



WINE TOURISM  
—MAG—

ISSUE  
#14

**WINE TOURISM MAG**  
**014**

EDITORIAL  
**MICHAEL MCDUFF** EDITOR  
**JOANIE METIVIER** HEAD WRITER

CONTRIBUTORS  
**CLAUDE LALONDE**

MARKETING & ADVERTISING  
**JOANIE METIVIER**  
[CONTACT@JOANIEMETIVIER.COM](mailto:CONTACT@JOANIEMETIVIER.COM)

# WINE TOURISM MAG

[WWW.WINETOURISMMAG.COM](http://WWW.WINETOURISMMAG.COM)  
[CONTACT@JOANIEMETIVIER.COM](mailto:CONTACT@JOANIEMETIVIER.COM)

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



# CONTENTS

**04**

EDITOR'S NOTE

**05**

DISCOVERING BOURGOGNE

**08**

FINGER LAKES ICON

**09**

DR FRANK KONSTANTIN

**11**

LAMOREAUX LANDING

**13**

HERMANN J. WIEMER

**15**

RAVINES WINE CELLAR

**17**

DISCOVERING CHIANTI  
CLASSICO

The Hospices de Beaune, founded in 1443 by Nicolas Rolin, chancellor of the Duke of Burgundy, and his wife Guigone de Salins, represent an emblematic monument of Burgundy, both for their Gothic architecture and their philanthropic history. Initially intended to provide care to the poor, the Hospices de Beaune quickly became a symbol of charity and innovative medical care for the time. The main building, with its multi-colored glazed tile roof, is one of the most recognizable images of the area. The Almshouses were entirely self-sustaining through generous donations of vineyards and real estate, allowing them to operate continuously for centuries. Every year since 1859, the Hospices de Beaune has organized a charity wine auction, one of the oldest and most famous in the world. This event, which takes place on the third Sunday in November, attracts buyers worldwide. The wines on sale come from the 60 hectares of vineyards owned by the Hospices, planted with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the emblematic grape varieties of Burgundy. These vineyards are divided into prestigious plots such as Pommard, Meursault, and Corton-Charlemagne, producing wines of exceptional quality. The auction takes place in the presence of brokers, wine lovers, actors, singers, and public figures, which adds a social dimension to the event. Each lot of wine is auctioned by piece, a traditional unit of measurement equivalent to approximately 228 liters. The Hospices de Beaune symbolize a rich cultural and philanthropic heritage. Their wine auction is not only a major charity event, but also a celebration of Burgundian viticulture.

*M. McJannet*

# EDITOR'S NOTE



# DISCOVERING BOURGOGNE: A WINE LOVER'S PARADISE

By Joanie Metivier

Bourgogne, is synonymous with exceptional wine and picturesque landscapes. Located in eastern France, this renowned wine region is a must-visit destination for oenophiles and travelers seeking to explore the rich tapestry of its viticulture. From its diverse terroirs to its prestigious appellations, Bourgogne offers an unforgettable journey through its vineyards and charming villages.

## *Climate and Climats*

The climate in Bourgogne plays a pivotal role in shaping the character of its wines. This region experiences a continental climate with distinct seasonal variations. Winters can be cold, often with frost, while summers are warm, providing ideal conditions for vine growth and grape ripening. The region's climate is influenced by its varied topography, with vineyards benefiting from the microclimates created by hills, valleys, and rivers. The climate of Bourgogne is unique. The confluence of continental, Mediterranean, and oceanic influences gives the region's wines a unique identity. Slight local variations play a key role in the diversity and aromatic subtlety of the region's appellations.

In the context of Bourgogne wine, the terms "climate" and "climats" have distinct meanings, each referring to different aspects of the region's viticulture.

Climats is a term specific to Bourgogne and refers to precisely defined vineyard plots with distinct terroir characteristics. Each Climats has its unique combination of soil, subsoil, slope, elevation, and microclimate, which together create unique conditions for vine growing and significantly influence the style and quality of the wine produced. Climats are often marked by centuries of tradition and are the smallest and most precise classification in Bourgogne's vineyard hierarchy.





