



March 2011

Grapevine

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For the Love of France A Primer on French Wine



French wine: For some, those two words conjure thoughts of magic in a glass, beautiful, friendly wines reflecting the terroir of the French region from which they come. For others, French wine is complicated or intimidating or elitist and something to be avoided at all costs. Understanding a few basics, however, can go a long way in chasing away those off-putting images and invite even the most skeptical wine drinkers to give French wine a try.

One thing to note: French wines are not named for the grapes from which they are produced but for the region from which they come. Therefore, knowing which grapes

are grown in which regions will help you to make a choice as you stare at all those bottles with frequently long names.

Alsace, the smallest wine region in France, is in the northeast next to the German border. Alsatian wines can be dry or sweet and include Gewurtztraminer, Cremant d'Alsace, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Sylvaner, Tokay and Pinot Gris.

Burgundy is on the eastern side, from south of Paris down to Lyon. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are its wines, and its districts or sub-regions each have different soils, resulting in

a wide spectrum of wines. Beaujolais is the only district that grows a different grape — that being the Gamay grape.

Champagne, one of the most well-known wine regions in the world is east of Paris, west of Alsace and north of Burgundy. Its grapes include Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Only wine from here can be called Champagne. From anywhere else, it is called sparkling wine. Its chalky soil produces exceptional wines.

Cotes du Rhone is in the Rhone Valley, south of Lyon to the Mediterranean. Its wines range from full-bodied to fruity, and while up to thirteen different grapes can go into a Cotes du Rhone, the principal grapes are Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre and Cinsault. Any combination of the thirteen can be used, but these are the most common.

Provence, running along the Mediterranean, is known for Rosé wines which are crisp, dry and refreshing summer sippers and reds. The grapes are mainly Rhone varietals.

Languedoc-Roussillon is located on the Mediterranean Sea from the Rhone River west to the Pyrenees and is

one of France's largest wine regions, producing mostly red wines. Its grapes are Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignan, Cinsault, Grenache, Merlot and Mourvedre.

Bordeaux is located in the southwest of France, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and accounts for one third of France's wine production. The grapes grown include Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc for reds, and Sauvignon Blanc and Semillion for whites. These grapes are blended, using varying amounts of each red or white grape, creating a spectrum of variety in Bordeaux wines.

The **Loire Valley** is thought to be one of the most beautiful regions of France and is where Vouvray is located. Situated in the west central part of France, its wines are Cabernet Franc, Chenin Blanc and Sauvignon Blanc.

So, the next time you're in the store, stroll the aisles like you're strolling through France, and give its beautiful wines a try. You just might be pleasantly surprised. ♦

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New 90s:

