

PORTUGAL and its WINE

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PORTUGAL

ПОРТУГАЛ

Portuguese wine is part of the ancient traditions introduced to the region by ancient civilizations such as the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, and mostly the Romans.

It started to export its wines to Rome during the Roman Empire. Modern exports developed with trade to England after a treaty in 1703.

Portugal has the oldest appellation system in the world, the Douro Valley. This region and Vinho Verde region, in the Northwest produces some of the world's finest, unique and highest value-added wines. Alentejo and Dão regions produces fruitful flavour wines, suitable for a casual wine drinker.

Portugal has two wine producing regions protected by UNESCO as World Heritage: the Douro Valley Wine Region and Pico Island Wine Region.

Portugal has a diverse range of indigenous grape varieties (more than 300), producing a wide range of different wines with distinctive personalities. The Oxford Companion to Wine describes the country as having "a treasure trove of indigenous grape varieties." With the quality and uniqueness of its wines, the country is a sizable and growing player in wine production, being in the top 10, with 4% of the world market (2003). The country dedicates 8% of its continental land dedicated to vineyards. Only the highest mountainous areas cannot properly support viticulture. Portugal produces some of the world's best wines, as reflected in its success in international competitions.

The grape variety play an important role as well as the type of soil and climate. With these unique grape varieties, Portugal produces wines with distinct personalities.

PORTUGAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WINE producing country. From north to south, east and west, different soils, grapes and climatic conditions allow for the production of a vast range of quality wines. These wines symbolize the dedication and patient work of many generations that have continued a tradition of quality and reputation recognized throughout the world.

The Classification 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 indigenous grapes, microclimates, soils and proper technology.

Official designations:

1. **Quality Wine Produced in a Specific Region (QWPSR) or VQPRD** –These wines are labeled **D.O.C.** which secures a superior quality ;
2. **Regional Wine** – “Vinho Regional” carries with it a specific region within Portugal;
3. **Table Wine** – “Vinho de Mesa” carries with it only the producer and the designation that it's from Portugal.

Grape Varieties

In Portugal only some varieties of grapes are authorized in the Demarcated regions. Each region has its own Commission to supervise the quality of the wines in various aspects of the cultivation and preparation of vineyards, but also in assuring the quality of the wine, for instance, in its flavour and scent.

The Regions

DOC

- 1 - Vinho Verde
- 2 - Chaves
- 3 - Valpaços
- 4 - Planalto Mirandês
- 5 - Porto e Douro
- 6 - Távora-Varosa
- 7 - Lafões
- 8 - Bairrada
- 9 - Dão
- 10 - Beira Interior
- 11 - Encostas de Aire
- 12 - Alcobaca
- 13 - Lourinhã
- 14 - Óbidos
- 15 - Alenquer
- 16 - Arruda
- 17 - Torres Vedras
- 18 - Bucelas
- 19 - Carcavelos
- 20 - Colares
- 21 - Ribatejo
- 22 - Setúbal
- 23 - Palmela
- 24 - Alentejo
- 25 - Lagos
- 26 - Portimão
- 27 - Lagoa
- 28 - Tavira
- 29 - Madeira
- 30 - Biscoitos
- 31 - Pico
- 32 - Graciosa



Regional

- 1 - Minho
- 2 - Trás-os-Montes
- 3 - Beiras
- 4 - Ribatejano
- 5 - Estremadura
- 6 - Alentejano
- 7 - Terras do Sado
- 8 - Algarve



Vinho Verde

Vinho Verde

- Located in the northwest of Portugal, the Vinhos Verdes region is unique in both landscape and wine
- The region is exposed to the sea in the west and mountains in the east.
- The climate is particularly different from other wine regions in the country with high levels of precipitation and humidity, and lengthy periods of fog and low temperatures
- One of the largest wine demarcated regions of the world (7.262 km²)
- Created in 1908 (100 years)

White Grape Varieties:

Alvarinho
Avesso
Azal
Batoca
Loureiro
Pedernã
Trajadura



Azal Tinto
Borraçal
Brancelho
Espadeiro
Padeiro de Basto
Pedral
Rabo de Ovelha
Vinhão

Red Grape Varieties:

The Vinho Verde is a unique product in the entire world with a blending of aroma and flavors that makes it one of the most delicious natural beverages.

Medium in alcohol, Vinho Verde has great digestive properties due to its **freshness** and special qualities.

It is a highly regarded wine, especially for **summer drinking**. The malolactic fermentation gives it a distinctive taste and personality. The reds are full bodied wines with an intense colour and rosy or light red foam. The whites usually present a lemony or straw colour.

The strong distinctive character and originality of these wines are the result of soil and climate characteristics and social-economic agents, on one hand, and of the grape varieties and the winegrowing methods, on the other.

