

## WINES OF PORTUGAL

**Portuguese wine** is the result of traditions introduced to the region by ancient civilizations, such as the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, and mostly the Romans. Portugal started to export its wines to Rome during the Roman Empire. Modern exports developed with trade to England after the Methuen Treaty in 1703. From this commerce a wide variety of wines started to be grown in Portugal. And, in 1758, the first wine-producing region of the world, the *Região Demarcada do Douro* was created under the orientation of Marquis of Pombal, in the Douro Valley. Portugal has two wine producing regions protected by UNESCO as World Heritage: the Douro Valley Wine Region (*Douro Vinhateiro*) and Pico Island Wine Region (*Ilha do Pico Vinhateira*). Portugal has a large variety of native breeds, producing a very wide variety of different wines with distinctive personality.

**History.** During the Reconquista in the 12th and 13th centuries, with the re-populating (*povoamento*) of the conquered territories, areas with reduced wine production due to the Muslim religion were replanted. During this period, some new varieties were added to the ancient ones, from Burgundy came the French varieties. And during the period of discoveries, Henry the Navigator brought to the newly discovered island of Madeira the Moscatel and Malvasia from the Greek Island of Crete. In the Reign of King Charles, the *Região Demarcada do Vinho Verde* and the *Região Demarcada do Dão* among Colares, Carcavelos, Setúbal, and Madeira were created. In 1979, Bairrada was added and in 1980 the Algarve region (Lagoa, Lagos, Portimão, and Tavira) was finally demarcated. In 1998, the Alentejo region was demarked by the gathering several smaller demarked regions created in 1995.

**Grapes.** Portugal has a large variety of native breeds, producing a very wide variety of different wines. The wide variety of Portuguese grape breeds is as important as soil and climate to wine variety, producing the distinctive wines from the Northern regions to the Madeira Islands, and from Algarve to the Azores. In Portugal only some grape varieties or *castas* are authorized or endorsed in the Demarcated regions, such as:

**Vinhos Verdes** - White castas Alvarinho, Arinto (Pedernã), Avesso, Azal, Batoca, Loureiro, Trajadura; red castas Amaral, Borraçal, Alvarelhão, Espadeiro, Padeiro, Pedral, Rabo de Anho, Vinhão.

**Porto/Douro** - Red castas Touriga Nacional, Tinta Amarela, Aragonez, Bastardo, Castelão, Cornifesto, Donzelinho Tinto, Malvasia Preta, Marufo, Rufete, Tinta Barroca, Tinta Francisca, Tinto Cão, Touriga Franca; white castas Arinto, Cercial, Donzelinho Branco, Folgasão, Gouveio, Malvasia Fina, Moscatel Galego Branco, Rabigato, Samarrinho, Semillon, Sercial, Roupeiro, Verdelho, Viosinho, Vital.

**Dão** - Red castas Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro, Aragonez, Jaen e Rufete; White castas Encruzado, Bical, Cercial, Malvasia Fina e Verdelho.

**Bairrada** - Red castas Baga, Alfrocheiro, Camarate, Castelão, Jaen, Touriga Nacional, Aragonez; white castas Maria Gomes, Arinto, Bical, Cercial, Rabo de Ovelha, Verdelho.

**Bucelas** - White castas Arinto, Sercial e Rabo de Ovelha.

**Colares** - Red casta Ramisco; White casta Malvasia

**Carcavelos** - Red castas Castelão and Preto Martinho; White castas Galego Dourado, Ratinho, Arinto.

**Setúbal** - Red casta Moscatel Roxo; white casta Moscatel de Setúbal.

**Alentejo** - Red castas Alfrocheiro, Aragonez, Periquita, Tinta Caiada, Trincadeira, Alicante Bouschet, Moreto; White castas Antão Vaz, Arinto, Fernão Pires, Rabo de Ovelha, Roupeiro

**Algarve** - Red castas Negra Mole, Trincadeira, Alicante Bouschet, Aragonez, Periquita; White castas Arinto, Roupeiro, Manteúdo, Moscatel Graúdo, Perrum, Rabo de Ovelha.

**Madeira** - Red castas Bastardo, Tinta, Malvasia Cândida Roxa, Verdelho Tinto e Tinta Negra; white castas Sercial, Malvasia Fina (Boal), Malvasia Cândida, Folgasão (Terrantez), Verdelho.

**Appellation System.** The *appellation* system of the Douro region was created nearly two hundred years before that of France, in order to protect its superior wines from inferior ones. The quality and great variety of wines in Portugal are due to noble castas, microclimates, soils and proper technology.