## *Natural Assets and Geology*

Bourgogne's natural assets are integral to its reputation as a premier wine-producing area. The region's geology is particularly significant, with a complex tapestry of soils that contribute to the unique characteristics of its wines. The predominant soil types include limestone, marl, and clay, each imparting distinct qualities to the grapes grown in different areas.

The diversity of terroirs in Bourgogne is unparalleled. Terroir refers to the combination of soil, climate, and topography that influences the growth of vines and the production of wine. In Bourgogne, this concept is taken to an extraordinary level, with minute differences in terroir resulting in noticeable variations in wine flavor and quality. This diversity is meticulously classified into various appellations, each representing a specific geographical area and its unique terroir.

## *A Journey Through Bourgogne*

Visiting Bourgogne is more than just a wine-tasting experience; it's a journey through centuries of winemaking tradition and breathtaking landscapes. From the medieval town of Beaune with its historic Hospices de Beaune to the picturesque vineyards of Chablis, the region offers a perfect blend of culture, history, and oenological excellence.

Whether you're strolling through the charming streets of Dijon, exploring the grand crus of the Côte de Nuits, or savoring a glass of Pouilly-Fuissé in the Mâconnais, Bourgogne invites you to immerse yourself in its world of wine. Each appellation tells a story, and each glass offers a taste of the region's unique terroir.

Bourgogne stands as a testament to the art of winemaking, where tradition meets innovation and nature's gifts are transformed into liquid poetry. As a wine travel destination, it promises an unforgettable experience, leaving you with a deeper appreciation for the remarkable wines and the enchanting region that produces them.



# Diversity of Terroirs & Appellations

Bourgogne's appellations are a testament to its rich viticultural heritage. The region is divided into several sub-regions, each with its own distinct identity and wine styles. Let's explore some of the main appellations from north to south:



## CHABLIS

Located in the northernmost part of Bourgogne, Chablis is renowned for its crisp, mineral-driven white wines made from Chardonnay. The Kimmeridgian limestone soils contribute to the wine's distinctive flinty character.



## CÔTE DE NUITS

- This sub-region is celebrated for its exceptional red wines. The vineyards are situated on east-facing slopes, benefiting from optimal sun exposure and well-drained limestone soils.
- **Key Appellations:** Gevrey-Chambertin, Vosne-Romanée, and Nuits-Saint-Georges.
- **Wine Style:** Rich, complex, and capable of aging gracefully, these wines are among the most sought-after in the world.



## CÔTE DE BEAUNE

- Home to some of the finest, creamy Chardonnay vineyards. The soils here mix limestone and marl, ideal for producing nuanced wines.
- **Key Appellations:** Meursault, Puligny-Montrachet, and Chassagne-Montrachet



## CÔTE CHALONNAISE

- This area offers excellent value wines and is less well-known than its northern counterparts. It produces both red and white wines with a distinct character.
- **Key Appellations:** Mercurey, Givry, and Rully.



## MÂCONNAIS

- The southernmost part of Bourgogne, Mâconnais is famous for its affordable and delightful white wines made from Chardonnay. The region enjoys a slightly warmer climate, contributing to riper fruit flavors.
- **Key Appellations:** Pouilly-Fuissé, Saint-Véran, and Mâcon-Villages.

# FINGER LAKES' ICONS



By Joanie Metivier

In the Finger Lakes, a region traditionally known for its hybrid varieties and sweet wines produced in large volumes, a select group of wineries has risen above the norm, significantly altering the area's reputation. These wineries have distinguished themselves through a steadfast commitment to quality, pushing the boundaries of what the region can achieve by focusing on classic European varieties like Riesling, Cabernet Franc, and Chardonnay. By embracing sustainable practices, meticulous vineyard management, and innovative winemaking techniques, they have not only showcased the region's potential for producing world-class wines but also redefined the Finger Lakes as a serious contender on the global wine stage. Their dedication to excellence has elevated the entire region, proving that quality can indeed triumph over convenience and volume.