Trapiche Broquel Malbec 2008	90 pts. WE	Argentina	\$12.49	(reg \$14.49)
Maiepe Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2009	90 pts. RP	Argentina	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Maiepe Reserve Malbec 2009	90 pts. RP	Argentina	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Graffigna Reserve Malbec 2008	90 pts. RP	Argentina	\$ 9.39	(reg \$10.99)
Domaine Terlato & Chapoutier Shiraz-Viognier 2008	90 pts. WS	Australia	\$15.29	(reg \$17.99)
Petra Zingari 2008	90 pts. WA	Italy	\$11.89	(reg \$13.99)
Joseph Carr Reserve Chardonnay 2008	93 pts. WE	California	\$21.49	(reg \$25.99)
The Winner's Tank Shiraz 2008	90 pts. RP	Australia	\$11.89	(reg \$13.99)
Besllum Red Wine 2008	91 pts. RP	Spain	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Embocadero Tempranillo 2008	91 pts. RP	Spain	\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Catena Zapata 2008	91 pts. RP	Argentina	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Starborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009	90 pts. WS	Australia	\$10.29	(reg \$12.49)
Mezza Corona Teroldego Riserva 200X	91 pts. WE	Italy	\$18.69	(reg \$21.99)
Zind-Humbrecht Pinot Blanc 2008	91 pts. WS	Alsace	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
Chateau Rollan De By Medoc 2008 Top 100 (WS)	90 pts. WS	France	\$21.99	(reg \$25.99)
Paul Jaboulet Gigondas 'Pierre Aiguille' 2007	90 pts. W&S	Rhone	\$21.19	(reg \$32.99)
Schramsberg Mirabelle Brut Rose	93 pts. WS	California	\$22.99	(reg \$26.99)
Domaine Carneros Brut by Taittinger 2006	91 pts. WS	California	\$20.99	(reg \$24.99)
Roederer Estate Anderson Valley Brut	92 pts. W&S	California	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
Santa Margherita Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore	91 pts. W&S	Italy	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Lamoreaux Landing Dry Riesling 2009	92 pts. W&S	Finger Lakes	\$ 8.99	(reg \$10.49)
Mollydooker 'The Boxer' Shiraz 2009	91 pts. WS	Australia	\$21.99	(reg \$27.99)
Sterling Vineyards SVR Reserve Red Wine 2007	91 pts. WE	Napa Valley	\$25.49	(reg \$29.99)
Dona Paula Estate Malbec 2009	90 pts. WS	Argentina	\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Starmont Chardonnay 2008	90 pts. WS	Napa Valley	\$13.99	(reg \$16.49)
Elk Cove Vineyards Pinot Gris 2009 Top 100 (WS)	90 pts. WS	Willamette Valley	\$13.99	(reg \$15.99)
Lancatay Malbec 2009	90 pts. RP	Argentina	\$ 8.49	(reg \$ 9.99)
Georges Duboeuf Morgon 2009	93 pts. WS	France	\$14.99	(reg \$17.99)
Alamos Seleccion Malbec 2008	90 pts. WE	Argentina	\$16.99	(reg \$14.99)
Casajus 2006	91 pts. RP	Spain	\$16.99	(reg \$ 19.99)
E. Guigal Cotes du Rhone 2007	90 pts. RP	Rhone Valley	\$11.49	(reg \$13.49)
Castello d'Albola Chianti Classico 2007 Top 100 (WS)	90 pts. WS	Chianti	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Domaine de Nizas Syrah/Mourvedre/Grenache 2006	90 pts. WS	Languedoc	\$13.99	(reg \$16.99)
Lan Crianza 2006 1.5 Ltr (Top 100/WS)	90 pts. WS	Rioja	\$19.99	(reg \$22.99)
Paul Dolan Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 92 Pts (WE)	90 pts. WS	Mendocino	\$18.99	(reg \$22.99)
Kunde Chardonnay 2008	90 pts. W&S	Sonoma	3/\$24.99	(reg \$12.99)

More Terrific 90s:

