

PRESS KIT

CABERNET FRANC IN THE LOIRE VALLEY

2000 YEARS OF HISTORY

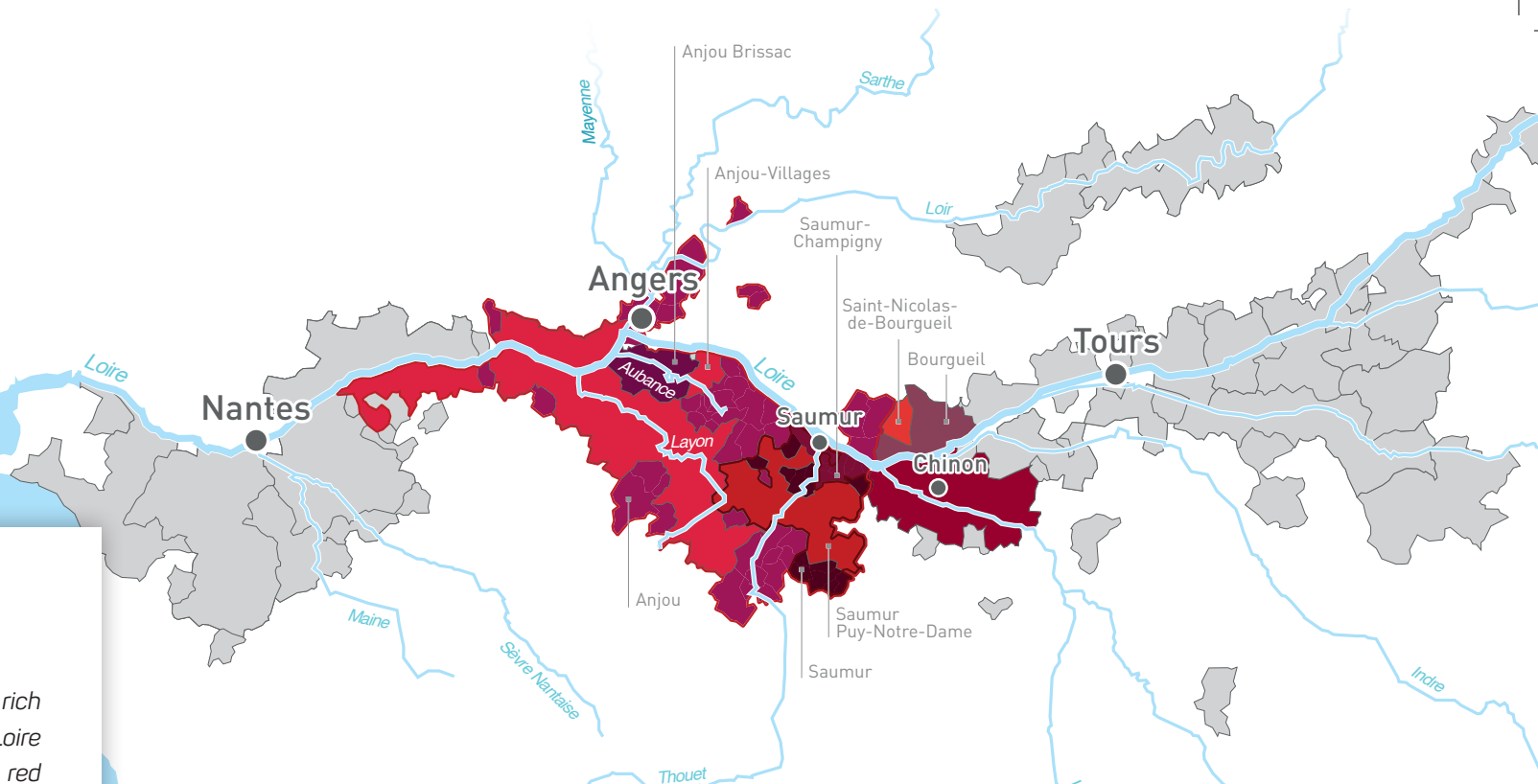


« France's oldest varietal »

Louis Bordenave, Cabernet franc, p 51, Collection de l'ampélogue, Editions Féret, 2016

Foreword

Cabernet franc in the Loire enjoys a rich and ancient history that the Val de Loire winemakers wanted to recount. The nine red wine producing appellations of Val de Loire decided to come together with a shared objective in mind: that of expressing their pride in cultivating this outstanding raw material, this extraordinary varietal that has succeeded in spanning the centuries and evolving in order to find its own unique expression in Val de Loire. This is the most northern production zone for Cabernet franc in France. It is used primarily as a single varietal in the wines of Val de Loire in which it displays a very distinctive character, powerful and fresh yet also well balanced, smooth and approachable. Cabernet franc serves as the highly demanding interpreter of the Loire region's terroirs.



CONTENTS

Cabernet franc does not originate from Bordeaux!.....	p.3
Was the Biturica ancestor of Cabernet franc of Greek origins?	p.4
The people of the « Loire » developed the planting of Cabernet franc in Bordeaux.....	p.5
From Bordeaux to Val de Loire.....	p.6
Cabernet franc known as « Breton » in Val de Loire.....	p.7
The numerous synonyms for Cabernet franc in France	p.8
Cabernet franc from the Middle Ages to the 17 th century.....	p.9
Cabernet franc throughout the world.....	p.10
Cabernet franc in France.....	p.11
Cabernet franc in the Val de Loire appellations.....	p.12-13
The export of Cabernet franc to the United States.....	p.14
Encouraging your community to better understand Cabernet franc.....	p.15-16
Presentation of the AOC's.....	p.17-19
Contact.....	p.20

Cabernet franc does not originate from Bordeaux!



Its origins date back to the constitution of the Bordeaux wine region and we need to search as far as Spain in order to find its ancestry.

The history of the introduction of varieties in France's regions is indeed complex although numerous researchers agree that Cabernet franc originates from a more ancient plant that went by the name of *Biturica*, the origins of which are not fully known. It is believed to have arrived here from Spain after a period of acclimatization: « *The hypothesis that the appearance of Biturica resulted from efforts to plant, in the northern part of Spain, a vine that was up until that point Mediterranean and confined to the Ebro Basin, can therefore back up some very strong assumptions* »².

Following its adaptation in the North of Spain, *Biturica* then arrived in Aquitaine. Cabernet franc « *may have gone by a different name, a*

descendent of the ancient Biturica »³. Its Pyrenean origins would in fact have ensured that the plant was well suited to a humid climate.

