



WINE REGIONS OF FRANCE



THE GREEN GUIDE

LEGEND

Ratings

Highly Recommended	★★★
Recommended	★★
Interesting	★

	Seaside Resort	Winter Sports Resort	Spa
Highly Recommended	☀ ☀ ☀	* * *	♨ ♨ ♨
Recommended	☀ ☀	* *	♨ ♨
Interesting	☀	*	♨

Symbols

Tourist information	Kids
Hours of Operation	Walking Tour
Period of Closure	Wheelchair Accessible
Closed to the Public	On-site Parking
Also See	Spa Facilities
A Bit of Advice	Swimming Pool
Details to Consider	Breakfast Included
Entry Fees	On-site Eating Facilities
Credit Cards Not Accepted	Driving Tour

Where to Stay and Eat

Hotels

Provinces	Large Cities	
<45€	<65€	Prices indicate the cost of a double room in high season, not including taxes or surcharges
45 to 65€	65 to 100€	
65 to 100€	100 to 160€	
>100€	>160€	

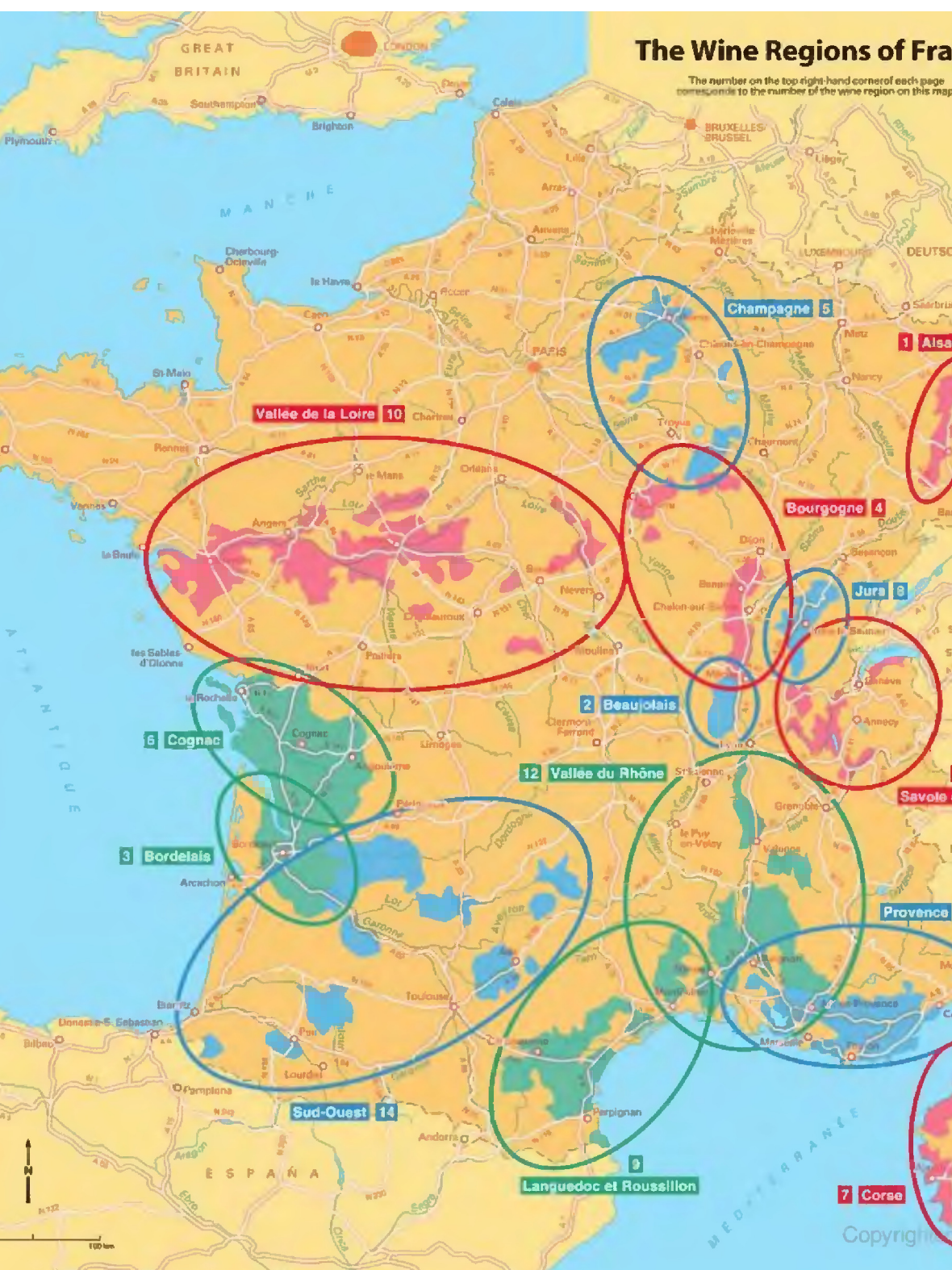
Restaurants

Provinces	Large Cities	
<14€	<16€	Prices indicate the cost of a starter, main course and dessert, not including beverages, taxes or surcharges
14 to 25€	16 to 30€	
25 to 40€	30 to 50€	
>40€	>50€	

For a complete list of symbols, see the **Map Legend** at the back of this guide.

The Wine Regions of France

The number on the top right-hand corner of each page corresponds to the number of the wine region on this map.



THE GREEN GUIDE

Wine Regions of France



Pinot Noir grap harvest in Burgundy , S. Sauvignier/MICHELIN



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PLANNING YOUR TRIP

The blue-tabbed PLANNING YOUR TRIP section at the front of the guide gives you the information you need to organise a **wine tour in France**. You'll find ideas, practical information, a host of wine buff activities, a calendar of events, as well as information on shopping and sightseeing.

INTRODUCTION

The orange-tabbed INTRODUCTION section explores the wine growing regions' **Terroir** and geology. The **History** section spans from early wine harvesting to the modern day. The **Wine Production** section delves into modern appellations, while **Enjoying Wine** explores tasting, serving and, of course, drinking.

DISCOVERING

The green-tabbed DISCOVERING section features the principal **wine growing areas by region**, with plenty of wine-related attractions, **driving tours** and **walking tours**, as well as activities for when you just want to stroll around town or put your feet up. Admission prices shown are normally for a single adult.

ADDRESSES

We've selected the best hotels, restaurants, cafes shops, nightlife and entertainment to fit all budgets. The Legend on the cover flap explains the price categories. See the back of the guide for an index of hotels and restaurants.

Sidebars

Throughout the guide you will find **blue**, **orange** and **green**-colored text boxes with lively anecdotes, detailed history and background information.



A Bit of Advice




Green advice boxes found in this guide contain practical tips and handy information relevant to the sight in the Discovering section.

