

SPECIAL PROMOTION

El Dorado Alert

Roussillon is Where to Taste French Wine Now



Roussillon's mountains are stunning and the Mediterranean Sea is dramatic. Its wines are fresh, its old vines are gnarly and its ancient soils are unique.

Roussillon (rou-see-yawn) is as far south as you can get in mainland France. It is two hours southeast of Toulouse, two hours north of Barcelona. Use this guide to expand your French wine radar.

As a destination, the sun shines for an average 320 days. Roussillon has the best weather in France. That means mountain climbing, biking, hiking, winter skiing and summer water sports. The sun is an artist's haven. The beautiful Mediterranean Sea is an off-the-tourist route. When you get thirsty, 2,535 producers make wine here.

Whether you taste a Roussillon wine at home or travel to Roussillon, be prepared for adventure.

EXTREME

This landscape is not your backyard. The soil is rough. The vines struggle. The mountain vineyards, up to 2,400 feet, grow on the terraces of the Agly, the Têt and the Tech rivers that drain from more than 8,000 feet to the Mediterranean.

Vines are planted in black and grey schist, gneiss, granite, gravel, limestone and red-iron clay. The scrublands, called garrigue, and sandy soil near the coast add to the mix.

It's hot in the summer and grapes are dry-farmed but vineyards are planted in niches on the slopes to help keep vineyards and wines fresh thanks to the cool sea breeze.

The yield is low, about half of a good Bordeaux vineyard. Where vineyards are hot, thick-skin grapes naturally shrink on the vine, so the final harvest is small and wines are beautifully concentrated.

Winds whip the vineyards. Cool Tramontane winds from the northwest, and Mistral winds from the northeast dance with warm and salty Marin (locally known as Marinade) sea winds. Vines are further refreshed by another five regional Roussillon-bound winds.

Dry winds help destroy diseases and encourage the success of organic and biodynamic vineyards here.

ENJOY

Roussillon's star grape is Grenache: Grenache Blanc, Grenache Gris, Grenache Noir. Know this single grape group and your wine needs will be satisfied.

Grenache Blanc: Rich, yet fresh, with anise and floral notes, and very long in the mouth.

Grenache Gris: Its skin is slightly pink. It gives powerful, round, elegant, fleshy wines with very mineral, citrus and aniseed notes.

Grenache Noir: It is round, fine and elegant with notes of red fruits with stones (cherry, prune...). It lends itself well to blends and is an "easy-to-drink" single variety.

Taste these three Roussillon appellations (AOP).

Collioure is where narrow vine terraces hug mountain ravines.

- **Red:** Grenache Noir, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan Noir.
- **Rosés:** Grenache Gris and Grenache Noir
- **White:** Grenache Blanc and Grenache Gris

Côtes de Roussillon Villages Les Aspres is where you find powerful, yet elegant wines with wild and spicy notes. Red-only blends include Syrah, Mourvèdre, Grenache and Carignan Noir.

Maury Sec (dry) is a new dry red-wine-only appellation well-known for its Vins Doux Naturels (fortified sweet wine). This wine is powerful and aromatic with an undeniable minerality. It's from 60-

to 80-percent Grenache Noir. The rest may be Carignan Noir, Mourvèdre, Syrah.

Try white (Grenache Blanc and Gris bases) wine for an aperitif, or with seafood, chicken or vegetarian; rosé (Grenache Gris and Noir bases) suits food and good times. Grenache Noir (red), single variety or blended, is elegant and well suited for a steak, lamb or other meat meal.

EXPERIMENT

Roussillon was a traditional vine-growing region until families looked again at what they were producing and started to experiment in the vineyards and with the latest winemaking technology.



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Now Roussillon is known as the new “El Dorado,” the experimentation destination. With knowledge as ingrained as the rocks, local producers have inspired producers based in Bordeaux, the Rhône, South Africa and even Napa Valley to make wine here.

It took 600 million years to shape Roussillon into one of the richest geological areas in France and the world. The result is the wine in your glass.



* Sud de France



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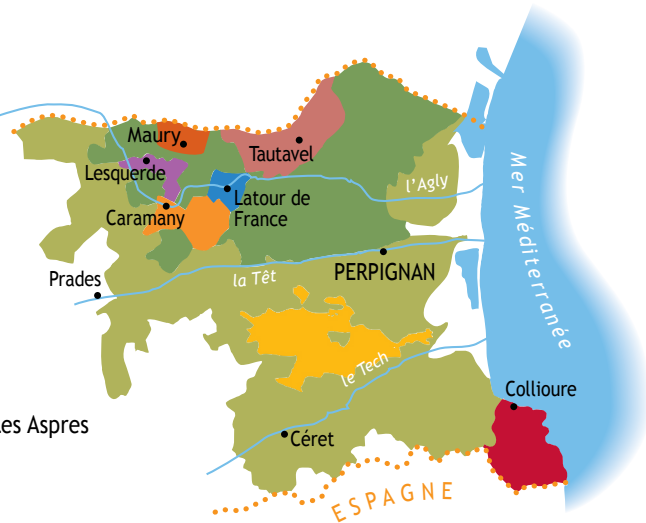
TASTE THE PLACE!

Know where you are with the wines you taste. As a starting point, look for freshness and diversity with wines of Roussillon. These are wines with a sense of place. There are tiny vineyards by producers who make wines you’d love to open a bottle with. Yet, amazingly good value.

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ROUSSILLON VINEYARD AOP DRY WINES

- AOP Collioure
- AOP Côtes du Roussillon
- AOP Côtes du Roussillon / Côtes du Roussillon Villages
- AOP Côtes du Roussillon Villages Latour de France
- AOP Côtes du Roussillon Villages Lesquerde
- AOP Côtes du Roussillon Villages Caramany
- AOP Côtes du Roussillon Villages Tautavel
- AOP Côtes du Roussillon Villages Les Aspres
- AOP Maury Sec



WHITE



90 POINTS
AOP Collioure, Les Clos de Paulilles, 2018



EDITOR'S CHOICE

92 POINTS
AOP Côtes du Roussillon, Domaine Lafage, La Grande Cuvée, 2017



91 POINTS
IGP Côtes Catalanes, Château de l'Ou, Infiniment de l'Ou, 2016



90 POINTS
AOP Collioure, Clos Saint Sébastien, Inspiration Marine, 2016

RED

VINS DOUX NATURELS



90 POINTS
AOP Maury sec, Domaine Cabirau, Serge et Nicolas, 2016



92 POINTS
AOP Côtes du Roussillon Villages, Les Aspres, Mas Bécha, La Bergerie du Camps de Nyils, 2017



94 POINTS
AOP Côtes du Roussillon, Clos des Fées, La Petite Sibérie, 2015



92 POINTS
AOP Rivesaltes Ambré, Dom Brial, Grande Réserve, 1979

There are 16 Roussillon appellations and 24 grape varieties so there is much to explore. Check out more Roussillon wines in *Wine Enthusiast* Buying Guide in the magazine or at winemag.com.