Similar forms of Cabernet franc have existed for a very long time in Spain's Basque country in the Txakoli wine region, namely the Morenoa and Txakoli noir. In Basque language they go by the name of Ondarrabi beltza which translates as « *black of Fontarabie* »⁴.

**Similar forms of
Cabernet franc have existed
for a very long time in Spain's
Basque country**

² Roger Dion, *Histoire de la vigne et du vin en France, des origines au XIX^eme s*, p 124, Paris, CNRS Editions, 2010 [© Roger Dion 1959].

³ id, p 160.

⁴ Louis Bordenave, *Cabernet franc*, p 8, Collection de l'ampélogue, Editions Féret, 2016.

Before its arrival in the Basque region, was Biturica in fact Greek?



We know that the vine was brought to France by the Phocian Greeks in the 6th century BC, in the Narbonnaise province, so this raises a valid question as to the very first origins of Biturica.

Numerous scientists have noted similarities between the name Biturica and the names Balisca or Basilica, a varietal cultivated in the Epirus region of northern Greece.

In reality, recent genetic research using molecular tools has confirmed to us the likeness between Cabernet franc and its descendants (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Carmenère) with a genetic background in the Navarre and Basque Pyrenees.⁵

^{6,7} Thanks to various markers applied to Cabernet

franc and also to Txakoli noir and Morenao, their genetic profiles indicate that a very close resemblance exists with a large number of alleles in common which could show that they are descendants or a selection of Biturica.

***We know that the vine
was brought to France
by the Phocian Greeks
in the 6th century BC***

⁵ T. Lacombe, article Contribution à l'étude de l'histoire évolutive de la vigne cultivée vitis vinifera L. par l'analyse de la diversité génétique neutre et de gènes d'intérêt, 2012

⁶ JM Boursiquot, article Parentage of Merlot and related winegrape cultivars of southwestern of France, Australian Journal, 2008

⁷ Scientific references 9 and 10 are quoted from Louis Bordenave, Cabernet franc, p 9, Collection de l'ampélogogue, Editions Féret, 2016

The people of the « Loire » developed the planting of Biturica in Bordeaux



The Bituriges were a Gallic people who formerly controlled the trade of tin and the circulation of merchandise between a part of the Loire and the Rhône. Their territory was significant as it covered what are now the departments of Cher and Indre, stretching as far as Sancerre in the North and as far as the Touraine and Poitou borders in the West⁸. Their capital was the town of Bourges.

During the Gallic War, the Bituriges joined forces with the Vercingetorix in the year 52 BC to fight against the Romans in Alesia. Caesar won the battle and deported the Bituriges who had participated in the battle in the Bordeaux region. From then on the Bituriges went by the name of the Bituriges Visisques and founded the town of Burdigalia (Bordeaux).

The first reference to their arrival in this region was made by geographer Strabon⁹ at the transition from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD.

The Bituriges built solid commercial relations with the Basques and Aquitaines living in the Basque

region of the Pyrenees: « *Pre-Roman archeological findings indicate that they enjoyed a more active and open commercial activity than other Garonne Basin peoples* »¹⁰. It would seem that the Bituriges went searching, near to their new region and in a similar climate, for plants that could be adapted in order to produce their wine locally: « *They introduced wine growing on a large scale in this zone so as to enable them to cultivate and produce their own wine* »¹¹.

In the same era, Pliny the Elder (23-39 AD) and Columelle¹² the Roman agronomist made reference to the Bituriges people¹³ as well as to a varietal that had been newly added to the Roman nomenclature of varietals: « Biturica » or « Biturigiaca ».

The Bituriges built solid commercial relations with the Basques and Aquitaines living in the Basque region of the Pyrenees

⁸ Christophe Batardy, « Le Berry antique - De la carte au modèle-chorème », Revue archéologique du Centre de la France, t. 43, 2004, p. 253-258 (ISSN 1951-6207)

⁹ Strabon, Géographie, IV, 2, 1

¹⁰ Roger Dion, *Histoire de la vigne et du vin en France, des origines au XIX^{ème} s.*, p 122, Paris, CNRS Editions, 2010 [© Roger Dion 1959].

¹¹ Louis Bordenave, *Cabernet franc*, p 7, Collection de l'ampélogue, Editions Féret, 2016

¹² Columelle, RR, III,2,19

¹³ Pline, *Histoire Naturelle*, IV, 108

From Bordeaux to Val de Loire



If we are to give weight to ancient texts, the presence of vine cultivation in Val de Loire is only made reference to as of the 6th century ¹⁴.

However, various archeological studies carried out in Loire-Atlantique, in Piriac ¹⁵ and in the Loire Valley ¹⁶, demonstrate signs of vine cultivation and wine production, in particular in Chênehuttes-tuffeaux ¹⁷ (Anjou appellation), Saint-Patrice (Bourgueil appellation), Crouzilles (Chinon appellation), and Thésée (Touraine appellation). The archeologists' datings have now been given and it is confirmed that between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD there was indeed wine production in Val de Loire.

The vineyards of Val de Loire are therefore antiques of Gallo-Roman origin.

However what these archeological studies do not mention is that there were already plantings of the Cabernet franc or *Biturica* varietal in Bordeaux!

The more advanced argument regarding the presence of Cabernet franc in Val de Loire is generally attributed to powerful commercial alliances between the Bordeaux people and the

Bretons, particularly in the Middle Age. Breton boaters transported various merchandise from the Gironde estuary to the Loire: « *Given this, it would not be surprising if the transportation of varieties led in turn to the transportation of wine* » ¹⁸.

The presence of « Bordeaux vines » near to Anjou is documented in writing for the first time in the 11th century where it was referred to as « Plant of Bordeaux ».

In 1055, the Count of Anjou ordered the religious folk of the Abbey of Ronceray in Angers to forego land close to the confluence of the Loire and Maine rivers and stated his intention to plant Bordeaux vines here. Although many experts have interpreted « *Plant of Bordeaux* » as being the Cabernet franc varietal, no historical text confirms this hypothesis and nothing states explicitly that the varietal in question was Cabernet franc. It is indeed possible that it was another plant...

