

What is Languedoc?

The Languedoc-Roussillon is the largest vineyard area and wine producing area in France. Because of this, the AOC wines of Languedoc offer an exceptional selection of quality, value and character, reflecting the elements from which they come. The wines are blessed by an auspicious blend of natural factors, such as abundant sunshine, the Mediterranean Sea, mountains, as well as history and culture and a revolutionary spirit. These are some of the most authentic wines in France.

Covering a large swatch of southern France adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea, Languedoc contains several climate and soil types which factor into the wide variety of wines produced here. The majority of the region has a Mediterranean climate and clay/limestone soils. However, there are pockets with more continental and Atlantic influences as well as schist and granite soils. The region is also characterized by low rainfall levels; some areas see the lowest rainfall in France. Strong winds are also prevalent and the combination of all of these environmental factors mean that Languedoc lends itself to very natural methods of farming and wine production; 30% of all of France's organic wine comes from Languedoc.

Due to the variation in climate and soils, and the grape varieties they support, all styles of wine are produced here. However, wine production is predominantly red and centers on blends of Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Carignan. On the white side one will find grapes such as Bourboulenc, Clairette, Piquepoul, Muscat,



Marsanne, Roussanne, Viognier and Vermentino. Though often working with some of the same basic materials, each AOC produces distinctly different wines bearing the hallmarks of the elements from which they are derived.

Languedoc AOC wines' greatest strengths are the value and quality for price that they offer. Consumers can feel confident with their purchases and afford to discover all that Languedoc has to offer. This is a region with much history and today's pioneering winemakers are combining time honored traditions with new techniques to revitalize the region's appellations and craft wines of remarkable style, character and quality.