# DR. KONSTANTIN FRANK WINERY: PIONEERING EXCELLENCE BY THE SHORES OF KEUKA LAKE

Perched on the picturesque shores of Keuka Lake in New York's Finger Lakes region, Dr. Konstantin Frank Winery is a symbol of innovation, perseverance, and dedication to quality winemaking. Its rich history and strong connection to the land have made it one of the most respected wineries in the United States.

The winery's story begins with Dr. Konstantin Frank, a Ukrainian immigrant who arrived in the U.S. in 1951 with a Ph.D. in Viticulture. At a time when most believed that European grape varieties, or *Vitis vinifera*, couldn't survive the cold climate of the northeastern U.S., Dr. Frank was convinced otherwise. Settling near Keuka Lake, he founded his winery in 1962 and began planting *vinifera* vines. His success in cultivating Riesling, Chardonnay, and other classic varieties quickly proved his theory right, sparking a revolution in the Finger Lakes wine industry.

Dr. Frank chose Keuka Lake not just for its beauty but for its unique microclimate, which moderates temperatures and provides ideal conditions for grape growing. Today, the Frank family, now in its fourth generation, continues to honor this connection to the lake and the surrounding terroir. They implement sustainable practices in their vineyards, including minimal intervention and the use of cover crops, ensuring the health of the land for future generations.

Their dedication to innovation is also evident in their ongoing research and experimentation with lesser-known varieties like Saperavi and Rkatsiteli, alongside their renowned Rieslings and sparkling wines. Each wine reflects the unique characteristics of Keuka Lake's terroir, with the winery's Rieslings celebrated for their vibrant acidity and delicate fruit flavors, hallmarks of the region.

**THE LEGACY OF DR. KONSTANTIN FRANK IS NOT JUST IN THE WINES THEY PRODUCE BUT IN THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINGER LAKES' REPUTATION AS A WORLD-CLASS WINE REGION.**



### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK BRUT 2020**

Traditional method chardonnay dominant sparkling with richness and ripeness. Its dominant aromas include crisp apple, citrus, ginger and almonds with well-integrated, delicate autolytic character that brings complexity. The mousse is creamy and supported.

### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK CÉLÈBRE ROSÉ BRUT**

Blend of mostly Pinot Noir with some Meunier and Chardonnay it has a lively fruitiness on wild berries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and black cherries. While not overly complex, it offers good balance and delicate, elegant style.

### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK BLANC DE NOIRS 2019**

The blanc de Noirs surprises with its extremely vibrant acidity and lively depth of fruitiness. It bursts with notes of red apple, cherry, and a hint of citrus, all complemented by a fine, complex autolytic brioche note and a persistent, elegant mousse. Good balance between the crispness of a cool climate wine and complexity of a matured sparkling.

### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK GRUNER VELTLINER 2023**

The winery has 30 ha of Gruner Veltliner and was one of the first to introduce it to the region. It offers a greenish hue, tart freshness, and vibrant acidity. Notes of green apple, white pepper, and a hint of lime zest create a lively and refreshing profile.



### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK RKATSITELI 2023**

This wine stands out as an unusual yet intriguing choice for the region with this Georgian varietal. This pale and light wine exudes a delicate complexity, with pronounced herbal and floral notes as well as a hint of exotic fruit. Aromas of chamomile, green herbs, and white blossoms create an inviting bouquet. On the palate, it remains intricate and refreshing, with a subtle hint of citrus and minerality.

### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK MARGRIT DRY RIESLING 2021**

The Margrit is a single-vineyard Riesling from their vineyards situated in Seneca Lake where grapes tend to reach better ripeness. Intense acidity and freshness with lovely aromatic. This wine delivers lovely aromatic notes of citrus blossom, green apple, tangerine, apricot, and clear, wet stone minerality. The mouthfeel is rounded, ripe, and well-crafted balance.

### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK CABERNET FRANC 2021**

The Cabernet Franc is an earthy, complex delight with a spicy edge. Its vibrant acidity and fresh profile highlight notes of red pepper, dark cherry, and subtle herbs, enhancing its supple texture. The wine's balanced, soft tannins and elegant structure are full of character and finesse.

### **DR KONSTANTIN FRANK SAPERAVI 2021**

This teinturier grape from Georgia is gaining popularity in the Finger Lakes region. This expression is fragrant, concentrated, and colorful. This wine presents a rustic yet complex character with spicy undertones. Notes of blackberry, plum, and a hint of leather create a robust palate, complemented by firm tannins and a lively acidity.

# LAMOREAUX LANDING WINE CELLARS: A WINERY WITH DEEP ROOTS



Seneca Lake, the largest and deepest of the Finger Lakes, plays a crucial role in the region's wine production. Its vast size and depth create a unique microclimate that moderates temperatures, protecting the vines from harsh winter frosts and extending the growing season. This makes Seneca Lake ideal for grape growing, and it's no surprise that it hosts more wineries than any of the other Finger Lakes.

Lamoreaux Landing, located on the east side of the lake, is perfectly positioned to take full advantage of these conditions. The winery's vineyards are planted on soils of Honeoye Silt Loam and Lansing Gravelly Loam, which add complexity and diversity to the wines produced. Combining these soils, the lake's moderating influence, and the winery's meticulous vineyard management results in wines that truly express the region's character.

Lamoreaux Landing is a family-run winery with a deep connection to its land. All of their wines are 100% estate-grown, with more than 20 different vineyard blocks that reflect the diversity of the region. This in-depth knowledge of their vineyards allows the winery to craft wines with a unique sense of place, each one a testament to the terroir of Seneca Lake. The winery's commitment to quality is evident in every bottle. Lamoreaux Landing has built a reputation for producing wines of exceptional character, from their crisp Rieslings to their elegant red varietals. Their understanding of the region's nuances, combined with a willingness to evolve and experiment, has positioned them as a winery to watch in the Finger Lakes.

The beautiful winery overlooking the lake is crowded with wine connoisseurs and locals who just want to sip their favorite wines. It's truly one of my favorite places in all of the Finger Lakes.

## LAMOREAUX LANDING SPARKLING RIESLING 2019

This is a rare gem with only 200 cases crafted. It delights with vibrant acidity that balances its charming aromatics. This sparkling wine offers a pleasing texture, revealing notes of green apple, citrus blossom, and a hint of honey.

## LAMOREAUX LANDING GRÜNER VELTLINER 2023

Lamoreaux Landing is proud to own the oldest plantings of Grüner Veltliner in the Finger Lakes. Grown on 2 acres, this wine displays excellent maturity, offering exotic fruit flavors without green notes. Its flat profile lacks acidity but boasts a rounded texture. While lacking in vibrancy, it offers a more mellow, fruit-forward style.

## LAMOREAUX LANDING RIESLING ROUND ROCK VINEYARD 2021

Round Rock vineyard is named after the big granite boulders that can be found on the ground. This wine offers a more mature and bolder expression with ripe fruit flavors. Notes of apricot, peach, ripe lime zest and a hint of minerality create a complex palate. Its pronounced acidity balances the richness, resulting in a vibrant and textured Riesling.

## LAMOREAUX LANDING RIESLING YELLOW DOG VINEYARD 2021

Yellow Dog Vineyard is also used for their sparkling wine production, it benefits from higher elevation and less lake warming effect. It showcases vibrant notes of green apple and a sizzling freshness that invigorates the palate. This Riesling is crisp and lively, with a subtle minerality that adds depth. The finish is clean and vibrant, with intense length because of the acidity.

## LAMOREAUX LANDING RIESLING RED OAK VINEYARD 2021

Named after the 250-year-old oak tree that rests in the vineyard, this single vineyard is known for its afternoon sun exposure with a western aspect. This complex Riesling offers vibrant acidity and mature aromas. Notes of wild herbs, lime zest, and a hint of mushroom create a rich mouthfeel and very unique character.