¹⁴ Grégoire de Tours, Histoire des Francs, VI, 44 et IX, 17

¹⁵ Guy Saindrenan, La vigne et le vin en Bretagne, Chronique des vignobles armoricains, Origines, activité, disparitions et réussites du Finistère au Pays nantais, p 40, éditions Coop Breizh, 2011

¹⁶ Alain Ferdière, La viticulture romaine, Université de Tours, UMR 7324 Citeres-lat, 2007 in Atlas archéologique de Touraine, Elisabeth Zadora-Rio, 2007

¹⁷ Samuel Leturcq, Benoît Musset, La viticulture en Anjou et en Touraine, de l'Antiquité au XIX^e siècle. Une histoire de vigneron. Christian Asselin; Pascal Girault. Le Val de Loire, terre de chenin, Les caves se rebiffent, pp.24-29, 2017, 978-2-9560094-1-2. hal-01967325

¹⁸ Roger Dion, Histoire de la vigne et du vin en France, des origines au XIX^{ème} s, p 160 Paris, CNRS Editions, 2010 [© Roger Dion 1959].

Cabernet franc goes by the name of « Breton » in Val de Loire



Anonymous painting named « François Rabelais » dating from the 17th century exhibited at the National Museum of the Château and the Triérons.

In Anjou-Touraine, the name « Breton wine » or « Breton plant » is commonly used to refer to Cabernet franc.

Philosopher and writer François Rabelais (1494-1553) first makes reference to it in his 1534 novel *Gargantua*: « What I mean by the good Breton wine is not that which grows in Brittany but that which grows in Verron »¹⁹. Verron is a territory belonging to the Chinon appellation.

Several different theories have been put forwards to justify this name although the most likely is that the names of the wines were often derived from their place of commerce. *Breton* or *Berton* was named as such because it was in Nantes or neighboring ports that the Val de Loire winemakers would collect it²⁰: « The name Breton is derived from the practice of naming based on

*the toponymy of the place of supply. In this case, the term Breton is not a demonym and the vines themselves are not Breton. It was the Breton merchants who ensured the supply of wines and plants in the ports of Nantes and its surrounding areas... »*²¹. Another theory that has been put forward is that the place of supply for Cabernet franc plants was the port of Capbreton, at the Adour river mouth in Landes²².

**For ampelographers
the Breton-Cabernet franc
identity is undisputed.**

¹⁹ François Rabelais, *Gargantua*, p222 dans Rabelais, Les Cinq livres des faits et dits de Gargantua et Pantagruel, Edition intégrale bilingue, Marie-Madeline Fragonard, Edition Quarto Gallimard, 2017.

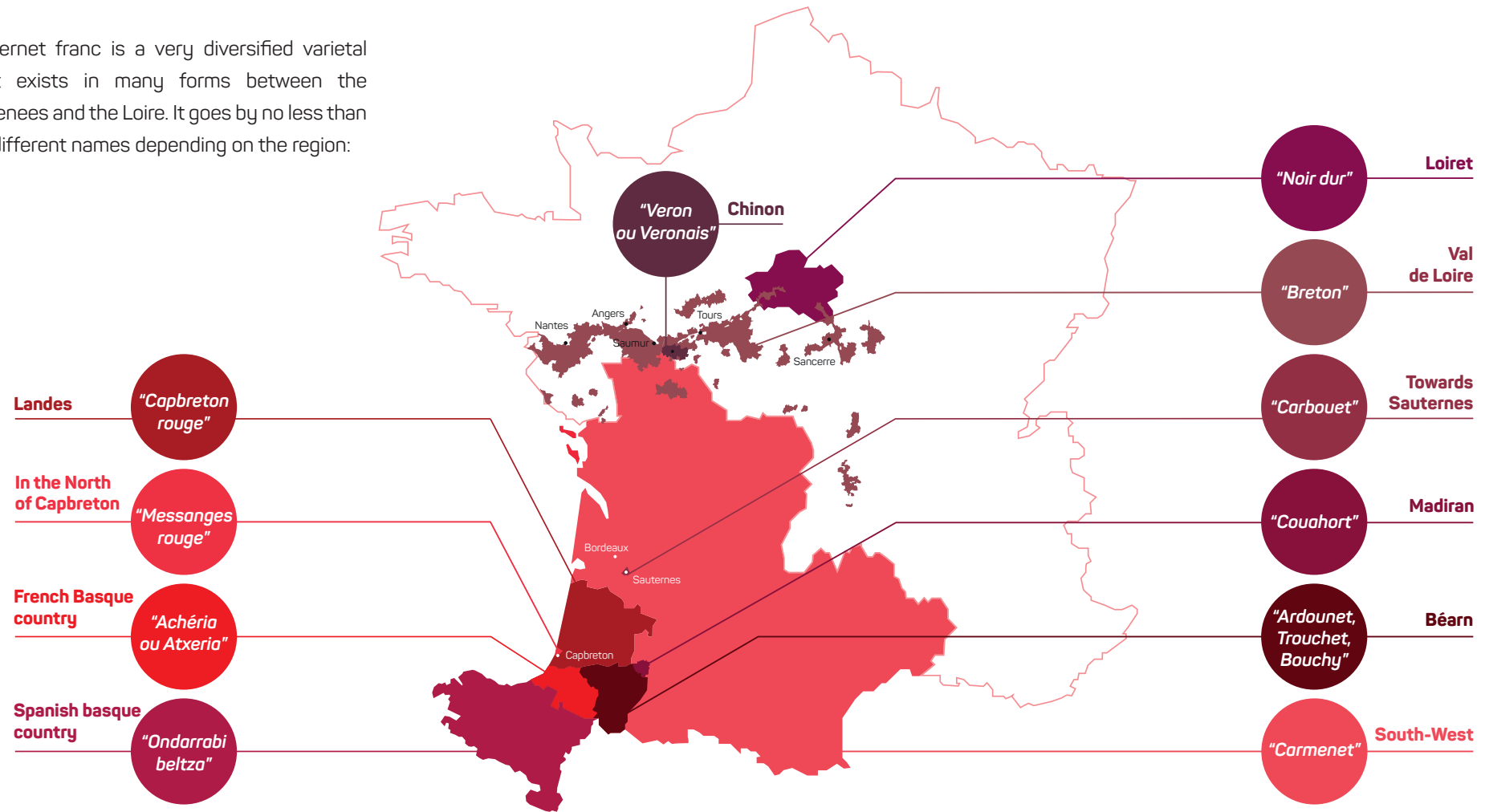
²⁰ Roger Dion, *Histoire de la vigne et du vin en France, des origines au XIX^{ème} s.*, p 159 Paris, CNRS Editions, 2010 [© Roger Dion 1959].

²¹ Henri Galinié, Les façons de différencier et de nommer vignes et plants (1050-1850), Recherches sur l'histoire des cépages, 13. 2019. halshs-02106540.