Lan Crianza 2006 (Top 100/WS)	90 pts. WS	Rioja	\$10.99	(reg \$11.99)
Elements by Artesa Red Cabernet/Grenache/Tempranillo 2006	90 pts. WE	California	\$14.49	(reg \$16.99)
Ruffino Ducale Chianti Classico Riserva 2006	90 pts. WS	Chianti	\$21.39	(reg \$26.99)
Ruffino Modus 2007 (WS Top 100)	96 pts. WS	Toscana	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
Gloria Ferrer Sonoma Brut Sparkling Wine Top 100/WS	90 pts. WS	Sonoma	\$13.59	(reg \$15.99)
Mumm Napa Brut Prestige Sparkling Wine (Top 100/WS)	90 pts. WS	Napa	\$16.19	(reg \$19.99)
Primus Cabernet/Syrah/Merlot/Carmenere 2006	90 pts. WE	Mendoza	\$16.49	(reg \$18.99)
Flechas de los Andes Gran Malbec 2007	92 pts. RP	Argentina	\$14.99	(reg \$17.99)
Standing Stone Riesling Ice 2008	91 pts. WS	Finger Lakes	\$18.69	(reg \$21.99)
Santa Alicia Reserva Camenere 2008	90 pts. WS	Chile	\$ 6.99	(reg \$ 8.99)
Standing Stone Gewurztraminer Ice 2008	91 pts. WS	Finger Lakes	\$18.69	(reg \$21.99)
Arnoux & Filis Vieilles Vignes Gigondas 2007	91 pts. RP	Rhone Valley	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon 2007	90 pts. RP	Napa	\$19.99	(reg \$24.99)
J Pinot Gris 2009	90 pts. WE	California	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Pacific Rim Riesling (Organic) 2008	92 pts. WE	Columbia Valley	\$11.99	(reg \$13.99)
Perrin & Fils Vinsobres Les Cornuds 2007	91 pts. WS	Rhone Valley	\$17.99	(reg \$21.29)
Ruffino II Ducale 2007	90 pts. WS	Tuscany	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Tikal Patriota Bonarda/Malbec 2008	92 pts. RP	Argentina	\$17.99	(reg \$20.99)
St. Urbans-Hof Bockstein Riesling 2009	92 pts. WS	Mosel	\$14.59	(reg \$16.99)
Chateau Malmaison Merlot/Cabernet 2006 Top 100 (WS)	90 pts. WS	Bordeaux	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Kaesler Stonehorse Shiraz/Grenache/Mourvedre 2007	90 pts. RP	Australia	\$14.99	(reg \$17.99)
Chalk Hill Sauvignon Blanc 2007	92 pts. WE	Russian River Val.	\$19.99	(reg \$27.99)
Artesa Carneros Chardonnay 2009	90 pts. WE	Carneros	\$15.49	(reg \$18.29)
Trimbach Riesling 2007 Top 100 WS	91 pts. WS	Alsace	\$15.99	(reg \$18.99)
Kunde (Sustainably Farmed) Zinfandel 2006	90 pts. IWC	Sonoma	\$10.49	(reg \$12.49)
Montebuena Rioja 2009	90 pts. RP	Spain	\$10.19	(reg \$11.99)
Mas Donis Barrica Old Vines 2007	90 pts. RP	Spain	\$10.99	(reg \$12.99)
Thorn-Clarke Terra Barossa Estate Grown Shiraz 2008	90 pts. RP	Australia	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)

Wines from All Over France

Rhône Valley

Jaboulet Vacqueyras 'Les Cypres' 2007	Rhône Valley	\$16.99	(reg \$24.99)
Jaboulet Gigondas 'Pierre Aiguille' 2007 90 Pts W&S	Rhône Valley	\$21.19	(reg \$32.99)
Domaine La Soumade Rasteau Prestige 2007 93 Pts (RP)	Rhône Valley	\$22.99	(reg \$27.99)
Perrin & Fils Vinsobres Les Cornuds 2007 91 Pts (WS)	Rhône Valley	\$17.99	(reg \$21.99)
Perrin & Fils Gigondas La Gille 2007 92 Pts/Top 100 (WS)	Rhône Valley	\$27.99	(reg \$32.99)
Arnoux & Fils Veilles Vignes Gigondas 2007 91 Pts (RP)	Rhône Valley	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Domaine Du Pere Caboché Chateauneuf du Pape Cuvée Elisabeth Chambellan 2007 90 Pts (RP)	Rhône Valley	\$28.99	(reg \$34.99)
Chateauneuf du Pape Clos du Calvaire 2007 90 Pts (RP)	Rhône Valley	\$28.99	(reg \$34.99)
Chateau de Beaucastel Chateauneuf du Pape 2007 96 Pts (WS)	Rhône Valley	\$119.99	(reg \$145.99)
Clos des Brusquiers Chateauneuf du Pape 2007 94 Pts (IWC)	Rhône Valley	\$33.99	(reg \$39.99)
Domaine de Saint-Prefert Chateauneuf du Pape 2008 90 Pts (RP)	Rhône Valley	\$38.99	(reg \$45.99)
'La Bernardine' Chateauneuf du Pape Rouge 90 Pts (WA)	Rhône Valley	\$39.99	(reg \$47.99)
Domaine Du Galet Des Papes Chateauneuf du Pape 2007	Rhône Valley	\$34.99	(reg \$40.99)

