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**Burgandy, France – Famous For Its Wines**

**By Melinda Carnes**

The terroir is a group of vineyards or vines from the same area which have a common soil and climate. And nowhere else, other than Burgundy in France, is it held so fondly.

Burgundy is a region situated in central east France, which experiences bitter cold winters matched with beautiful warm summers. It is the home of 1.6 million inhabitants.

Burgundy (Bourgogne) is famous throughout the world for its wines. Spanning over 31,500 square kilometers (over 12,000 square miles), with a 360 km (225 mi) strip stretching 100km (60 mi) south of Paris, down from south of Dijon to north of Rhoône, houses 99 different wine appellations.

Ranging from the vibrant red Pommard and Corton to the medium Beaune --- to the sparkling whites, the dry Chablis or Chassagne Montrachet, over 180 million bottles of some of the fines wines are made in this region.

As an aftermath of the French revolution the vineyards belonging to the monasteries were broken down to smaller plots - which exist even today.

The finest quality wine, designated as "Premier Cru" - is available from 600 of the vineyards in the region while 33 of them is credit to produce the even more classly "Grand Cru" wines. Among these the most renowned are Montrachet, Chambertin and Clos Vougeot.

Made from the pinot noir grapes, the burgundy red wines taste best with Boeuf Bourguignon or pheasant. On the other hand a Chablis or their sparkling white wines go best with anything from shrimps to goat cheese.

The famous white wine called Chablis derives its name from a village of the same name. These are dry whites with an acidity that refreshes. The special Chardonnay grapes thrive in limestone that has been made richer with remains of fossils.

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As an accompaniment to lamb or grilled chicken, the best choice is the fruity–flavored, world famous Beaujolais made from the Gamay grape. These grapes grow in granite limestone.

The ever–popular and delicious red is grown in Volnay for the last 8 centuries. The grapes are Pinot Noir grown across 600 acres which is responsible in producing 1.3 million bottles of this amazing wine which has the flavors of raspberries and violets.

And then there is Meursault, located close by, famous for its Premier Cru labels of finest white wines. 2.5 million bottles of the finest wine, Chardonnay, aged anywhere between 3 to 15 years is grown in just over 1000 acres. Fish in white sauce go extremely well with this fine wine with its almond and apple flavors.

But what still makes the headlines is the red Pommard with its tannic and manly flavor, staging a comeback after many years of decline. From just 780 acres of Pinot Noir grown in limestone and red clay are produced 1.8 million bottles of this wine with the flavors of black cherry and black currant.

Goes excellent with game venison and roasted red meat with Livarot cheese, these can age from 5 to 15 years.

Whatever your taste buds need, there is very little chance of returning home disappointed with a Burgundy.

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## **Tips On How To Buy The Best Wines**

**By Jay Ashley**

For most people wine is an essential part of their dining experience. Wine is also mostly present in any social function. The problem with wine is that there are so many types of wines to choose from. As a result the wine selection process becomes very difficult.

What is wine?

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Basically, it is a liquor that is made by fermenting various types of fruits. But no doubt, that the most popular wine type is made of grapes. Wines made of different types of grapes, turn into different flavored wines. Wines that are not made of grapes are referred to as fruit wines.

Why grape wine is good for you body?

There have been some medical studies that show that drinking one or two glasses of grape wine a day may be beneficial to one's health. This is due to the findings that some properties that are found in grapes have a medicinal effect on the body. This includes decreasing a person's chances of developing heart disease, cardiovascular disease, stroke, etc.

Here are some tips on how to choose just the right wine for you

1. Experiment. Individuals should discover which types of wine suit their taste. The best way to do this is to order a different type of wine every time you dine out. This way, individuals would pretty much have an idea of what types of wine they will stock on their wine cellar.

2. Ask friends for a recommendation. For those who are not wine connoisseurs, the best way to start gaining some knowledge about wine is to ask friends to give you the names of their favorite wines. Ask them about the wines that they love, and which types of dishes go with which types of wines.

Make a list of the brands of wines that are highly recommended by friends. The next time you are in a liquor store, pull out your list and look for these brands.

3. For those who have found their favorite wines, and want to keep stocks. The best way to go about this is to buy their preferred brands of wine by cases. This will be much cheaper than purchasing them individually. Some wine manufacturers offer to take off up to 10% as a discount if individuals buy by the case.

4. Know which types of wine go with different types of dishes. For instance, white wine goes well with white sauces, salmon, etc. Those who are throwing a party, and plan to spend a considerable amount of money on wine should do some research about the types of wines that compliment the dishes they plan to serve.

5. Be wise when it comes to serving wine. The more costly wines should be reserved for more important occasions. Remember that wines can get very expensive. So individuals should keep track of the types of wines that they have in storage, and be wise when it comes to deciding when to serve them!

6. French wines are famous worldwide! France ranks first when it comes to exporting wines. Some of the more famous French wine includes: Bordeaux wine, Burgundy wine, and of course Champagne. For those who are just starting on their wine collection. These are some of the essential wines that they should stock in their wine cellar.

Choosing wines may be daunting at first, especially for a person who is not a wine connoisseur. But

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once a person gets the hang of it, and start to discover the wines that matches their preference, it won't be long until they start to fill up their wine cellar.

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Prepare yourself for the next time you walk into a Wine store and make a great selection by learning the basics at Jay Ashley's wine website

<http://winegiftshop.info>



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