²² Guy Lavignac, quoted by Louis Bordenave, *Cabernet franc*, p 5, Collection de l'ampélogogue, Editions Féret, 2016

The various synonyms for Cabernet franc in France according to Louis Bordenave ²³

Cabernet franc is a very diversified varietal that exists in many forms between the Pyrenees and the Loire. It goes by no less than 14 different names depending on the region:



²³ Louis Bordenave, *Cabernet franc*, p 12 to 14, Collection de l'ampélogogue, Editions Féret, 2016

Cabernet franc plantings from the Middle Ages to the 17th century:



1415, miniature of « Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry » paints a scene of the harvests opening out onto the windows of the imposing residence owned by this great Lord in Saumur.

Experts agree on the fact that Cabernet franc has been, since the Middle Ages, one of the bases of the production of red wine ²⁴ in spite of its relatively modest surface area.

Secular documents make little reference to varieties, nor to the color of the wine, which makes it difficult to accurately measure the presence of this varietal. However, the Middle Age is the period in which monastic viticulture, with the development of Christianity ²⁵ and princely viticulture on one hand, and viticulture relating to châteaux ²⁶ on the other hand, engendered the expansion of viticulture in general and therefore the more widespread planting of Cabernet franc.

The Loire Valley, with its presence of royal families throughout long periods in history as well as its numerous chateaux and abbeys, was a conducive environment for vine cultivation owing to its advantageous geographical position with commercial connections from the Loire and its subsidiaries to the

Atlantic Ocean. This enabled the major merchants of the North - England and Flanders - to easily access the supply of wine. Furthermore, the first written act relating to the export of wines across the channel dates back to 1154 and was signed in Anjou with the texts making reference to « *the wines of Anjou* ».

In the early 17th century, the Cardinal of Richelieu sped up the development of Cabernet franc in the Loire Valley by requesting that the Bordeaux region send thousands of vine grafts to the Loire Valley in order to replant the region, in particular in Fontevraud, Chinon and Saint-Nicolas de Bourgueil.

The Cardinal of Richelieu sped up the development of Cabernet franc in the Loire Valley.

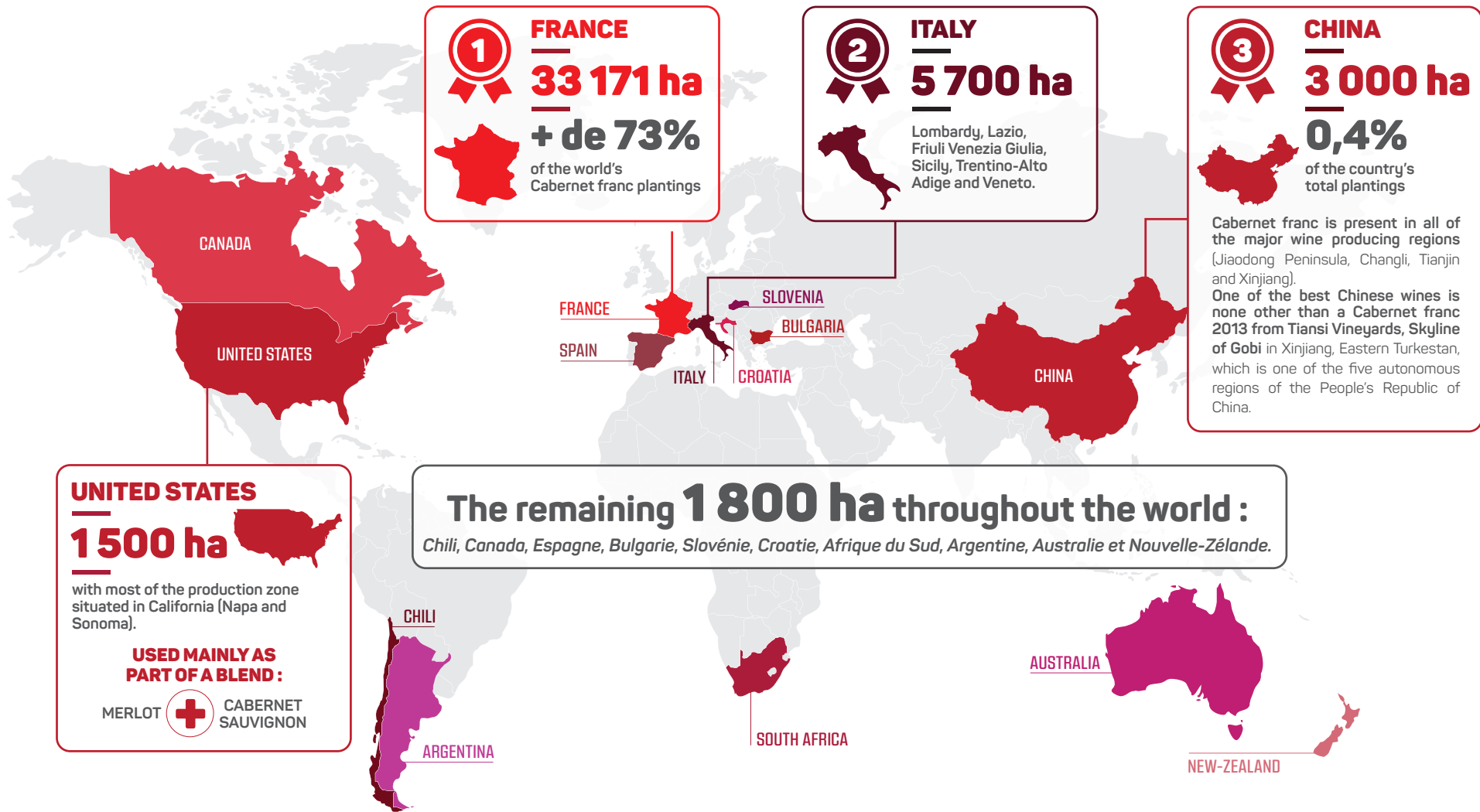
²⁴ Louis Bordenave, *Cabernet franc*, p 14, Collection de l'ampélogogue, Editions Féret, 2016

²⁵ Matthieu Lecoutre, *Atlas historique du vin en France, de l'antiquité à nos jours*, p22, Editions Autrement, 2019.

²⁶ Roger Dion, *Histoire de la vigne et du vin en France, des origines au XIX^{ème} s.*, p 186 to 193 Paris, CNRS Editions, 2010 [© Roger Dion 1959].

