

ALSACE

Andre Blanck

With 30 acres of vines - 65% of which are planted in classified Grand Crus - spread around the famous village of Kientzheim, the Blanck family have a rich heritage in Alsace winemaking. First cultivating vines in 1675, the 7th generation is now responsible for making wines representative of the granite soils of Schlosberg, expressing great minerality, and the steep south-facing slopes of Furstentum - the result of which is wines of floral freshness and great length.

Willy Giselbrecht

The Giselbrecht family have been producing wines in Alsace since the 17th Century, and today own 34 acres of vineyards in the highly acclaimed village of Dambach La Ville.

Vinification is carried out according to the traditional methods for the style of the region, but always with an eye on the future, and innovation.

Patience is exercised throughout the wine-making process, with every step tended to carefully and personally, whilst every care is taken to extract the maximum characteristics of the soil so that the wines are a true expression of their environment.

All of the grapes and characteristics that the region is famed for, are expressed in the wines of the domaine, exhibiting good minerality, and expressive fruitiness.

BORDEAUX

Cave de Quinsac

A little over 70 years old, the Quinsac winery is located on the right bank of the Gironde, only 15 kilometres from Bordeaux. Sitting on the old site of Pranzac castle, in the AOC Cotes de Bordeaux, the 640 acres of vineyards (covering numerous municipalities) are predominantly Merlot, with some Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, whilst Semillon is the main constituent of the dry and sweet whites.

BOURGOGNE

Cave de Chaintre / Chateau du Bois de la Salle

A Co-operative formed in 1928, at Cave de Chaintre, in the Maconnaise basin (South Burgundy), to bring together a group of wine growers with a passion for, and experience of, the two famous grapes of Burgundy: Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Latterly (1961), it incorporated Chateau du Bois de la Salle, in Julienas, where 83 winegrowers took the decision to try to collectively promote Beaujolais.

Present day has seen the two amalgamate into 'Julienas-Chaintre' and boasts 169 members (of whom 90 are winegrowers), farming 580 acres across 18 appellations.

The Maconnais whites are a great expression of the Chardonnay grape - elegance, finesse and notes of expressive white fruits, whilst the full range of the carefully-handled Gamay variety is expressed in a range of styles from young, fresh and fruity (Saint Amour & Fleurie) through to the robust and full-bodied (Chenas & Morgon).

CORSICA

Domaine de Pratazone

Sitting slightly inland of the south-west coast of the island, Domaine de Pratazone cultivates Vermentino (for the whites) and indigenous grapes, Sciaccarello and Niellucciu (along with a little Grenache Noir) for the reds, under the AOP Ajaccio classification.

The wines, made by a lady, are exceptional expressions of their climate and soil, displaying finesse, balance, complexity and length.

Domaine Montemagni

At the northern tip of the island, sits Domaine Montemagni, producing white and red wines of the AOP Patrimonio classification.

A limestone enclave, the wines are of elegance and depth.

Under Louis Montemagni, the 4th generation - the future being assured by his daughters and grand-daughters - the values and practices implemented from the early beginnings in 1850, are still being adhered to today.

As with much of the island, Vermentino, Niellucciu and Grenache Noir, are the dominant grapes, in this case grown over 208 acres of vineyards, under a micro-climate characterized by the close proximity of the sea and the protection of the northern mountain ranges.

IROULEGUY

Cave d'Irouleguy

A Co-operative founded in 1952 by 9 wine growers, that today boasts 81 members.

The Wine Cellar currently accounts for 60% (300 acres) of the planted surfaces of the appellation, with everything contributing to the cellar, in preference to personal gain - an ethic that has brought great success in France as well as the foreign markets.

Hugely important to the region, the cellar has provided jobs, maintained economic activity, and preserved the land, through its hard work and more importantly, production of very high quality wines, all of which are characterised by their aromatic power and structure, and are great examples of their grapes - Tannat, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon for the reds and Petit & Gros Manseng and Petit Courbu for the whites - and their terroirs/soils - sandstone, clay and limestone.

LOIRE VALLEY

Montlouis - Cave Des Producteurs

Created in 1961, the Co-operative brought together 15 wine makers, working 270 acres of vines.

It accounts for the sale of 1/3 of all wines of the Montlouis-Sur-Loire appellation, and the balanced combination of traditional methods and innovation has resulted in numerous awards, alluding to the exceptional quality of its wines.

The sparkling wines (Chenin Blanc) are lively, full of character and incomparable freshness, whilst the whites (which can be dry, off-dry and sweet) show harmonious acidity, fruit and roundness, as well as the structure and complexity expected of the Chenin Blanc grape.

The winery also produces wine under the Touraine AOC, with white and pink sparkling best demonstrating the possibilities of the region when coupled with traditional wine-making methods.

LUBERON

Les Coteaux de Grambois

Les Coteaux de Grambois was formed in 1924, by 12 winegrowers, with a passion for their vineyards and pride in their heritage.

90 years, and thanks to much investment later, the Co-operative has grown to 100 contributors, and accounts for a cultivated area of 1104 acres and a production volume of 32,000 hectolitres, of which more than half (54%) is rose, 26% red and 20% white.

Location and climate contribute to whites and roses of subtle freshness and reds that are fruity and 'greedy'.

Contributing grapes are Syrah, Grenache Noir and Merlot for the reds and Vermentino, Grenache Blanc, Viognier and Chardonnay for the whites, whilst the roses prefer Syrah, Grenache and Cinsault.

SAVOIE

Jean Vulien & Fils

100 years old, and now in the hands of the Vulien sons, who are farming 68 acres of south-facing Jacquere, Altesse, Chardonnay and Roussanne (white varieties) and Gamay, Pinot Noir and Mondeuse (red).

The wines are a true expression of their grapes as well as their environment and sitting alongside a variety of styles of white and red, are a Cremant and a sparkling pink.