STAR RATINGS★★★

Michelin has given star ratings for more than 100 years. If you're pressed for time, we recommend you visit the ★★★, or ★★ sights first:

- ★★★ **Highly recommended**
- ★★ **Recommended**
- ★ **Interesting**

MAPS

-  National Wine Regions map.
-  Local Wine Regions maps.
-  Local tour maps.

All maps in this guide are oriented north, unless otherwise indicated by a directional arrow. The term "Local Map" refers to a map within the chapter or Tourism Region. A complete list of the maps found in the guide appears at the back of this book.



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Welcome to the Wine Regions of France

Few things say France better than a freshly baked baguette, a wedge of cheese, and a glass of wine to wash them down. Getting to know the regions and the people where the wine is produced brings you closer to the heart of the country; with each region offering its own distinct pleasures.



ALSACE (p84–115)

One of the best organised and most picturesque wine routes in France, this easy to navigate road winds through flower-filled villages and vine-covered slopes. From Strasbourg to Colmar, you can visit wineries for more than 170 kilometres along the eastern foothills of the Vosges mountains.

BEAUJOLAIS (p116–133)

As you head south of Lyon, the rolling hills of the Beaujolais region offer a taste of the good life in France; with regular festivals, dynamic winemakers and uncomplicated food-friendly wines. Attractions include the regional capital of Villefranche-sur-Saône and the wine cultural centre of Le Hameau-en-Beaujolais.

BORDEAUX (p134–175)

Recent years have seen Bordeaux transformed; with spectacular renovations in the city itself, rewarded by a new UNESCO World Heritage status for its 18th century centre. As the region throws off its stuffy image, more and more wineries in iconic villages such as Margaux, Saint

Émilion and Pauillac have opened up to visitors.

BURGUNDY (p176–215)

Understanding the secrets of the mythical names of this region, from Chablis and Pouilly Fuissé to Gevry Chambertin and Romanée Conti, becomes a little easier once you have driven through the wine roads here, passing tiny villages with low stone walls, church spires and vines on every side. Many vigneronns are happy to spend hours in the cellars talking you through the nuances of the terroir.

CHAMPAGNE (p216–253)

With its two main centres of Reims and Epernay, a weekend in Champagne is a rewarding experience. Many of the famous houses offer well-organised, impressive tour facilities to visitors, while discovering the smaller properties that bottle their own Champagne offers the perfect contrast.

COGNAC (p254–262)

Another region where there is a fascinating contrast between the big, internationally-recognised names and the smaller family-run houses. The town of Cognac is charming and romantic, with a large central park and an attractive river.

CORSICA (p263–275)

The "île de la beauté" makes an excellent destination for a longer break, where you can divide your time between the beaches, the rocky interior, and getting to know the many

wineries that are dotted around the coastal strip.

JURA (p276–295)

A lesser-known part of the country with beautiful scenery, where you can discover unusual grape varieties and fascinating wine-making traditions, including the production of the distinctive Vin Jaune.

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON (p296–334)

This large and varied region covers ever-changing landscapes from the walled city of Carcassonne down to the beaches and cliffs of the Mediterranean. The reds of the region tend to be rich and robust, from the heat-loving grapes of Syrah and Mourvèdre.

LOIRE VALLEY (p335–369)

Fairy-tale castles, Renaissance chateaux and the stately Loire river somehow seem to fit the delicacy and freshness of the wine, often from Cabernet Franc or Sauvignon Blanc grapes.

PROVENCE (p370–391)

One of the most seductive and popular regions in France, the vineyards are often tucked away from the bustling coastal resorts, but still benefit from the same blue skies, hot summers and relaxed approach to life. A glass of Provençal rosé, with its faint blush of delicate pink, is the perfect accompaniment to the climate.

RHÔNE VALLEY (p392–421)

Divided into two highly distinct parts, the northern Rhône offers stunning landscapes with the near vertical vineyard slopes of Côte Rotie and Crozes-Hermitage, in complete



J. Damase / MICHELIN

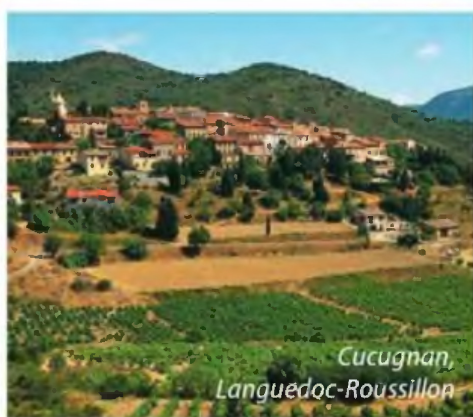
contrast to the more gentle southern Mediterranean landscapes around Avignon and Orange, containing the famous names of Gigondas and Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

SAVOIE AND BUGEY (p422–433)

Located on the sunny slopes of the Alps, from Lake Geneva to Lake du Bourget, and along the Rhône river down through the Ain, this region is known for its spectacular scenery, skiing and its many thermal spa resorts, but also offers fascinating discoveries of little known wine.

SOUTH WEST (p434–465)

From the mountains of the French Pyrénées, and up past Toulouse and Cahors through Gascony and Bergerac, this rewarding, diverse area is full of indigenous grape varieties, each making distinct wines that can be hard to find outside of the region, making cellar door visits all the more special.



E. Larrivière / MICHELIN





Bordeaux vineyards in autumn

© AVTG/istockphoto

When and Where to Go

WHEN TO GO SEASONS

Spring, summer and autumn are the best seasons to visit France but there is a region for every season.

Summer in France is a lovely time, but be forewarned that most of the French population seems to go on holiday in August, so prepare for crowds in resort and coastal areas, and busy roads to the main tourist areas. Things are quieter in June and September, when French children are still at school.