Loire Valley

Sauvion Sancerre 2007 (Sauvignon Blanc)	Sancerre	\$21.49	(reg \$25.99)
Les Boucaults Sancerre Paul et Jean-Marc Pastou 2009 (Sauv Blanc)	Sancerre	\$17.99	(reg \$21.49)
Eric Montintin Sancerre 2009 (Sauvignon Blanc)	Sancerre	\$19.19	(reg \$22.99)
Domaine de la Perrière Sancerre 2008 (Sauvignon Blanc)	Sancerre	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)
Domaine Mardon Quincy 2009	Loire	\$16.29	(reg \$19.99)
Chateau la Noe Sur Lie Muscadet Sevre et Maine 200X	Loire	\$ 7.69	(reg \$ 9.99)
Sauvion Muscadet Sevre et Maine 2009	Loire	\$10.99	(reg \$12.99)
Domaine de Vaufray Vouvray 2009 (Chenin Blanc)	Loire	\$10.99	(reg \$12.99)
Sauvion Vouvray 2009 (Chenin Blanc)	Loire	\$ 9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Les Loges Pouilly Fume 200X (Sauvignon Blanc)	Loire	\$18.99	(reg \$22.99)
Benoit Gautier Vouvray 2008 (Chenin Blanc)	Loire	\$12.99	(reg \$14.99)

Look for Spectacular Spain in the
April 2011 Issue of Grapevine!

Bordeaux

Chateau Malmaison Moulis-en-Medoc 2006 Bar de Roth 90 Pts (WS)	Medoc	\$16.99	(reg \$24.99)
Chateau Greysac Medoc 2006	Medoc	\$16.59	(reg \$19.99)
Chateau de Clairefont Margaux 2005	Margaux	\$31.99	(reg \$37.99)
Chateau Cantena Brown Margaux 2003	Margaux	\$31.99	(reg \$37.99)
Chevalier de Rauzan-Gassies Margaux 2005	Margaux	\$29.99	(reg \$35.99)
Chateau Phelan Segur Saint-Estephe 2004	Saint-Estephe	\$36.99	(reg \$42.99)
Haut Faugeres Saint-Emilion Grand Cru 2007	Saint-Emilion	\$22.99	(reg \$26.99)
La Coste Borie Pauillac 2004	Pauillac	\$25.49	(reg \$29.99)
Baronne Philippine de Rothschild Chateau d'Armailhac Pauillac 2006	Pauillac	\$31.99	(reg \$37.99)
Chateau de Cruzeau Pessac-Leognan 2005 Andre Lurton 90 Pts (WS)	Bordeaux	\$39.99	(reg \$46.99)
Chateau Haut-Piquat Lussac Saint-Emilion 2005	Saint-Emilion	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Pavillon de Poyferré Saint Julien 2006	Bordeaux	\$29.99	(reg \$34.99)
Chateau du Levant Bordeaux 2005	Bordeaux	\$9.99	(reg \$11.99)
Chateau Larose Trintaudon Haut-Medoc 2005	Haut-Medoc	\$16.99	(reg \$19.99)
Chateau Beauséjour De Bonalgie 2006	Bordeaux	\$21.99	(reg \$24.99)
Chateau Rollan De By Medoc 2008 90 Pts/Top 100 (WS)	Medoc	\$21.99	(reg \$25.99)

...And many more Bordeaux Superieurs

Burgundy

Georges Duboeuf Morgon Jean Descombes 2009 93 Pts (WS)	Beaujolais	\$14.99	(reg \$17.99)
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages 2009	Beaujolais	\$10.99	(reg \$12.99)
Louis Jadot Clos de Rochegres Moulin-A-Vent 2006	Beaujolais	\$30.49	(reg \$35.99)
Joseph Drouhin Chassagne-Montrachet 2008	Burgundy	\$48.99	(reg \$57.99)
Joseph Drouhin Puligny-Montrachet 2008	Burgundy	\$48.99	(reg \$57.99)
'Les Pieres Grises' Saint-Veran 2009	Burgundy	\$13.99	(reg \$16.99)
Vincent Pouilly-Fuisse Marie Antoinette 2009	Burgundy	\$19.99	(reg \$26.99)
Domaine Faiveley Montagny 2008	Burgundy	\$18.99	(reg \$21.99)
Chateau de Chorey-Les-Beaune 2008	Burgundy	\$26.99	(reg \$31.99)

Wine Tastings Fri, 4-8 & Sat, 2-6

Sat 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2: New Arrivals: Check out our latest finds and discover new favorites.