(Continued on Reverse)

## WINES OF PORTUGAL, Continued

Official designations:

**Quality Wine Produced in a Specific Region (QWPSR) or VQPRD** - *Vinho de Qualidade Produzido em Região Demarcada*. These are the most protected wine and indicates a specific vineyard, such as Port Wine, Vinhos Verdes, and Alentejo Wines. These wines are labeled D.O.C. (*Denominação de Origem Controlada*) which secures a superior quality. Wines that have more regulations placed upon them but are not in a DOC region fall under the category of **Indicação de Proveniência Regulamentada (IPR, Indication of Regulated Provenance)**

**Regional Wine** - *Vinho Regional*. Carries with it a specific region within Portugal.

**Table Wines** - *Vinho de Mesa*. Carries with it only the producer and the designation that it's from Portugal.

### Wine Regions

**Vinho Verde** is produced from grapes which do not reach great doses of sugar. Therefore, Vinho Verde does not require an aging process. Vinho Verde wines are now largely exported, and are the most exported Portuguese wines after the Port Wine. The most popular variety in Portugal and abroad are the white wines, but there are also red and more rarely rosé wines. A notable variety of Vinho Verde is Vinho Alvarinho which is a special variety of white Vinho Verde, the production of Alvarinho is restricted by EU law to a small sub-region of Monção, in the northern part of the Minho region in Portugal. It has more alcohol (11.5 to 13%) than the other varieties (8 to 11.5%).

**Douro wine** (Vinho do Douro), from the same region of port wines, originally were bitter wines, but the relation between Portugal and England led the English to enhance this wine with a kind of Portuguese brandy known as *aguardente* for it to support a voyage from Portugal to England. And since then, the wine only got better, and it appears by the first time in the registries of exports in 1679. Today's Douro wines are favorite table wines with some traits that are reminiscent of a port wine.

**Dão wine** is from the *Região Demarcada do Dão*, a region demarcated in 1908, but already in 1390 there were taken some measures to protect this wine. The Dão Wine is produced in a mountainous region with temperate climate, in the area of the Mondego and Dão Rivers in the north region of central Portugal. These mountains protect the *castas* from maritime and continental influences.

**Bairrada wine**, is produced in the *Região Demarcada da Bairrada*. The name "Bairrada" is from "barros" (clay) and due to the clayey soils of the region. Although the region was classified in 1979, it is an ancient vineyard region. The vines grow exposed to the sun, favoring the further maturity of the grapes. The Baga *casta* is intensely used in the wines of the region. The Bairrada region produces table, white and red wines. Yet, it is notable for its sparkling natural wine: the "Conde de Cantanhede" and "Marquês de Marialva" are the official brands for this wine.

**Alentejo wine** is produced from grapes planted in vast vineyards extending over rolling plains under the sun which shines on the grapes and ripens them for the production.

**Colares wine** is type of wine produced in sandy soils outside Lisbon between the foothills of Sintra and Roca Cape. Because of Lisbon's urban sprawl, the lands available for vineyards became so small, that the demands has always been higher than the production, making it one of the most expensive Portuguese wines.

**Port**. The Port wine vines need to grow on soil that is rich in schist and require a specific climate. Made using a unique vinification method, this wine is very special and known worldwide. The red varieties are the most common. The wine is produced in the beautiful landscape of the Douro Valley in Alto Douro region, a region that is now classified as World Heritage by UNESCO, and the wine is exported from the city of Porto, thus acquiring the name *porto* (or "port" in English-speaking countries). There are several varieties of port wine: some of the most popular are the **tawny**, **white**, **ruby**, and **Late Bottled Vintage** (L.B.V.).

**Moscatel Wines**. Moscatel is a liqueurous wine from the Setúbal Peninsula. Although the region has produced wines since the dawn of nationality, it was in 1797 that the wines of Setúbal were first mentioned. There is another variety of Moscatel wine, the "Moscatel de Favaios," in the *Região Demarcada do Douro*, it is made from a different *casta*, and the "Galego" (white), while Moscatel Roxo is made upon a *casta* with the same name as the wine.

Source:

Wikipedia

**WINES OF PORTUGAL**

Some Portuguese Wine Terms

**Adega:** Winery

**Branco:** White

**Casta:** Grape variety

**Colheita:** Vintage year

**Garrafeira:** A reserva red wine aged at least two years in a barrel and one year in a bottle; a white wine aged at least six months in a barrel and six months in a bottle.

**Maduro:** mature (in opposition to *verde*). Mature wines are Portuguese wines produced in all regions except the ones produced in Vinho Verde region, due to that, the term "maduro" rarely appears on bottles.

**Quinta:** Vineyard

**Reserva:** Superior quality wine of a single vintage

**Seco:** Dry

**Tinto:** Red

**Verde:** green (in opposition to *maduro*). Wines produced in Vinho Verde region with a distinctive method.

**Vinho:** Wine

Source:

Wikipedia

# WINE MAP