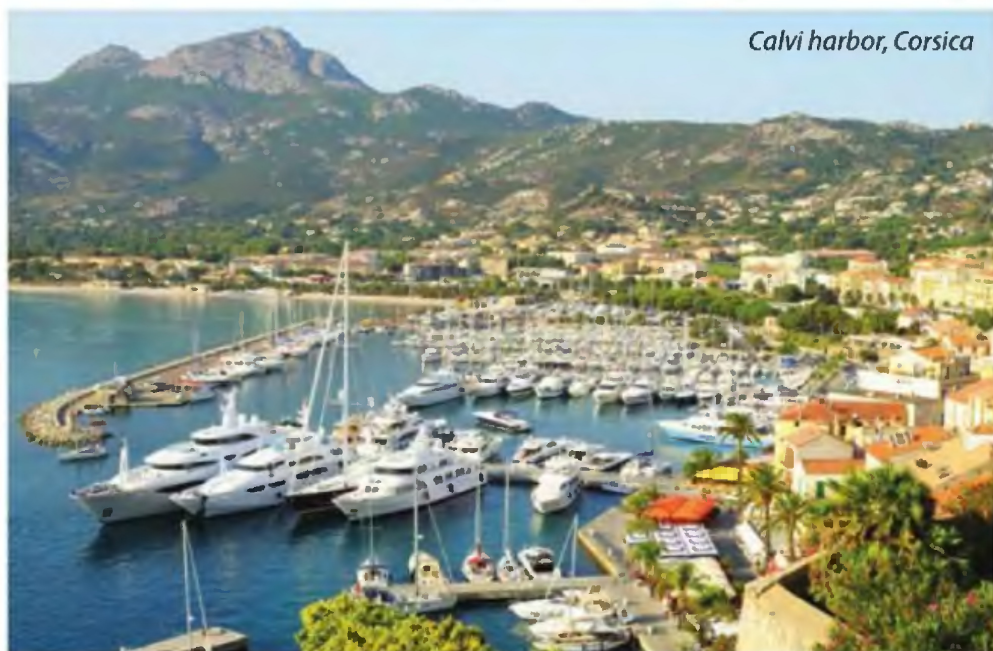
You'll also find that some restaurants and shops close for all or part of August. In the wine growing regions, summer is a time of selective pruning, tending and watchful waiting as the grapes slowly ripen to perfection and *veraison* occurs. Harvesting generally begins in early September; you may find that the wine trails through the vineyards and even some wineries themselves are closed to visitors while the grapes are being gathered, although more and more wineries are realising that visitors enjoy seeing this process, and some now offer the chance to get involved for a few hours.

Autumn brings a return (*la rentrée*) to routine. You'll find bountiful

produce in the markets; burnished colours sweeping mountain and countryside; and comfortable daytime temperatures. The vineyards, after a busy period of being emptied of their precious bounty, turn yellow, gold and red before shedding their leaves. In the cellars, the winegrowers turn to the various tasks and stages of transforming grape juice into wine.

Winter can be a quiet time in the countryside and coastal areas, but snowfall draws skiers and other winter sports-lovers to the mountains. Christmas markets flourish in many of the wine regions; the ones in Alsace are famous, but you'll find them in Champagne, Burgundy, Jura, Languedoc, Rhone and Provence as well. In the vineyards, the winegrowers prune back the dormant vines and repair posts and supports; malolactic fermentation begins in the cellars.

Springtime brings rain and warmer temperatures to many inland areas. Provence's infamous wind, the mistral, lowers temperatures but clears away haze to reveal distant views. New vines are planted in the vineyards around March, while new growth brings a haze of green to the established and older vines, as the life cycle of the vine begins again, and winemakers watch out for any spring frosts that could damage emerging vines.



Calvi harbor, Corsica

© elianfric/iStockphoto

CLIMATE

For an overview of a specific region of the country, see the Michelin Green Guide series, which cover 24 regions of France (13 of the guides are in English), such as Normandy, Brittany, the French Riviera and Provence). In general the French climate is a moderate one; extremes of either heat or cold are rare for the most part, so that outdoor activity of some kind is almost always possible. Inland the winters are chilly and darkness comes early, especially in the northern latitudes. As spring turns to summer, the days become long and warm and by June the sun lingers well into the evening. Spring and autumn provide opportunities to explore the outdoors and enjoy the lovely countryside and coastal areas of France. In winter, snowfall throughout much of the interior of the country, as well as in the mountainous regions near Italy, permits a wide array of winter sports, such as downhill skiing and snowboarding. However, gray skies in this period are not unusual for much of the country, especially in Paris.

WEATHER FORECAST

National Forecast: ☀ 32 50. Information about the weather is also available online at www.meteofrance.com.

WHERE TO GO CITY BREAKS

Exploring vineyards doesn't have to mean ignoring the many vibrant, culturally-rich cities of France. Most wine areas have large cities at their centre, such as Bordeaux, Reims for Champagne, Lyons for Beaujolais, Dijon and Beaune for Burgundy, Toulouse for southwest France and Montpellier for the Languedoc. These cities are often filled with wine bars, wine boutiques and many have wineries within their city limits that can be easily visited on foot or public transport. Even Paris and the Île de France has its own vines and an interesting wine museum (www.museedevinparis.com).



© Hattney/fotolia.com

ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

One of the many attractions of spending a few days or longer around the vineyards of France is that vines tend to grow in some of the most beautiful parts of the world - most usually in gently rolling countryside such as Beaujolais or the Loire, or the more dramatic craggy landscapes of the northern Rhone or the Savoie. Visiting wine regions naturally lends itself to combining winery visits with outdoor activities such as walking or cycling, and every wine region in France is accessible by rivers that also offer the possibility of getting out on boats. A trip down the Canal du Midi, for example, offers a relaxed and leisurely trip through the countryside of southwest France and the Languedoc.

BY THE SEA

A cooling sea breeze can have a beneficial effect on the quality of the wines, giving the grapes a chance to cool down and gain delicacy over their growth cycle, and a number of wine regions offer the chance to combine visits with trips to the coast. The vineyards of Bordeaux are within easy striking distance of the Atlantic coast, and the chic resort of Arcachon, while Cassis and Bandol in Provence offers a continual backdrop of the sparkling blue Mediterranean sea. A few islands also have their own vineyards with views directly over water - Corsica being the largest, but also the Ile de Poquerolle and the Ile des Embiez on the Cote d'Azur, and the Ile de Ré in Cognac country.

What to See and Do

SIGHTSEEING

The wine regions offer visitors more than endless visits to chateaux. All of these regions have outstanding natural beauty, and can be enjoyed by non wine-lovers just as much, combining visits to wine properties with a range of other activities, from trips to the beach in Provence, the Languedoc and Bordeaux, to mountaineering or skiing in the Savoie or Jura. All tourist offices offer organised sightseeing tours, while individual tour companies are suggested throughout this guide.

GASTRONOMIC TOURS

One of the great joys of wine is how it enhances the experience of local foods, and in most cases regional wines and foods have evolved in parallel, such as the hearty duck dishes and rich red wines that are traditional in Madiran in southwest France (📍p450), or the delicate red and white wines of the Loire that go so perfectly with a freshwater river fish from the local rivers, or a gentle 'Sainte Maure de Touraine' goat's cheese (📍p341). Each region has its specialities, and local restaurants often offer tasting menus where the chef will suggest the best local food and wine pairings. **L'Atelier des Chefs** in Paris, Lyon, Bor-

deaux and Nantes is a cookery school that regularly offers food-and-wine matching courses (www.atelierdeschefs.com), and many of the regional wine schools and generic wine bodies offer similar courses.