Cabernet franc throughout the world ²⁷

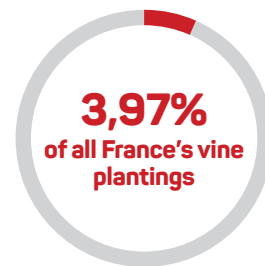
+ de 45 000 ha of Cabernet franc are planted throughout the world :



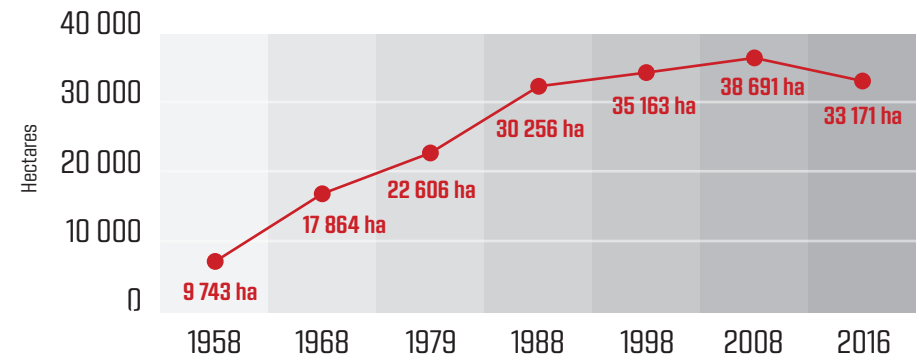
²⁷ Grand Atlas des vignobles de France de Benoît France, Plantgrape (website of IFV, INRA on varietales), studies by France Agrimer and OIV, website dico-du-vin.fr, website exquis.ca

Cabernet franc in France ²⁸

PLANTATION OF CABERNET FRANC :

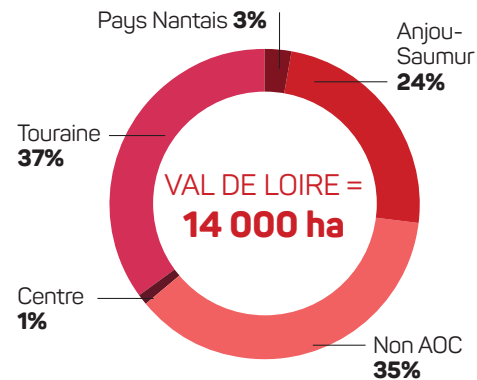


EVOLUTION OF CABERNET FRANC SURFACES IN FRANCE

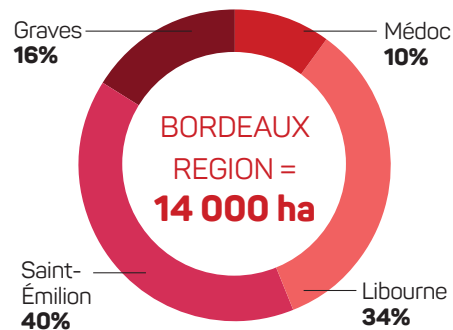


CABERNET FRANC PRODUCTION AREAS IN FRANCE:

The Bordeaux region and Val de Loire are equal in terms of surface area:



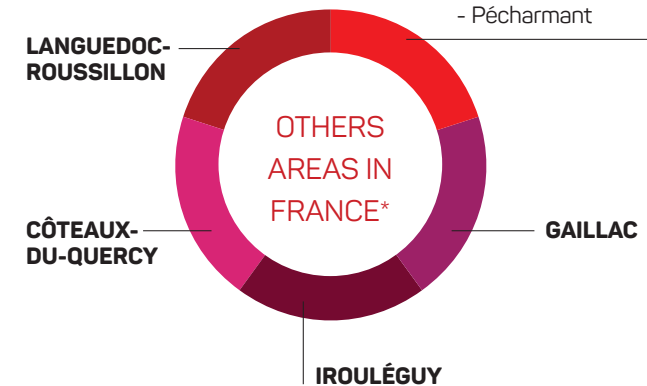
Often used for single varietal wines



Used as part of a blend with Cabernet sauvignon and Merlot.

BERGERAC REGION :

- Bergerac
- Côtes-de-Bergerac
- Montravel
- Pécharmant



*More than 5,000 ha remaining distributed in other regions of France (non-proportional graph).

²⁸ www.vinsvalde Loire.fr, Grand Atlas des vignobles de France by Benoît France, Plantgrape (website of IFV, INRA on varieties), studies by France Agrimer and OIV, website dico-du-vin.fr

Cabernet franc in the Val de Loire appellations



According to Louis Bordenave, Cabernet franc is « undoubtedly the oldest red varietal »²⁹. Val de Loire offers excellent conditions for the production of high quality Cabernet francs thanks to its exceptional terroirs and low yields. These wines can be enjoyed in their youth for their unrivaled fruitiness and smooth structures. With bottle age the Cabernet francs from Val de Loire retain their remarkable freshness and silky tannins with no drying sensation, quite the opposite in fact. This varietal ripens well in a number of different terroirs.

The subsoils of the Anjou wine region are composed primarily of slate schist, sandstone schist and carboniferous schist as well as volcanic rock, all of which originate from the Armorica Massif. Between the vines of Anjou and Saumur there is a transition between the ancient bedrock of the West and the sedimentary basin of the East. In the wine regions of Saumur and Touraine, the subsoil is composed of tuffeau chalk and flinty clay from the Parisian Basin. As for the vine terraces that run alongside the Loire and Vienne, they are composed of sand and rolled gravel shaped by the rivers and deposited over time.

This diverse geology contributed to the existence of a multitude of soil types and exposures which have greatly influenced the choice of varietals in winemaking practices here.

The Loire and its subsidiaries play a moderating role which is very welcome in the vineyards. By fostering the existence of a multitude of microclimates that are well suited to vine cultivation, the Loire can be said to contribute to the exceptional diversity of the region's wines.

