



LANGUEDOC AOP WINES PRESS KIT

TIERS OF LANGUEDOC AOPs

There are more than 30 AOPs in Languedoc. Still wine dominates production, but there are appellations for sparkling wines and sweet wines as well. Until recently, there was no visible hierarchy for the consumer. In 2007, the CIVL implemented the first steps to bring a more recognizable hierarchical system to the AOPs of Languedoc.

AOC LANGUEDOC – THE BASE

Established in 2007, the AOP Languedoc tier is distinguished by wines with a strong quality to price ratio and represent table wines perfect for everyday drinking. In terms of quantity, this level represents about 30% of total production of AOP wine areas of Languedoc.

With the 2007 vintage this became an official AOP and now serves as the base tier for the new tier system. Prior to 2007, there existed AOP Coteaux du Languedoc and 15 different sub-appellations could attach themselves to this nomenclature. Each of these sub-appellations is now working towards separate categorization in their own right. The term Coteaux du Languedoc will continue to appear on labels through 2017.

GRAND VINS DU LANGUEDOC – THE HEART

At the heart of the range, 60% of the region's total AOP production comprise the "Grands Vins" of Languedoc. These wines retail at a slightly higher price and are defined by their ability to express the distinguishing characteristics of the AOP from which they come. Within the Grand Vin tier, it is recognized that there may be small *terroirs* or producers who are exceptional and perhaps worthy of more individual status at a later date. The majority of AOPs in Languedoc fall into the Grand Vin tier.

CRUS DU LANGUEDOC – THE SUMMIT

At the summit, are the "Crus" of Languedoc. These AOP wines come from more concentrated demarcated areas and are often produced in more limited quantities, making them the very top wines that the Languedoc has to offer. As of 2015 there are six approved AOPs in this tier, representing about 4% of total Languedoc AOP wine production. Other AOPs are in the process of applying for this status.