CULTURAL SIGHTS

Most wine regions in France have long histories, meaning there are cultural sites to discover at the same time as the wines. These many be historic, or religious, such as the monolithic cathedral in Saint-Émilion (📍p147), and the Gothic cathedral in Reims (📍p218). Increasingly, the chateaux themselves offer cultural activities, from music concerts in the grounds during summer months, to art exhibitions in the winery throughout the year. Some combine culture and entertainment - Château du Clos Luce in the Loire (📍p343) has a "cultural theme" park dedicated to the life of da Vinci.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

You will find plenty of ways to get outside and active when touring the French wine regions. Many of the wine routes are best viewed from two wheels, and there is currently a project underway in Burgundy to compete an 800 kilometre-long circular cycle route through all the major tourist attractions of the region. In the meantime, companies such as DuVine offers tours

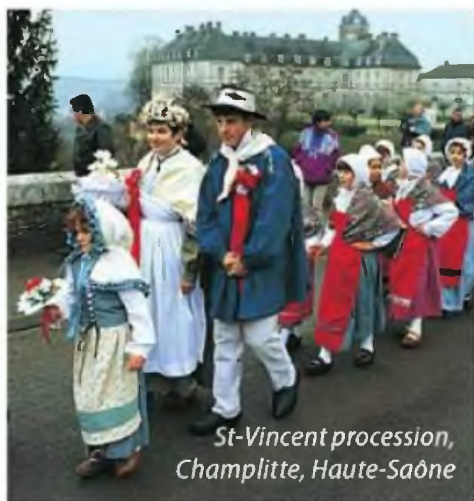
Cycling on the greenway that connects Cluny and Givry, Burgundy, before the village of Chatel Berzé, Saone-et-Loire



through Burgundy (www.duvine.com). Alsace's Route des Vins offers walking alternatives at every point, taking you further up into the higher vineyards and off the beaten track (p88). Golf courses are dotted all over the Bordeaux, the Loire and Champagne regions. Pretty much every region offers opportunities for water sports, horse-riding, or tennis. For more extreme sports such as abseiling or mountain biking, head to Corsica, the Jura or the Pyrenees.

STUNNING VIEWS

It goes without saying that there are few views more attractive than a vineyard in Autumn, heavy with grapes, or with its leaves just turning gently yellow and orange. But there are also plenty of other stunning views to be had in the wine regions. Among the most dramatic are the sharp inclines of



St-Vincent procession, Champlitte, Haute-Saône

M. Paygnard/MICHELIN

the slopes in Côte Rotie in the northern Rhone, and the stunning gorges and grottos of Cahors in the Lot and the Bergerac region of southwest France. Vineyards with views over the blue seas of the Mediterranean can be found easily in Provence, while Alsace vines are accompanied by the stunning Vosges mountains at every point.

Fêtes du Vin

SAINT VINCENT

Quite how Vincent came to be the patron saint of wine-producers, no-one really knows: perhaps it was because he has the word "vin" in his name. Over the centuries, however, the saint has become the figurehead of France's proud culture of wine, and given his name to the *sociétés de saint Vincent*, which began as mutual aid groups, uniting fellow *vignerons* long before the age of beneficent, or "friendly", societies.

The feast of St Vincent is celebrated in many wine producing regions, either on 22 January, the "fête" itself, or on the nearest weekend. The day is usually marked by the procession of the saint, a church service, and a wine tasting and meal for the wine-growers. In **Burgundy**, between Dijon and Beaune, the St Vincent's day celebrations are "tourmant": held in a different wine growing village from year to year. The same is true of events in **Savoie**, in the **Côte Chalonnaise**, around

Auxerre, in the **Chablis** region, in the **Bourgeuil** appellation, in the vineyards around **Nantes**, and in **Champagne**. Other regions always hold their festivities in the same place. "Les Saint-Vincent fixes" are annual highlights in **Arlay** and **Champlitte** (Jura), **Villié-Morgon** and **Visan** (Rhône Valley), **Savignac-de-Duras** (South West), **Puy-Notre-Dame** (Loire Valley), **St-Amour** (Beaujolais), and **Assignan** and **Villespassans** (St-Chinian/Languedoc).

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

JANUARY

weekend before St Vincent: **Fête des amis des vins de Chitry** – Chitry (Burgundy). ☎03 86 41 41 28.
nearest Sun to St Vincent: **Les Ampéfolies du Cabardès** – Moussoulens (Languedoc). Wine, truffle and foie gras festival. ☎04 68 24 92 46.

FEBRUARY

1st Sun: **Wine and Truffle Festival** – Carpentras (Rhone Valley).

1st weekend: **Percée du vin jaune** – Jura (location varies). Tapping of the first barrel of *vin jaune* after six years and three months of maturation. www.jura-vins.com.

St Vincent's day: **Fête du Gosier Secs** "dry throats festival" – Vaux-en-Beaujolais (Beaujolais).

MARCH

Sun before Palm Sun: **Nuit de la Blanquette** – Limoux (Languedoc). Marks the end of a week-long *Carnaval*. ☎04 68 31 11 82. www.limoux.fr

last weekend: **Vignoble en fête** – Saint-Mont (Southwest). ☎05 62 69 62 87.

3rd Sat: **Fête des vins de Bourgueil** – Tours (Loire Valley). ☎02 47 97 92 20. www.vinbourgueil.com.

around Mar 20: **Concours des vins** – Villefranche-sur-Saone (Beaujolais) Public tasting Sat & Sun. ☎04 74 02 22 20.

APRIL

1st & 2nd weekends: **Printemps des Châteaux du Médoc** – Médoc (Bordeaux region). ☎05 56 73 30 50. www.pauillac-medoc.com.

Apr-May: **National Book and Wine Days** – Saumur (Loire Valley). ☎02 41 40 20 60. www.bouvet-ladubay.fr

Easter: **Les Vinées tonnerroises** – Tonnerre (Burgundy). ☎03 86 55 14 48. www.tonnerre.fr

last weekend: **Fête de Saint-Marc** – Villeneuve-lès-Avignon (Rhône Valley). ☎04 90 25 61 33; www.villeneuvelesavignon.fr.

late Apr/early May: **Fête des crus du Beaujolais** – Beaujolais.

MAY

May 1: **Randonnée des cadoles Les Riceys** (Champagne) – Country walk and picnic. Admission fee. ☎03 25 29 15 38.

Sat after Ascension: **"Le Bon Aire est dans les Caves"** – Albas (Southwest). Music and wines. ☎05 65 22 19 10.

late May/early June: **Fête de la Fleur de Vigne** – Angers (Loire Valley)

May 1: **Vins et rigottes en fête** – Condrieu (Rhône Valley). ☎04 74 56 62 83.

Whitsun (Pentecote): **Festival de Rablay-sur-Layon** – Rablay-sur-Layon (Loire Valley). ☎02 41 78 32 74; www.rablaysurlayon.com.

mid-May: **Fête du claret** – Quinsac (Bordeaux). ☎05 56 61 82 73

Ascension Thu: **Rondes en Sauternais** – Sauternes (Bordeaux region). Bike and walking tours. Admission fee. ☎05 56 63 68 00

3rd weekend: **Vitiloire** – Tours. ☎02 47 21 61 95. www.tours.fr.

late May: **Fête des vins des coteaux d'Aix** – Rognes (Provence). ☎04 42 16 11 61.