## LAMOREAUX LANDING CABERNET FRANC 2019 MAS.

This wine has a vibrant and crunchy texture, offering pronounced peppery and spicy notes. This wine showcases complex flavors supported by fresh acidity and integrated oak influences. Its supple and harmonious structure provides a delightful balance of crisp, intense fruitiness and complex aromas.

## LAMOREAUX LANDING 76 WEST 2022

Robust Bordeaux-style blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc. It opens with enticing aromas of black cherry and leather, leading to flavors of herbs and berries on the palate. This wine boasts ripe tannins and good balance, with a structured finish highlighted by notes of dark fruit and fine tannins. It's a fruity and well-integrated blend that shows more power than most Finger Lakes wines.



# HERMANN J. WIEMER VINEYARD: A PIONEER IN THE HEART OF THE FINGER LAKES



Nestled along the scenic shores of Seneca Lake, Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard is a cornerstone of the Finger Lakes wine region, renowned for its exquisite Rieslings and commitment to sustainable winemaking. This iconic vineyard offers visitors an unforgettable experience, blending the rich heritage of the region with innovative practices that push the boundaries of what's possible in cool-climate viticulture.

Founded by Hermann J. Wiemer, a German immigrant with a deep understanding of winemaking, the vineyard quickly gained a reputation for producing some of the finest Rieslings in the United States. Wiemer's belief in the potential of the Finger Lakes region, combined with his meticulous attention to detail, laid the foundation for a winery that has become synonymous with quality.

One of the standout features of Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard is the careful separation of its vineyards into distinct parcels. This approach allows for the expression of unique characteristics in each wine, providing a rich tapestry of flavors and aromas that showcase the diversity of the region. It also enables the winery to experiment with different grape varieties and cultivation techniques, constantly evolving and refining their craft.

The vineyard is also home to a state-of-the-art nursery, which has grown into one of the country's leading custom grafting facilities. This nursery plays a crucial role in the winery's commitment to sustainability and innovation, providing the foundation for the vineyard's exceptional Rieslings, as well as a growing portfolio of other regional varieties like Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, and Lemberger. Each year, the team at Hermann J. Wiemer eagerly explores new varietals, seeking out those that thrive in the unique Finger Lakes climate.



## HERMANN J. WIEMER EXTRA BRUT 2019

Sparkling wine made entirely from Riesling grapes sourced from the HJW Vineyard. It dazzles with its exquisite balance of crisp acidity and creamy texture. Delicate notes of green apple, citrus zest, and a hint of toast and crackers create a complex palate.



## HERMANN J. WIEMER SAPERAVI SPARKLING ROSÉ

This unconventional, unique profile sparkling shows the winery's dedication to experiment and innovation. With candied cherry notes, crisp red fruits, and a rustic character, balanced by crisp acidity, the wine is refreshing and lively. A hint of tingly spiciness in the finale brings even more depth and length.

## HERMANN J. WIEMER FLOWER DAY RIESLING 2022

Flower Day is a blend of grapes from their Demeter-certified HJW Vineyard and transitioning biodynamically farmed Standing Stone site. This Riesling offers a beautiful expression with floral aromas and vibrant acidity. It's dry, and exuberant, showcasing notes of lime zest and dried flowers. The wine's lengthy finish is supported by the freshness and textural body of the wine.

## HERMANN J. WIEMER HJW RIESLING 2022

The HJW single-estate was the first Riesling vines planted by the estate in 1977. It's noticeably cooler and more expressive than others. The winery spotlights this block each vintage in the limited-release Riesling HJW Vineyard. The wine has a full aromatic expression as well as strident acidity, and good volume. It's a fully complex wine that impresses not only with its taste but also with its general harmonious feeling.

## HERMANN J. WIEMER MAGDALENA 2022

Magdalena vineyard is closer to the lake and warmer. It boasts great ripeness of flavor with orchard fruit, citrus, fresh thyme, lime notes of great aromatic intensity. It also showcases integrated kerosene notes as well as minerality. It's a warm and full-bodied Riesling of great length.