14 000 ha
in Val de Loire :

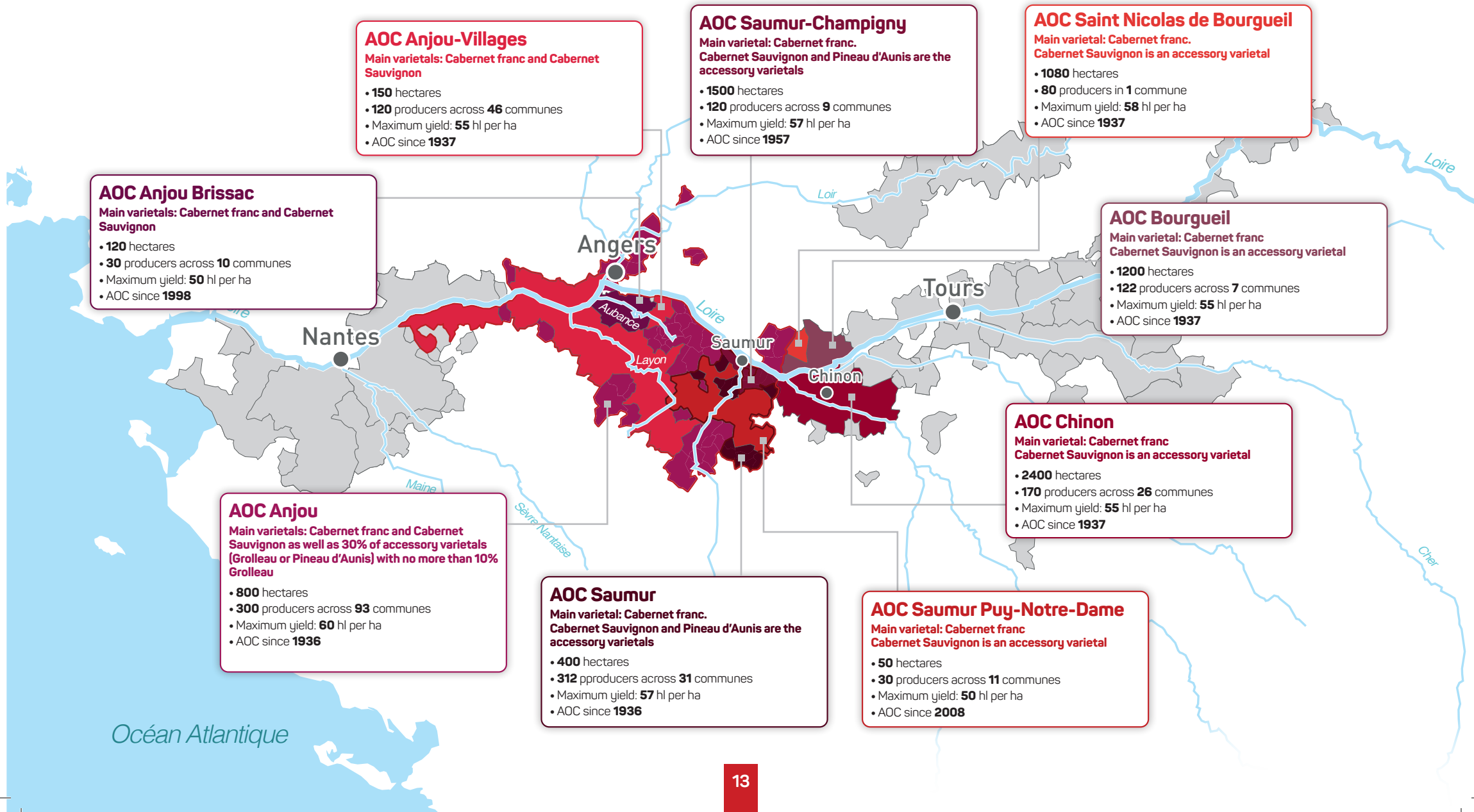
42% of this varietal's surface under vine in France.

25% of total plantings in Val de Loire which covers a total of **56,900 ha** of surface under vine

56% of total red plantings in Val de Loire.

²⁹ Louis Bordenave, *Cabernet franc*, p 51, Collection de l'ampélogologie, Editions Féret, 2016.

Up and down the Loire river, Cabernet franc in the Val de Loire appellations



AOC Anjou Brissac
 Main varietals: Cabernet franc and Cabernet Sauvignon
 • 120 hectares
 • 30 producers across 10 communes
 • Maximum yield: 50 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1998

AOC Anjou-Villages
 Main varietals: Cabernet franc and Cabernet Sauvignon
 • 150 hectares
 • 120 producers across 46 communes
 • Maximum yield: 55 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1937

AOC Saumur-Champigny
 Main varietal: Cabernet franc.
 Cabernet Sauvignon and Pineau d'Aunis are the accessory varietals
 • 1500 hectares
 • 120 producers across 9 communes
 • Maximum yield: 57 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1957

AOC Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil
 Main varietal: Cabernet franc.
 Cabernet Sauvignon is an accessory varietal
 • 1080 hectares
 • 80 producers in 1 commune
 • Maximum yield: 58 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1937

AOC Bourgueil
 Main varietal: Cabernet franc
 Cabernet Sauvignon is an accessory varietal
 • 1200 hectares
 • 122 producers across 7 communes
 • Maximum yield: 55 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1937

AOC Chinon
 Main varietal: Cabernet franc
 Cabernet Sauvignon is an accessory varietal
 • 2400 hectares
 • 170 producers across 26 communes
 • Maximum yield: 55 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1937

AOC Anjou
 Main varietals: Cabernet franc and Cabernet Sauvignon as well as 30% of accessory varietals (Grolleau or Pineau d'Aunis) with no more than 10% Grolleau
 • 800 hectares
 • 300 producers across 93 communes
 • Maximum yield: 60 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1936

AOC Saumur
 Main varietal: Cabernet franc.
 Cabernet Sauvignon and Pineau d'Aunis are the accessory varietals
 • 400 hectares
 • 312 producers across 31 communes
 • Maximum yield: 57 hl per ha
 • AOC since 1936

AOC Saumur Puy-Notre-Dame
 Main varietal: Cabernet franc
 Cabernet Sauvignon is an accessory varietal
 • 50 hectares
 • 30 producers across 11 communes
 • Maximum yield: 50 hl per ha
 • AOC since 2008

Océan Atlantique

The export of Val de Loire wines to the United States

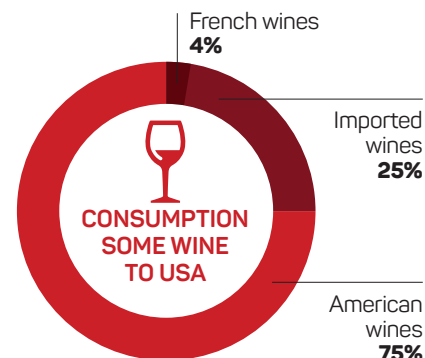
THE EXPORT OF LOIRE VALLEY WINES TO THE UNITED STATES



CONTINUED EXPORT GROWTH:

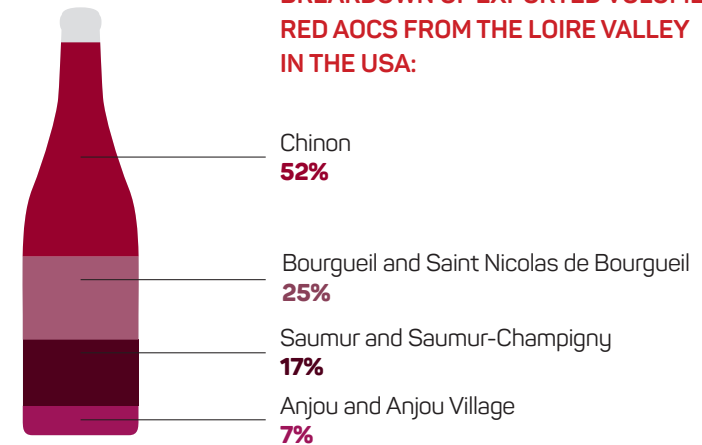


WINE CONSUMPTION IN THE UNITED STATES

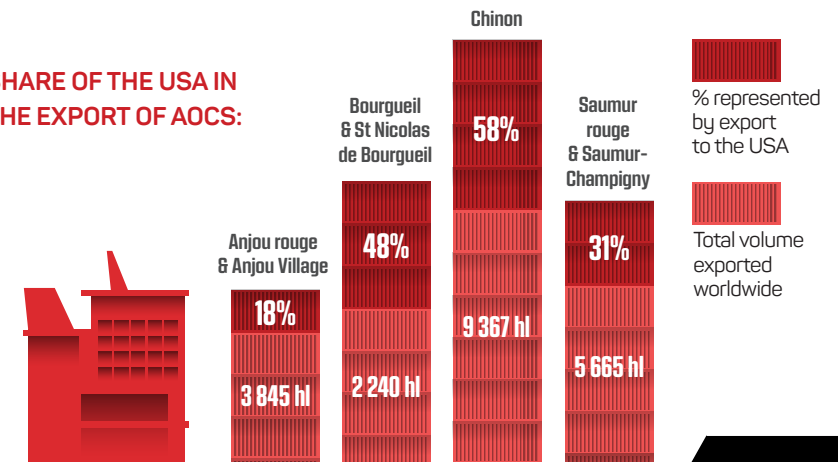


LOIRE VALLEY RED WINES - CABERNET FRANC

BREAKDOWN OF EXPORTED VOLUMES RED AOCs FROM THE LOIRE VALLEY IN THE USA:



SHARE OF THE USA IN THE EXPORT OF AOCs:



Encouraging your community to better understand Cabernet franc:



France is the largest producer of Cabernet franc in the world:

TRUE, 73% of the world's Cabernet franc surface under vine is in France.

Cabernet franc is used predominantly as part of a blend in the Bordeaux region:

TRUE, it is blended with Cabernet Sauvignon and/or Merlot.

Val de Loire has as much surface under vine planted with Cabernet franc as the Bordeaux region:

TRUE, Cabernet franc covers 14,000 hectares in Val de Loire which is exactly the same as in Bordeaux.

Cabernet franc makes up 52% of the famous Château Cheval Blanc from Saint-Emilion:

TRUE, Château Cheval Blanc is one of the grand cru classés that uses Cabernet franc. It counts for 52% of the composition and is blended with Merlot (43%) and Cabernet sauvignon (5%). The other Saint-Emilion grand cru is Château Ausone which is composed of 60% Cabernet franc.

The Gallic were responsible for the development of Cabernet franc in Bordeaux:

TRUE, the Biturgies arrived in Bordeaux towards the end of the 1st century BC and the beginning of the 1st century AD and planted the ancestor of Cabernet franc in Bordeaux.



Cabernet franc is only cultivated in France:

FALSE, this varietal counts for at least 45,000 ha of vines throughout the world of which only 33,171 ha are in France.

Cabernet franc originates from Bordeaux:

FALSE, the ancestor of Cabernet franc originates from northern Spain.

China is the world's second largest producer of Cabernet franc:

FALSE, it's Italy.

Cabernet franc does not age well:

FALSE, it can be kept for many years without losing its freshness.

Encouraging your community to better understand Cabernet franc:



QUESTION GAME:

In which two French wine regions is the Cabernet franc varietal most widely planted?

ANSWER: Bordeaux and Val de Loire

Which part of Val de Loire exports the most Cabernet franc to the United States?

ANSWER: Chinon

Name at least two Val de Loire appellations that use Cabernet franc in single varietal wines?

ANSWER: Bourgueil, Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil, Chinon, Saumur, Saumur-Champigny

What is the other name for Cabernet franc in Val de Loire ?

ANSWER: Breton

What is the ancestral name for Cabernet franc?

ANSWER: Biturica

In what year was the first act signed relating to the export of Loire wines?

ANSWER: 1154 signed in Anjou

What name is given to the limestone subsoils found between Touraine and Anjou?

ANSWER: Tuffeau

Which French personality has written the most on the subject of wine and also made the first reference to "breton wine" ?

ANSWER: François Rabelais in the 1534 novel "Gargantua".

Which two Val de Loire appellations are most widely planted with Cabernet franc?

ANSWER: AOC Saumur-Champigny (1500 ha) and Chinon (2400 ha).

Presentation of the AOC's



AOC ANJOU

*a regional appellation with
a unique schist terroir!*

This regional AOC covers 800 ha and is produced by around 300 different winemakers. The soils of the AOC are known locally as "Black Anjou" and are characterized by the presence of slate schists. This schist terroir, combined with the warm climate of Anjou, gives rise to the wines with a distinctive minerality and freshness!



AOC ANJOU BRISSAC

*wines produced right beside
the slate mines!*

The winemakers of the Brissac region have long held the conviction that their terroir and savoir-faire are capable of producing some very original and high quality red wines. The tireless work and commitment of these professionals led to the wine region being granted AOC status in 1998. The geographical location of the Brissac wine region (split between 10 communes surrounding Brissac), south of the coal mines of Trélazé, accentuates the mineral expression of these wines owing to the slate veins running through the Loire and present on these hillsides. Cabernet sauvignon is often blended with Cabernet franc in the wines from this AOC.



AOC ANJOU-VILLAGES

*a unique selection of parcels
planted in schist soils!*

AOC Anjou villages is made from a selection of parcels split between 46 communes in Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres. It covers 150 ha and is produced by around 120 different winemakers. The appellation's slate schist soils impart depth and structure to the wines!