La Médocaine de VTT bike rally through the vines of Margaux; www.medocainevtt.com

JUNE

end Jun in even-numbered years(2010, 2012): **Fête du vin** – Bordeaux. Tastings and concerts. ☎05 56 00 66 00. www.bordeaux-fete-le-vin.com.

June 1: **Procession of the flasks** – Boulbon (Provence). Hymn to Saint Marcellinus, blessing of the wine.

2nd weekend: **Balade gourmande** – Igé (Burgundy). ☎03 85 33 33 56. www.domaine-fichet.com.

last weekend: **Fête des vins du Roussillon** – Perpignan (Roussillon). ☎04 68 66 30 30

3rd Sun: **Jurade** (spring festival) – Saint-Émilion (Bordeaux region). Ceremonies, processions and music ☎05 57 55 50 50. www.vins-saint-emilion.com.

JULY

1st weekend, even-numbered years): **Fêtes Henri IV** – Ay (Champagne). Open days at estates; gastronomy; fireworks; parade; sound & light show. ☎03 26 56 92 10.

1st weekend: **Les Petites fêtes de Dionysos** – Arbois (Jura). ☎03 84 66 55 50.

mid-Jul, even-numbered years: **Les**

Tables de Cyrano et Roxane – Bergerac (Southwest). Wines, gastronomy, concerts.

4th Sun: **Fête du vin** – Cairanne (Rhône Valley). ☎04 90 30 86 53. www.vignerons.cairanne.com.

2nd Sat: **Fête vigneronne du Grand St-Jean** – Faugères (Languedoc). Procession of wine brotherhoods, auctions. ☎04 67 23 47 42.

15 Jul: **Festival du muscat** – Frontignan (Languedoc). ☎04 67 18 50 04. www.tourisme-frontignan.com.

3rd Sat: **Les Vignades** – Hyères (Provence). ☎04 94 01 84 50

1st Sun: **Balade gourmande** – Ladoix-Serrigny (Burgundy). Vineyard walks, picnic and music. Admission charge. ☎03 80 26 41 74.

last weekend: **Fête du vin** – Mittelbergheim (Alsace). ☎03 88 08 01 66.

1st Sat: **Wine-growers pilgrimage** to Brouilly chapel – Mont Brouilly (Beaujolais). ☎04 74 66 82 19.

2nd weekend: **Fête des vins** – Pfaffenheim (Alsace). ☎03 89 49 60 22.

1st weekend: **Fête du vin et du champignon** – Le Puy-Notre-Dame (Loire Valley) ☎02 41 38 87 30.

3rd weekend: **Fête des peintres de vignes en caves** – Saint-Bris-le-Vineux (Burgundy). ☎03 86 53 31 79. www.saint-bris.com.

1st Sun after July 14: **Fête du cru Saint-Chinian** – Saint-Chinian (Languedoc) ☎04 67 38 02 67.

2nd Sun: **Fête des vins et de l'andouillette** – Saint-Lambert-du-Lattay (Loire Valley). Tastings, footrace. ☎02 41 78 30 46.

1st weekend: **Fête de la fontaine** – Wangen (Alsace). Village fountain flow with wine (11am–12.30pm). ☎03 88 87 50 02.

last weekend: **Fête du vin** – Wettolsheim (Alsace). ☎03 89 22 90 30.

JULY-AUGUST

Les Grandes Heures de Cluny –

Cluny (Burgundy). Concerts followed by tastings in the cellars.

La Grande Tablée du Saumur-Champigny – Saumur (Loire Valley). ☎02 41 50 00 22.

Estivales du Musique au Coeur du Medoc ☎06 69 32 48 19; www.estivales-musique-medoc.com

JULY-SEPTEMBER

Festival musical des Grands Crus de Bourgogne – Burgundy (various locations)

AUGUST

1st weekend: **Fête du vin au pays du Brand** – Andlau (Alsace)

1st weekend: **Fête médiévale de la véraison** – Chateauneuf-du-Pape (Rhône Valley). ☎04 90 83 71 08.

2nd weekend: **Fête des vins de Duras** – Duras (Southwest). Hot-air balloon flights. ☎05 93 94 13 48. www.cotesdeduras.com.

last week: **Fête des vignerons** – Eguisheim (Alsace). ☎03 89 41 21 78.

1st weekend: **Fête du raisin** – Fréjus (Provence). Celebration of the first grapes; wine tasting, dances, Mass. ☎04 94 51 83 83.

1st weekend: **Fête des vins** – Gaillac (Southwest). ☎05 63 57 15 40.

3rd weekend: **Fête du vin et de l'amitié** – Guebenschwihr (Alsace). Open days.

weekend of Aug 15: **Fête du klevener** – Heiligenstein (Alsace). ☎03 88 08 26 54.

Aug 14–15: **Fête du vin de Madiran** – Madiran (Southwest)

1st 15 days: **Jazz in Marciac** – Marciac (Southwest). Wine events coincide with the jazz festival; www.jazzin-marciac.com

1st weekend: **Fête du vin de Jurançon** – Monein (Southwest). ☎05 59 21 30 06.

3rd weekend, every other year: **Fête du trousseau** – Montigny-lès-Arsures (Jura). Open days in the cellars, gastronomy.

2nd weekend: **Fête du vin de Buzet et de la gastronomie** – Nérac (Southwest). ☎05 53 65 23 24.

3rd Fri: **Festival des vins de Savoie** – Notre-Dame-de-Bellecombe (Savoie). ☎04 79 31 61 40.

3rd Fri: **Jazz and Wine** – Pauillac (Bordeaux region). ☎05 56 59 03 08. www.pauillac-medoc.com.

3rd weekend, off-years of the Fête du trousseau: **Fête du Poulard** – Pupillin (Jura). ☎03 84 66 55 50.

last weekend: **Journée de l'Océan** – Quincy (Loire Valley). ☎02 48 51 30 12.

last Sat: **Fête des amis de Brouilly** – Saint-Lager (Beaujolais). Picnic on the slopes of Mont Brouilly. ☎04 74 66 82 19.

last Sun: **Festival provençal et fête vigneronne** – Séguret (Rhône Valley). ☎04 90 46 91 06.

1st weekend: **Fête du vin** – Turckheim (Alsace). ☎03 89 27 38 44.

SEPTEMBER

1st weekend: **Fête du Biou Arbois** (Jura) – Procession of a giant bunch of grapes through the village, ☎03 84 66 55 50; www.arbois.com.

2nd Sun of Sept: **Vendanges à l'ancienne** – Arbois (Jura). Procession in traditional dress. ☎03 84 66 55 50.

