10

Country: France

Region: Rhône

Issue: Nov 30, 2000

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