

# 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).