1st Sun: **Fête du vin de Cassis** – Cassis (Provence). ☎08 92 25 98 92.

last Sun or 1st Sun in Oct: **Fête du pressurage** – Champvallon (Burgundy). Grape pressing using the antique pressoir. ☎03 86 91

Odd-numbered years: **Fête des vendanges** – Cognac region. ☎05 45 82 48 14.

early Sept: **Marathon des Châteaux du Médoc et des Graves** – Médoc (Bordeaux region). ☎05 56 59 01 91. www.marathondumedoc.com.

3rd Sun: **Fête du Biou** – Pupillin (Jura). ☎See Arbois above.

1st Sun: **Fête des ménétriers or Pfifferdaj** – Ribeauvillé (Alsace). Historical parade, tastings

3rd Sat & Sun: **Fête des vendanges** – Saint-Émilion (Bordeaux region). Weekend festival with music and fireworks on Saturday night, procession and swearing in of new intronisees into the Jurade on Sunday. ☎05 57 55 50 51. www.vins-saint-emilion.com.

2nd weekend: **Foué Avaloue** – Saint-Père (Loire Valley). ☎03 86 28 00 40.

2nd Sun: **Les Foulées du Saumur-Champigny** – Saumur (Loire Valley). ☎02 41 52 97 41. www.saumur-champigny.com.

1st Sun: **Sentier gourmand** – Scherwiller (Alsace). A series of tastings on a vineyard walk. ☎03 88 92 25 62.

2nd or 3rd weekend: **Fête des vendanges** – Tain-l'Hermitage (Rhône Valley). ☎04 75 07 78 96.

4th Sun: **Fête du Biou** – Vadans (Jura). ☎See Arbois above. ☎03 84 66 20 01.

1st weekend: **Ban des vendanges** – Vinsobres (Rhône Valley).

OCTOBER

mid Oct: **Fête des vendanges** – Banyuls-sur-Mer (Languedoc). ☎04 68 88 31 58.

1st weekend: **Fête des vendanges** – Barr (Alsace) ☎03 88 08 66 65.

3rd Thu: **Fête du vin nouveau** – Beziers (Languedoc). Dance of the vines and blessing of new wine. ☎04 67 31 27 23.

3rd Sun: **Paulée de la côte chalonaise** – Côte chalonaise (Burgundy). ☎03 85 45 22 99.

last day of harvest: **Grand cochelet des vendanges** – Épernay (Champagne). Wine-growers feast. ☎03 26 55 27 49.

2nd weekend **Molsheim Grape Festival**, Alsace. ☎03 88 38 11 61

3rd Sun: **Fête des vendanges** – Joigny (Burgundy). ☎03 86 62 11 05

2nd Sun: **Fête du vin nouveau** – Jullié (Beaujolais). ☎04 74 69 22 88

2nd weekend: **Fête des vendanges à l'ancienne** – Marcillac (Bordeaux region). ☎05 57 32 41 03.

3rd Sun: **Fête des vendanges** – Marlenheim (Alsace).

2nd weekend: **Fête du raisin** – Molsheim (Alsace). Cellar open days, music and folklore. ☎03 88 49 58 37.

1st Sat: **Vendanges à l'ancienne at Domaine de Carcher** – Montfort-en-Chalosse (Southwest). ☎05 58 98 69 27.

last weekend: **Fête du vin bourru** – Nuits-Saint-Georges (Burgundy). ☎03 80 62 11 17.

3rd Sun: **Fête des vendanges** – Obernai (Alsace).

1st weekend: **Fête du paradis** – Odenas (Beaujolais). Tasting, outdoor activities. ☎04 74 02 22 10, www.beaujolais.com.

3rd weekend: **Auction of Grands Vins of Languedoc Roussillon** – Saint-Jean-de-Cuculles (Languedoc). Vineyard walks, tastings. ☎04 67 06 23 35. www.vin-encheres-france.com.

3rd weekend, odd-numbered years: **Vendanges à l'ancienne** – Massif de Saint-Thierry (Champagne). ☎03 26 03 12 62.

3rd week: **Fête des vendanges** – Sauternes (Bordeaux region). ☎05 56 76 69 13.

last weekend: **Fête des vins de Chablis** – Chablis (Burgundy). ☎03 86 42 80 80 (tourism office).

NOVEMBER

3rd week: **Les Sarmetelles de Beaujeu** – Beaujeu (Beaujolais). Beaujolais-Nouveau festival. ☎04 74 69 55 44.

3rd Thu, midnight: **Tapping of the first Beaujolais Nouveau** – Belleville (Beaujolais). In the cellars of the town hall. ☎04 74 66 44 67.

3rd week: **Gaillac Primeur** – Gaillac (Southwest). ☎05 63 57 15 40.

3rd Thu: **Presentation of the Beaujolais-Nouveau** – Pommiers (Beaujolais). Tastings starting at

6pm; open days at the cellars following weekend.

weekend before Nov 11: **Fêtes des vins de l'Auxerrois** – Saint-Bris-le-Vineux (Burgundy). ☎03 86 53 66 76. Admission fee.
3rd Wed: **Fête du Beaujolais Nouveau** – Tarare (Beaujolais).

DECEMBER

1st Sun: **Fête du millésime** – Badol (Provence). ☎04 94 90 29 59.

1st weekend: **St Nicholas** procession in Molsheim, ☎03 88 38 11 61

last 2 weekends: **Les Bonnes Chauffes of December** – Cognac and Jonzac, various events surrounding the start of distillation. ☎05 45 36 47 35. www.abc-cognac.com.

Vendanges du pacherenc de la St-Sylvestre – Viella (Southwest). Midnight harvest of dried grapes. ☎05 62 69 62 87.

SALES, FAIRS AND MARKETS

Events are listed by month and arranged by venue in alphabetical order.

FEBRUARY

last weekend: **Tain-l'Hermitage** – (vallée du Rhône). Salon des vins. ☎04 75 08 06 81.

MARCH

3rd weekend: **Blaye** (Bordeaux region) – Marché aux vins. ☎05 57 42 91 19. www.aoc-blaye.com.

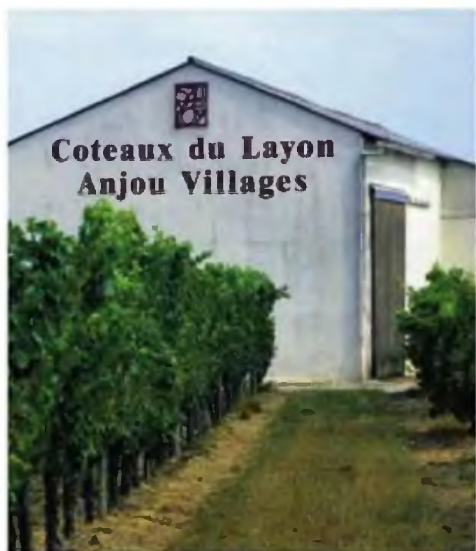
3rd week: **Bourgueil, Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil** (Loire Valley) – Foire aux vins. ☎02 47 97 92 20. www.vinbourgueil.com

3rd weekend: **Loudon** (Loire Valley) – Foire aux vins. ☎05 49 98 18 41.