The vineyards, distinguished by their great vegetative expansion in severe conditions, occupy an area of almost 35 thousand hectares, corresponding to 15% of the national viticulture area.



Douro

DOURO

- Located in Northeast Portugal, within the Douro River basin, surrounded by craggy mountains that give it very particular soil and climacteric characteristics.
- The soil is schistose with some granite around the edges.
- The climate in the region is characterized by very cold winters and hot, dry summers.

White Grape Varieties:

Gouveio
Malvasia Fina
Rabigato
Arinto
Cercial
Viosinho



Touriga Nacional
Touriga Franca
Tinta Roriz
Tinta Barroca
Tinto Cão
Tinta Amarela
Tinto Cão
Malvasia

Red Grape Varieties:

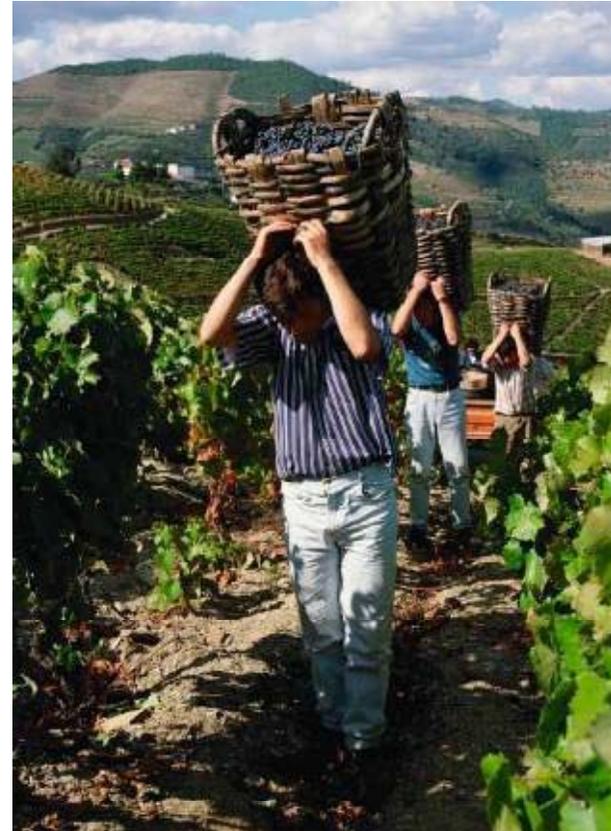
The Douro region is the oldest demarcated wine region in the world at 250 years.

Wine has been produced by traditional landholders in the Alto Douro region for some 2,000 years. Since the 18th century, its main product, port wine, has been world famous for its quality. This long tradition of viticulture has produced a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic evolution.

The components of the Alto Douro landscape are representative of the full range of activities association with winemaking – “terraces”, quintas (wine-producing farm complexes), villages, chapels and roads.

The cultural landscape of the Alto Douro is an outstanding example of a traditional European wine-producing region, reflecting the evolution of this human activity over time.

In 2001 the Douro Region became part of the UNESCO World Heritage.





Bairrada



- Located on the coastal plain lying slightly inland from the Atlantic (between Aveiro and Coimbra).
- The soil is clay with some limestone.
- The climate in the region is characterized by very humid winters, hot summers with Atlantic influence.

White Grape Varieties:

Rabo de Ovelha
Arinto
Bical
Cercial
Chardonnay
M^a Gomes



Touriga Nacional
Baga
Castelão
Jaen
Trincadeira
Merlot
Syrah
Cabernet Sauvignon

Red Grape Varieties:

The Bairrada region is a major **red and sparkling** wine producer in Portugal.

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** grape is the predominant grape variety.

The red wine produced here is known for being deep in colour, **full-bodied, robust** and fruity.

Bairrada is the largest producer of sparkling wines, which can be either white or rose and range from "brut" to "medium dry".

Dão

- Located right at the heart of Portugal. The region is divided into three sections: the Beira Litoral (the coastal section,), the Beira Alta (the upper mountainous region) and the Beira Baixa (the lower region).
- The soil is granite or sandy with granitic origin.
- The climate in the region is characterized by cold and humid winters, hot and dry summers

White Grape Varieties:

Cerceal
Malvasia Fina
Encruzado
Bical



Touriga Nacional
Jaen
Tinta Roriz
Rufete
Alfrocheiro

Red Grape Varieties:

The Dão region is **surrounded by mountains**, and the vineyards themselves are at altitudes ranging from **200–900 m**. This means that the region is protected to a degree from the vagaries of the Atlantic weather system to the west, but not fully exposed to the harsh continental climate to the east. So this climate, coupled with the **granitic soils**, creates terrain perfect for **making fine, elegant wines with good acid**.