## HERMANN J. WIEMER GEWÜRZTRAMINER 2023

Light-colored Gewürztraminer that is extremely floral, with notes of rose water and white flowers. On the palate the wine is textural and phenolic with lost flavor intensity compared to the nose but a touch of bitterness on the finish instead. It's a lean, focused wine with layers of texture.

## HERMANN J. WIEMER JOSEF RIESLING 2022

The Josef Riesling comes from mature vines planted in 1974. It has a unique character, rich ripeness and is usually picked later as an Auslese-style wine. It's well-crafted and impeccably balanced between the striking acidity and added maturity. The intense flavors of pear, tropical fruits, delicate floral notes and minerality is enhanced by the full-bodied, covering mouthfeel.

# RAVINES WINE CELLARS: TERROIR-DRIVEN WINEMAKING

Ravines Wine Cellars was founded by Morten and Lisa Hallgren, a husband-and-wife team with a deep passion for winemaking and a dedication to quality. Morten, a French-trained oenologist originally from Denmark, brought a wealth of experience to the Finger Lakes, where he saw the potential to create wines that could rival the best in the world. Since its founding, Ravines has been at the forefront of the Finger Lakes wine scene, producing wines that are both elegant and expressive.

At Ravines, the focus is on creating wines that truly express the unique characteristics of the Finger Lakes terroir. The winery's vineyards are carefully managed to ensure that each grape variety is grown in the most suitable location, allowing the wines to reflect the diversity of the region. This attention to detail is evident in every bottle, from their acclaimed Rieslings and Chardonnays to their expressive red varietals.

The winemaking process at Ravines is characterized by a hands-off approach, with minimal intervention in both the vineyard and the cellar. This philosophy allows the natural qualities of the grapes to shine through, resulting in wines that are pure, balanced, and full of character.

Sustainability is a core value at Ravines Wine Cellars. The winery is committed to environmentally friendly practices that protect the land and ensure the long-term health of the vineyards. This includes the use of cover crops, minimal use of chemicals, and careful management of water resources. By prioritizing sustainability, Ravines is not only producing exceptional wines but also contributing to the preservation of the Finger Lakes for future generations.

Over the years, Ravines Wine Cellars has earned a stellar reputation, not just within the Finger Lakes but across the broader wine industry. Their wines consistently receive high praise from critics and wine enthusiasts alike, with particular acclaim for their Rieslings, which are celebrated for their purity, precision, and ability to age gracefully. The winery's commitment to excellence extends across its entire portfolio, with its Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, and Bordeaux-style blends also garnering significant recognition.

Ravines' reputation is built on a foundation of meticulous craftsmanship, a deep understanding of terroir, and a relentless pursuit of quality. This reputation has helped solidify its status as one of the leading wineries in the Finger Lakes, attracting visitors from across the country and beyond.





### **RAVINES ARGETSINGER VINEYARD DRY RIESLING 2020**

Sourced from old vines on steep limestone slopes on the southeastern shores of Seneca Lake, Argetsinger Vineyard is known for its quality and lean fruit profile, with more floral characteristics and focused minerality. The wine's elegant purity and savory finish are fully expressive and vibrant with citrus fruit, floral and delicate flinty, shale components. It's elegant and pure and its intensity and length indicate an outstanding aging potential.

### **RAVINES PINOT NOIR 2020**

With Pinot Noir's delicate nature, in Finger Lakes, its expression becomes very dependent on vintage and climatic variability. 2020 was an easy vintage with a perfect growing season that led to a refined and more concentrated expression. With intense aromas of red fruits, spices, cedar, and mushrooms, Ravines Pinot Noir is engaging with bold but supple tannins and a lengthy savory finish.

### **RAVINES CABERNET FRANC 2022**

Sourced from the White Springs and 16 Fall Vineyards, this Cabernet Franc has a nice balance between fruits, herbs, and spices. The palate is elegant, concentrated, and well-balanced. It shows maturity, great integration, and soft, delicate, polished texture. It was aged for a year in 2000-liter Austrian and Hungarian Oak casks.