2nd weekend: **Montlouis-sur-Loire** (Loire Valley) – Salon des vins de La Bourdaisière. ☎02 47 45 00 16.

3rd weekend: **Nuits-Saint-Georges** (Burgundy) – Hospices de Nuits-St-Georges sale. ☎03 80 62 67 00; www.hospicesdenuits.com.

mid-Mar: **Vallet** (Loire Valley) – Expo-Vall. ☎02 40 33 92 97.



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2nd weekend: **Vouvray** (Loire Valley) –
Saveurs et vins de Vouvray.
☎ 02 47 52 71 07.

EASTER

Reuilly (Loire Valley) – Foire aux vins.
www.vins-centre-loire.com.

Thu before Easter: **Les Riceys**
(Champagne) – **La Foire du
Grand Jeudi**: Large sale where
you can find things covering
every aspect of wine culture and
cultivation under one roof.
☎ 03 25 29 15 38.

APRIL

last Sun: **Beaujolais** – Fête des crus du
Beaujolais. ☎ 03 85 23 98 60.

3rd Sat: **Brignoles** (Provence) – Foire-
exposition des vins du Var et de
Provence. ☎ 04 94 69 10 88.
www.foiredebrignoles.fr.

last 2 weeks: **Chinon** (Loire Valley) –
Foire aux vins de Chinon.
☎ 02 47 93 30 44.

3rd weekend: **Lalande-de-Pomerol**
(Bordeaux region) – Open days at
the châteaux. ☎ 05 57 25 21 60.
www.lalande-pomerol.com.

3rd week: **Mâcon** (Burgundy)
Salon des vins. ☎ 03 85 21 30 00.
www.leparcmacon.com.

15 days after Easter: **Onzain** (Loire
Valley) – Salon des vins d’Onzain.
☎ 02 54 70 25 47.

MAY

2nd weekend: **Beujeu** (Beaujolais) –
Vente des Hospices de Beujeu at
the municipal theater; the world’s
oldest charity sale, dating to 1797.
☎ 04 74 04 31 05. www.hospices-
de-beujeu.com.

2nd weekend: **Bourg-sur-Gironde**
(Bordeaux region) – Open days
at the châteaux of Côtes de Bourg.
☎ 05 57 94 80 80.
www.cotes-de-bourg.com.

Ascension weekend: **Colmar** (Alsace) –
Foire du pain, du vin et du from-
age écobiologiques.
☎ 03 89 47 67 54.

Ascension Thursday: **Guebwiller**
(Alsace) – Foire aux vins.

1st weekend: **Saint-Émilion**
(Bordeaux region) – Open days
at the châteaux of Saint-Émilion.
☎ 05 57 55 50 55.
www.vins-saint-emilion.com.

WHITSUN (Pentecôte)

Cadillac (Bordeaux region) – Open
days at Premières Cotes de
Bordeaux and Cadillac.
☎ 05 57 98 19 20.

Mailly-Champagne (Champagne) –
Foire aux vins et la gastronomie.
☎ 03 26 49 81 66.

Sancerre (Loire Valley) – Foire aux
vins de Sancerre. ☎ 02 48 54 11 35.
www.maison-des-sancerre.com.

JULY

approx. Jul 14: **Barr** (Alsace) – Foire
aux vins.

1st or 2nd weekend: **Luir** (Corsica) –
Foire du vin. ☎ 04 95 35 06 44.
www.acunfraternita.com

weekend after Jul 14: **Ribeauvillé**
(Alsace) – Foire aux vins.

1st Sat: **Sancerre** (Loire Valley) –
Musique aux caves.
☎ 02 48 79 08 12.

last weekend: **Sauveterre-de-
Guyenne** (Bordeaux Region) –
Fête de la vigne et de la
gastronomie. www.sauveterre-
de-guyenne.com.
☎ 05 56 71 53 45

AUGUST

week after 2nd Fri: **Colmar** (Alsace) –

Foire aux vins d'Alsace.

☎03 90 50 50 50.

Aug 14–15: **Duravel** (Southwest) –

Foire aux vins et aux produits régionaux. ☎05 64 24 65 50.

around Aug 10: **La Chartre-sur-le-**

Loir (Loire Valley) – Foire aux vins.

Aug 14–15: **Madiran** (Southwest) –

Fête du vin. ☎05 62 31 90 67.

weekend before Aug 15: **Menetou-**

Salon (Loire Valley) – Cellar open days. www.vins-centre-loire.com.

weekend of Aug 15: **Obernai** (Alsace)

Foire aux vins.

Aug 15: **Pouilly-sur-Loire** (Loire

Valley) – Foire aux vins et aux produits du terroir.

☎03 86 39 03 75.

SEPTEMBER

1st weekend: **Bar-sur-Aube**

(Champagne) – Foire aux vins de Champagne. ☎03 25 27 14 75.

1st & 2nd weekend: **Belfort** (Jura) –

Foire aux vins de France et gastronomie. ☎03 84 55 90 90.

1st weekend: **Langon** (Bordeaux

region) – Foire aux vins, fromages et pains.

☎05 56 63 68 00

www.federation-langon.fr

1st weekend: **La Sauve** (Bordeaux

region) – La Sauve open days.

www.lasauvemajeure.com.

☎05 61 11 02 22

OCTOBER

1st weekend: **Barr** (Alsace) – Fête des

vendanges. ☎03 88 08 66 55.

3rd weekend: **Cérons et Graves**

(Bordeaux) – Open days.

3rd weekend: **Fronsac** (Bordeaux

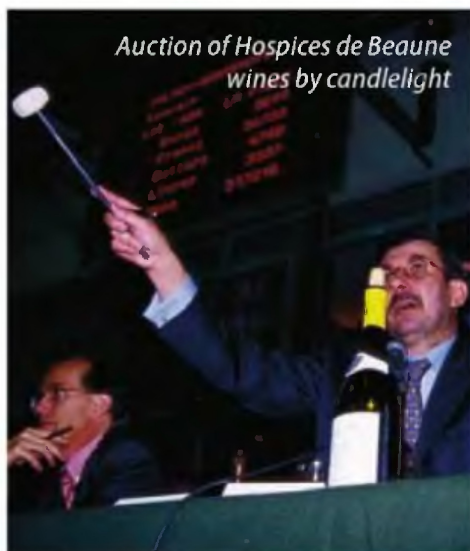
region) – Open days at the châteaux.

NOVEMBER

3rd weekend: **Clos de Vougeot,**

Beaune, Mersault (Burgundy) –

“Les Trois Glorieuses” auction of Hospices de Beaune wines. The largest and most famous wine auction in France.