Fri 4/1: Rambling through the Rhone: So many wines to choose from! Check out our incredible selection of Rhone wines from the many sub-regions and fall in love with the fabulous Rhone.

Fri 3/18: Lovely Loire: Whites to delight and a couple of reds from the western side of France. Allow yourself to be surprised by these quiet beauties.

Fri 3/25: Bold Bordeaux: A terrific line-up of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc in all their blended glory from esteemed Bordeaux.

Fri 4/1: Beautiful Burgundy: A line-up of Reds and Whites (Pinot Noir and Chardonnay) from Burgundy. Find out what makes them so special. And sample a Beaujolais (made from the Gamay grape), too!

Kir is an aperitif enjoyed throughout France. While Kir and Kir Rouge are served in regular wine glasses, a Kir Royale is served in a Champagne flute.

Chicken with Wine

1 Tbsp flour
Salt and pepper
1 lb boneless chicken, cut into 8 pieces, pounded thin
1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 1/2 Tbsp butter
10 oz mushrooms, sliced
1 large shallot, finely chopped
1 cup red wine (Burgundy would be perfect)
1/2 cup low sodium chicken broth
2 tsp fresh thyme leaves



1. In shallow bowl, combine flour and 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper. Coat chicken, shaking off excess.
2. In large, heavy skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken in batches and cook, turning once, about 5 minutes; transfer to plate.
3. Return the chicken and mushrooms to the pan, add thyme and cook, turning to heat through. Season with salt and more pepper to taste.

Served with roasted potatoes and grilled asparagus, you have a wonderful 'waiting for Spring' meal. Enjoy it with the Burgundy you use for the chicken. Salut!

Kir

2 ounces Creme de Cassis
6 oz. dry white wine



First pour Creme de Cassis into wine glass, then top with wine. Garnish with a twist of lemon and serve.

Kir Rouge

2 ounces Creme de Cassis
6 oz. dry red wine



First pour Creme de Cassis into wine glass, then top with wine. Garnish with a twist of lemon and serve.

Kir Royale

2 ounces Creme de Cassis
6 oz. dry white wine



Pour Creme de Cassis into a Champagne flute, then top with Champagne. Garnish with a twist of lemon, or not, and serve.

March Staff Wine Picks

Sheila: Boudin Chablis '09 (Chablis) \$17.99 (reg \$20.99) This beautiful Chablis has a stony nose of green apples, citrus and mineral. Full-bodied with crisp acidity, the flavors are apples, lemon and spice, with no oak.

Damian: La Framboisiere Cotes du Rhone '09 (Rhone) \$9.79 (reg \$11.99) Grenache driven, this Rhone beauty is dry but with enough fruit to make it recognizably Rhone. It is deliciously smooth, rich and spicy.

Denise: Chateau des Aveylans '05 (Provence) \$17.69 (reg \$20.99) From the sunny Mediterranean comes this lovely Red with earthy aromas and flavors of plums, dried fruit, mocha and coffee with fine tannins and a spicy finish.

Graham: Perrin Reserve Cotes du Rhone '09 (Rhone) \$8.59 (reg \$10.49) Medium fruit and tannins on the finish make this a friendly, accessible wine that may just become your new house red. With pork or lamb: sublime.

Kris: Louis Jadot Beaujolais-Villages '09 (Burgundy) \$10.99 (reg \$12.99) Aromas of fresh strawberries, it has a silky, long finish. The pepper lingers in your mouth just as the tannins kick in a bit to tighten up your tongue.

Bob: Vidal-Fleury Cotes du Rhone '07 (Rhone) \$8.59 (reg \$10.49) Grenache leads with strawberry, chocolate, prune, cherry and violet notes. On the palate, it has black fruits, cherry and pepper with a lingering finish.

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