### **RAVINES MAXIMILIEN 2020**

Intensely flavored blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon and 31% Merlot from Seneca Lake. It offers dusty aromas of dark chocolate, raspberry, black olive, and baking spices. The linear palate is lifted by acidity, showcasing tart red fruit, savory spice, and herb notes with fine-grained tannins.





BY CLAUDE LALONDE

# DISCOVERING CHIANTI CLASSICO



Last February, I had the privilege of being invited to an annual event called Antepreme di Toscana, where the latest vintages of Tuscan wines are showcased to the press and wine enthusiasts. The event featured wines from regions such as Chianti Classico, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Chianti & Rosso Morellino, and L'Altra Toscana (including Carmignano, Chianti Rufina, Cortona, Grance Senesi, Maremma Toscana, Montecucco, Montescudaio, Orcia, Suvereto e Val di Cornia, Terre di Casole, Terre di Pisa, Valdarno di Sopra, and Vino Toscana).

One of the key highlights was the 100th anniversary of the Consorzio Vino Chianti Classico, notable for being the first wine consortium founded in Europe. A royal decree on March 7, 1924, enabled the creation of these Consorzi di Tutela by 33 pioneering winemakers of this new appellation.

The event took place in Florence and lasted five days.

# WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT CHIANTI CLASSICO DOCG WINES

There has always been some confusion between the two DOCG appellations: Chianti Classico and Chianti. These are two distinct and separate DOCGs, each with its own production regulations and zones.

In 1924, producers in the Chianti region adopted the "Black Rooster" as a symbol to identify the origin of their wines. In 1932, a specific ministerial decree was issued to distinguish Chianti made in its original area by adding the adjective "Classico." Furthermore, since 2005, the "Black Rooster" is used exclusively to identify wines from the Chianti Classico zone.

All production stages of wines bearing the "Black Rooster" mark, from vineyard to bottle, must take place within the Chianti Classico territory, between Florence and Siena in the heart of Tuscany. Since then, wines produced outside this geographical area are called "Chianti," while Chianti Classico refers to the wine produced in the original production zone, known since 1716 as "Chianti."



The Chianti Classico region is smaller and generally considered more qualitative. It received its DOCG classification in 1984. The climate, soil, and altitudes of Chianti Classico make it an exceptional region for producing high-end wines.

The landscape of Chianti features rows of vineyards interspersed with olive trees. Approximately 7,000 hectares of vineyards registered for DOCG Chianti Classico production make this appellation one of Italy's most important. The production rules for Chianti Classico DOCG require a minimum of 80% Sangiovese, the typical red grape of the area (90% for Gran Selezione). The remaining 20% can include other red grapes from the region, such as Canaiolo and Colorino, as well as international varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, all recommended and/or authorized for the production area. Gran Selezione cannot include international varieties in its blend.

The wines from this region are classified into Chianti Classico Annata, Chianti Classico Riserva, and the new Gran Selezione classification introduced in 2014. Today, 169 producers make Gran Selezione (out of 486 producers).

The capitals of the Chianti Classico territory are Siena and Florence, shared between the provinces of these two municipalities. The area covers 71,800 hectares and includes the entire territories of the municipalities of Castellina in Chianti, Gaiole in Chianti, Greve in Chianti, and Radda in Chianti, and parts of Barberino Tavarnelle, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Poggibonsi, and San Casciano Val di Pesa.

To better delineate the qualitative characteristics of Chianti Classico sub-regions, the Consorzio has identified and defined eleven zones within the Chianti Classico production area, based on specific criteria such as oenological recognition, historical importance, renown, and significance in terms of production volumes. This zoning has been approved for Gran Selezione classification.

Called "Unità Geografiche Aggiuntive" or UGA, there are 11 zones that can currently only appear on Gran Selezione labels: Castellina, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Gaiole, Greve, Lamole, Montefioralle, Panzano, Radda, San Casciano, San Donato in Poggio, and Vagliagli.