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☎03 80 26 21 30.

www.hospices-de-beaune.tm.fr

3rd Fri: **Eauze** (Southwest) – Foire

des eaux-de-vie, with large range of local Armagnacs and Floc de Gascogne. ☎05 62 08 11 00.

last weekend: **Loupiac** (Bordeaux

region) – Open days, understanding the process of making

this noble rot wine, plus food matching. ☎05 56 62 92 22.

www.vins-loupiac.com.

3rd weekend: **Saint-Paul-Trois-**

Châteaux (Rhône Valley) – Salon des vins du Tricastin.

3rd weekend: **Fête des vins Grand**

public, Beaujeu (Beaujolais), concentrating on the new wines

of the year. ☎04 74 69 22 88;

www.aucoeurdebeaujolais.fr

DECEMBER

1st weekend: **Pessac-Léonagan**

(Bordeaux region) – Open days.

☎05 56 78 47 72.

www.otmontesquieu.com.

Saint-Bris-le-Vineux (Burgundy) –

Marché du réveillon at the Caves de Bailly. ☎03 86 53 77 77.

www.caves-bailly.com.

Couronne d'Or Wine Tasting

Exhibition, Strasbourg, Alsace.

☎03 88 87 75 80

Christmas Fair, Allées de Tourny,

Bordeaux. Christmas presents, plus food and wine from the

region. ☎05 56 00 66 00;

www.bordeaux-tourisme.com

BOOKS

WINE GUIDES

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2009 (32nd edition). Hugh Johnson. Traditional annual pocket reference, with maps, charts, recommendations and star ratings.

Wine Report. Tom Stevenson (2009). Pocket-sized annual guide with insider tips from local experts on new vintages, harvest forecasts and trends.

The Wine Buyer's Guide.

Robert Parker (2008).

Sixth edition features tasting notes, ratings and prices organised by producer and vintage.

REFERENCE

The Art and Science of Wine. James Halliday, Hugh Johnson (2007). The winemaking process demystified, with detailed descriptions of each stage, plus recent developments and new technology.

The World Atlas of Wine. Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson (2007). Fifth edition, with region maps, vintage charts and authoritative, entertaining descriptions by two of the wine world's most respected writers.

The Oxford Companion to Wine.

Jancis Robinson (3rd ed, 2006). More than 3,000 entries, essays and articles by more than 70 contributors on all facets of wine and winemaking around the world.

Terroir: Role of Geology, Climate and Culture in the Making of French Wines. James Wilson (1999).

A scientific, social and historical study of France's terroirs, including maps, drawings, glossary and other helpful information.

The Wine Lover's Guide (series).

Michael Busselle.

Series of books covering wine-growing regions of France.

The Wines and Winelands of France: Geological Journeys. Charles Pomerol (1989).

An explanation of the relationship between geology and wine.

WINE TASTING

How to Taste: A Guide to Enjoying Wine. Jancis Robinson (2008).

A clear and comprehensive process for tasting, including tasting theory and specific exercises, organised by major wine types.

Essential Winetasting: The Complete Practical Winetasting Course.

Michael Schuster (2005).

Step-by-step method for tasting and assessing wines including sensory descriptions, vocabulary, and information on grape varieties and winemaking.

The Art of Wine Tasting: An Illustrated Guidebook. Richard Kinssies (2004).

Guidebook includes notes, flavor wheels, notepads and instructions for hosting a tasting party.

The Taste of Wine: Art and Science of Wine Appreciation. Emile Peynaud (1991).

Geared toward professionals and wine buffs, this guide to evaluating wines includes sections on theory, physiology and vocabulary.

WINE AND CUISINE

Richard Olney's French Wine & Food: A Wine Lover's Cookbook. Richard Olney (1997).

Menus and recipes organised by French winegrowing regions.

An Omelette and a Glass of Wine.

Elizabeth David (1997).

Collection of 62 articles and essays on French cuisine and culinary history.

Recipes from the French Wine Harvest: Vintage Feasts from the Vineyards.

Rosi Hanson (1996).

Recipes and descriptions of generations-old traditions from winemakers throughout France.

Food, Wine and Friends (Fiona Bequette, 2007). A cookbook that suggests wines and other drinks to go with a range of recipes.

PERIODICALS

Decanter Magazine.

Available from selected wine shops and online at www.decanter.com.

Food and Wine.

Available from selected wine shops, on subscription and online at www.foodandwine.com.

The Wine Advocate.

Robert Parker's newsletter, available on subscription and online at www.erobertparker.com.

Wine Spectator.

Available from selected wine shops, on subscription and online at www.winespectator.com.

TRAVELOGUE

Vine Garden: a Life-Changing Summer in the Gardens, Vineyards and Châteaux of the Heart of France. Alex Dingwall-Main (2006).

An affecting memoir of a summer travelling through several wine-growing regions.

In the Vine Country. Edith Somerville and Martin Ross (1893; reprint 2001).

Wondrous and witty tale of two cousins from Ireland on a tour of the 19C Médoc.

BIOGRAPHY

The Ripening Sun: One Woman and the Creation of a Vineyard. Patricia Atkinson (2003).

Emotion-driven story of the author's first year establishing a vineyard in Bergerac.

Virgile's Vineyard: A Year in the Languedoc Wine Country by Patrick Moon (2004).

History and culture in the entertaining tale of one man's move to his inherited Languedoc property.

Long Ago in France. MFK Fisher (reprint 1992).

Nostalgic and beautifully written account of the author's years as a graduate student in Dijon in 1929.

Chateau Monty, Monty Waldin (2008)

From the TV series of the same

name, journalist Waldin recounts his experiences as he converts a vineyard in the Roussillon to Biodynamic farming.

BOOKSHOPS◆ **Books for Cooks**

4 Blenheim Crescent, London, W11 1NN.

☎ 020 7221 1992.

www.booksforcooks.com.

◆ **Librairie Gourmande**

4 r. Dante, 75005 Paris.

☎ 01 43 54 37 27.

www.librairie-gourmande.fr.

◆ **Kitchen Arts & Letters**

435 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10128. ☎ 212 876 5550.

www.kitchenartsandletters.com.

FILMS

Mondovino. Jonathon Nossiter, 2004 (subtitled).

Iconoclastic documentary of terroir that critiques trends and personalities behind the globalization of the wine industry.

Babette's Feast. Gabriel Axel (1987; subtitled).

A Parisian chef and political refugee creates an epicurean feast for two sisters of a religious sect, and their congregation in Denmark.

Sideways. Alexander Payne, (2004).

Compassionate, comical story of a middle-aged oenophile and his soon-to-be-married buddy on a bachelor weekend in California.

A Good Year. Ridley Scott (2006).

Lush Provençal scenery backdrops the tale of a British executive reluctantly inheriting a chateau.

Bottle Shock. Randall Miller (2008).

The story of the 1976 Judgement of Paris, when Californian wines beat their illustrious French counterparts for the first time.