Presentation of the AOC's



AOC BOURGUEIL

one AOC: two terroirs

Cabernet franc has been grown in Bourgueil for the past 1000 years. 122 different winemakers currently cultivate this varietal in the appellation's 1200 ha of vines which are planted in the rolling landscapes and gently sloping hillsides of this south facing terroir. Depending on the terroir in which it is planted, the Cabernet franc varietal offers varying styles of Bourgueil, from light bodied wines grown in gravel soils to more complex wines destined for bottle age which are grown in the tuffeau limestone.



AOC CHINON

humanist ideals in a bottle!

Chinon has something about it that other wines simply do not have and that is a drop of Rabelais' humanist ideals, the ingredient that binds us all to each other. To open a bottle of Chinon is to drink the writings and philosophies of Rabelais himself. This appellation lies beside the Vienne river and is the largest red wine producing appellation in Val de Loire. The wines have been shaped by their rich history, the unique qualities of Cabernet franc grown in the North of this wine region, the beauty of its landscapes and countryside, its steep hillsides and sweeping lowlands. The Chinon appellation is intrinsically linked to the imaginary world of Rabelais. AOC Chinon produces Red, White and Rosé wines thanks to the work of 170 different wine domaines split between 26 communes with 2400 ha of Cabernet franc and Chenin.



AOC SAINT NICOLAS DE BOURGUEIL

the only communal appellation for red wine in Val de Loire.

The Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil appellation surrounds the commune of the same name and covers 1080 hectares of the 3645 ha of vines situated within this commune. Cabernet franc is the flagship varietal of the appellation and is cultivated by around a hundred winemakers, each seeking to offer their own personal interpretation of the varietal. This quest for individuality is strengthened by the continued dedication of the collective winemakers. Many children have followed in their parents' winemaking footsteps and even in those of their grandparents. This new generation of highly motivated winemakers all have in common that they cultivate small to medium sized independent wine domaines. All of the structures are similar in that they are family or privately owned which enables them to give free rein to their individualism and also to their desire to create. The wines of Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil are real crowd pleasers with their notes of red fruits, raspberry, strawberry, blueberry and floral notes such as peony and violet. They offer excellent balance and a fresh, crunchy acidity complemented by silky smooth tannins resulting in some of the most slender and elegant wines of the region.

Presentation of the AOC's



AOC SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY

the 100% tuffeau appellation

Produced in 9 winemaking villages surrounding Saumur, the Cabernet franc from this appellation owes its exceptional freshness to its tuffeau limestone soils. This limestone rock gives the wines of Saumur-Champigny their silky smooth tannins and unrivaled freshness on the palate. This type of rock produces both light bodied and fruity wines as well as some more complex and concentrated ones. The appellation is known for the diversity of the red wines it produces, albeit always fruity and well balanced. The winemakers of Saumur-Champigny have succeeded in creating a range of wines that can be enjoyed from aperitif right through to dessert, from picnics to gastronomic dinners, from French dishes to a more exotic cuisine. The winemakers of Saumur-Champigny have long been committed to preserving their soils and their environment and major works began in 2004 with collective efforts to plant hedgerows in order to preserve biodiversity in the vineyards. Now over 90% of the appellation's wine domaines have been granted environmental certification. The wines of Saumur-Champigny are present in over 70 different countries. The United States, Belgium, United Kingdom and Canada remain the major historical markets for these wines although there are a number of more recent emerging markets such as Mexico, China and Taiwan...



AOC SAUMUR PUY-NOTRE-DAME

a wild and youthful spirit!

Located in the South of the Saumur region, the terroirs of the Saumur Puy-Notre-Dame appellation benefit from the close relationship enjoyed by its winemakers.

The terroirs were formed between the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods and the wines produced here are well structured, powerful and harmonious. Aromas of red and black fruits complement the remarkable persistency of these wines which are known for their excellent cellaring potential. The average volume is 2500 HL per year with 50 hectares cultivated primarily in the communes of Puy Notre Dame, Brossay and Vaudelnay as well as Berrie and Pouançay in Vienne. Its 80m altitude ensures that the vine is spared the spring frosts whilst various criteria must be adhered to in the appellation including no chaptalization and limitations on yields.



AOC SAUMUR

one of the very first AOC's in France - as far back as 1936!

The patience of the winemakers and their ability to observe these outstanding terroirs have contributed to the exceptionally high quality of the wines from AOC Saumur red. The wines that now grace our tables are well suited to a wide variety of occasions, from a relaxed dinner with friends to gastronomic dining. They have won themselves a legion of admirers thanks to their open, direct style and generosity. The Saumur red appellation now covers 400 hectares of Cabernet franc planted in limestone soils (tuffeau) and Jurassic soils (the Brossay volcanic rift).

CONTACT



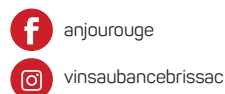
SAINT NICOLAS DE BOURGUEIL

Syndicat des Vins de Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil
33 Avenue Saint Vincent • 37140 Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil
02 47 97 37 08 - 06 51 91 51 23 - contact@stnicolasdebourgueil.fr



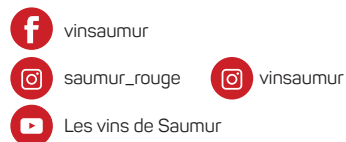
ANJOU, ANJOU VILLAGES ET ANJOU BRISSAC

Fédération Viticole de l'Anjou et de Saumur
73 rue Plantagenêt • 49024 Angers
02 41 88 60 57 - contact@federationviticole.com



SAUMUR ET SAUMUR PUY-NOTRE-DAME

FVAS - Les Vins de Saumur
49 rue du Maréchal Leclerc • 49400 Saumur
02 41 51 16 40 - 06 73 35 85 84 - contact@vins-de-saumur.com

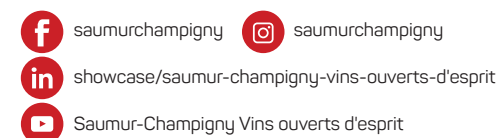


LES VINS DE
S•A•U•M•U•R



SYNDICAT SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY

Syndicat des Producteurs de Saumur-Champigny
49 rue du Maréchal Leclerc • 49400 Saumur
02.41.51.16.40 - 06.28.34.40.22 - infos@saumur-champigny.com



CHINON

Syndicat des vins de Chinon
Impasse des Caves Paintes • 37500 Chinon
02 47 93 30 44 - 06 85 75 88 31 - contact@chinon.com



BOURGUEIL

Syndicat des vins de Bourgueil
18 place de l'église • 37140 Bourgueil
02 47 97 92 20 - 06 33 50 66 59 - contact@vin-bourgueil.com