Just **5% of the region is under vine**, with pockets of vines planted in clearings in the pine and eucalyptus forests clothing the hilly terrain. It is still a common sight to see smallholdings with vines planted around the perimeter of small vegetable patches.

Dão is sometimes likened to **Portugal's Burgundy**. It's not because of any physical similarity between the regions, but because of the style of wine. Like red Burgundy, good Dão doesn't rely on power for its effect, but instead aims at subtlety and **finesse**, a cause helped by the good natural acidity of the grapes. These wines range from light, peppery and spicy to more full bodied and fruity, but there is almost always a lovely suppleness and brightness to the fruit. While rather rustic examples still exist, modern fruitier wines are becoming more common.

Ribatejo

Ribatejo

- Located in the south central part of Portugal just northeast of Lisbon.
- The soil is sandy.
- The climate in the region is sub-Mediterranean temperatures
- Bullfight, “campinos”, Lusitanian horses
- Sleep giant.

White Grape Varieties:

Trincadeira das Pratas
Fernão Pires
Tália
Vital
Arinto



Touriga Nacional
Castelão
Trincadeira
Tinta Roriz
Alicante Bouschet
Cabernet Sauvignon

Red Grape Varieties:

Considered as one of the **unique places of the history of wine** in Portugal, the region of Ribatejo has a living tradition associated to the wine, its production and consumption. Whether regarding the red or the white wines, always perfumed by the sun that oscillates between the hot temperatures of the Summer and the coldness of a rigorous Winter, today, the Ribatejo is a place where it is possible to find many reasons for interest regarding wine. On this short one day tour, you will get to know several wine cellars where the best wines of Ribatejo are produced, consumed and sold, conjugating this aroma with the unique tastes of an excellent gastronomy. With the silhouette of the wild bull always in the horizon, let yourself inebriate by the warm evening of Ribatejo, tasting a good glass of regional wine, and understanding the connection that has always existed between the wine and the people that produce it. With the noise of the hoofs of the Lusitanian horses on the ancestral roads of these hot lands always in your ears, feel, smell and taste the best that Portuguese gastronomy produces ...

Palmela

- Located between the Tagus estuary to the Northwest and the Sado on the Southwest, on the east side of the Arrabida hills and on the west side of the Alentejo's province clays.
- The soil is sandy.
- The climate is Mediterranean marked by intense summer heat and cooler damp winters,

White Grape Varieties:

Muscat
Fernão Pires



Castelão
Trincadeira
Syrah
Alicante Bouschet
Cabernet Sauvignon

Red Grape Varieties:

This peninsular region is traditionally known for its **fortified liqueur wines** (Setúbal or Moscatel de Setúbal) and is also becoming noteworthy for still wine production by innovative winemakers using modern techniques.

The Palmela region is emerging as an exciting source of **modern-styled commercially astute red wines (like Ribatejo)**. The sandy soils produce soft-textured, ripe, drinkable reds in the sorts of quantities and at the price points that excite buyers. Further up, on the stonier soils more serious wines can be made. Unlike most other Portuguese regions, foreign varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah are quite common here, and seem to do well.



Alentejo

Alentejo

- Located southern Portugal
- The soil composed by smooth-clayish, granite and schist.
- The climate is characterized by hot summers and cold winters more typical of continental weather systems.

White Grape Varieties:

Rabo de Ovelha
Roupeiro
Antão Vaz



Aragonez
Trincadeira
Castelão
Alicante Bouschet
Syrah
Cabernet Sauvignon

Red Grape Varieties:

The Alentejo has a long tradition in the cultivation of vineyards which goes back to the Romans. Ruins and other cultural remains bear witness to this. However, the oldest known historical documents register that vineyards have been cultivated in the Alentejo since at least the beginning of National Independence.

Alentejo is very well suited to the **production of very typical fine wines**. The district is covered by vast vineyards extending across the plains under a blazing sun that ripens the grapes which are used to make The Wines of the Alentejo. The Alentejo has **great historical wealth and a well-preserved architectural heritage**. In addition to this its rural areas have unrivalled environmental conditions; a diversified countryside and natural as well as shooting reserves. Its people are friendly, hospitable and very traditional preserving the qualities handed down by their forefathers.

The Alentejo Wines include fruity whites, whether crisp or of an intense and most original bouquet, and the **reds with their fruity, fresh bouquet or their rich, smooth**, balanced aromas.

There are about **13 500 hectares of vineyards** in the Alentejo, which corresponds to just 5% of the area devoted to the cultivation in the country as a whole.



Connect the dots...
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**... and discover the colourful wine
regions of Portugal**