

A Tour of France

- Background and History
- French Culture, Wine Laws and Global Influence
- Classic Regions
 - Champagne
 - Alsace
 - Loire
 - Burgundy
 - Rhône
 - Bordeaux



Background and History

- 600 BC: Greek immigrants arrive in Provence with wine and vines
- 300 AD: Wine is grown in Burgundy and Bordeaux; Champagne and Loire soon follow
- 1100: Cistercian monks begin tending vineyards
- 1920s: Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée and defining the notion of *terroir*

French Culture and Style

- Terroir: a sense of place
- Love for food and pride in place:
ACs for wine, cheese, chicken, lavender,
honey, lentils, mustard, peppers, butter...
- Wine and food go together (and grow together)
- AOC system influences the world → AOP

French Quality System

- Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée
→ Appellation d'Origine Protégée
 - Area
 - Varietal
 - Yield
 - Ripeness
 - Vineyard management
 - Winemaking techniques
- Vin Délimité de Qualité Supérieure
- Vin de Pays
→ Indication Géographique Protégée
- Vin de Table

Champagne

- Northern France
- Cool climate
- Chalky soil
- Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier
- Five sub-regions
- Traditional Method
- RM v. NM
- Recent vintages...

Tasting component

Alsace

- Northern France
- Vosges Mountains
- Warm climate
- Riesling, Pinot Gris, Gewurztraminer, Muscat, Sylvaner
- Alsace AOP, Alsace Grand Cru AOP, Vendanges Tardives, Sélections des Grains Nobles

Tasting component

Loire

- Northern/central France
- Loire River
- *Jardin de la France*
- Pays Nantais: Muscadet
- Anjou-Saumur: Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc
- Touraine: Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc
- Central Vineyards: Sauvignon Blanc

Tasting component

Burgundy

- Northern/central France
- Chardonnay; Pinot Noir
- Limestone soil
 - Grand Cru, 1er Cru, villages, *lieux dits*
- Chablis
- Côte d'Or (Côte de Nuits, Côte de Beaune)
 - Gevrey-Chambertin, Chambolle-Musigny, etc.
 - Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet, etc.
- Côte Chalonnaise & Mâconnais
- Beaujolais: Gamay
- Recent vintages...

Tasting component

Rhône

- Southern/central France
- Rhône River
- Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre; Marsanne, Rousanne, Viognier
- Northern Rhône:
Côte-Rôtie, Hermitage, Cornas
- Southern Rhône: Gigondas, Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Côtes du Rhône
- Recent vintages...

Tasting component

Bordeaux

- Western/Central France
- Maritime climate
- Left bank: Médoc and Graves... gravel soil = Cabernet dominated
 - St. Estèphe, Pauillac, St. Julien, Listrac, Moulis, Margaux
- 1855 Classification
- Right bank: Pomerol and St. Émilion... clay soil = Merlot dominated
- Bordeaux Blanc
- Dessert wines: Sauternes
- Recent vintages...

Tasting component