

ALSACE AT A GLANCE

THE REGION

LOCATION

Northeastern corner of France, right next to Germany and above Switzerland.

VINEYARDS

38,500 acres of vines along 75 miles. Alsace is one of the top three greenest wine-producing areas in France, with 36% of the vineyard area certified organic or in conversion. Alsace producers were green pioneers with France's first documented organic vineyard in 1961 followed by the first Biodynamic vineyard in 1969.

WINE ROUTE

Oldest established regional wine route in the world, established over 70 years ago. It is 110 miles long and 10 miles wide.

TERROIR

13 different and very distinct types of soil from volcanic to limestone to clay, the most diverse terroir in France.

PRODUCTION

In 2023, 132 million bottles were produced, 89% white.

WEATHER

Protected by the Vosges Mountains, Alsace is the second driest region in France with around 20 inches of rain per year. Alsace also experiences a lot of sunshine with 1,800 hours annually (in Colmar). Warm days and cool nights allow for slow ripening, which produces complex, aromatic and balanced wines.

THE WINES

STILL WINES

Aromatic, unoaked, dry, complex, balanced, high quality and very food-friendly. 90% of the wines are white. 7 main grape varieties (in order of vineyard plantings): Riesling (23%), Gewurztraminer (22%), Pinot Gris (18%), Pinot Blanc (11%), Pinot Noir (11%), Sylvaner (7%) and Muscat (3%), Assemblages (5%).

SPARKLING WINES

Crémant d'Alsace makes up 33% of production and is made in the traditional method from Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Riesling, Pinot Noir (all Crémant d'Alsace Rosés are 100% Pinot Noir) and Chardonnay (only for Crémant production).

SWEET WINES

Vendanges Tardives (VT): Late harvest wines made from Gewurztraminer, Riesling, Pinot Gris or Muscat d'Alsace. Grapes must be hand-picked and are often botrytized. Sélection de Grains Nobles (SGN): Same varieties but with multiple rounds of selective, hand-harvesting and all botrytized grapes.

APPELLATION SYSTEM

AOC Alsace is 64% of production, Crémant d'Alsace is 33% and AOC Grand Cru is 3% (predominately Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris and Muscat d'Alsace).

