PRESS PACK 2019

VINS DU VAL DE LOIRE

The world's **most diverse** range of wines

INTERLOIRE
Interprofession des Vins du Val de Loire

Loire Valley 2018 – quite simply an **exceptional year!**

What a year! Even our oldest winegrowers can scarcely remember a better harvest, both for **quality and yield.** 2018 will be etched on all our memories as a **historic** vintage, some say on a par with 1959, which is ranked among the Loire's very best vintages. (Le Point, March 2019). From Nantes to Sancerre, we're seeing highly aromatic, flavourful wines across all three colours. Overall harvest volumes for Loire Valley AOC and PGI wines in the Interloire and BIVC area are predicted to soar to 2.9 million hectolitres, up considerably on 2017's 2.2 million hl, and a welcome return to normal figures after a run of low-yielding harvests. This gives us plenty of scope to meet the needs of the market and replenish stocks.

Spring weather was very favourable, promoting remarkably early flowering and excellent fruit set. Unhampered by hail or frost, the vines continued to develop normally with no major problems - until June. June brought bouts of heavy rain, followed by serious attacks of mildew.

On the whole, however, these were skilfully managed by winegrowers. **Summer temperatures then reached an ALL-TIME high;** grapes continued to grow well and remained in robust health, and harvests throughout the vineyards were almost as early as those of 2017. Conditions were consistently excellent from the end of August right through to October. Growers harvested their fruit with total peace of mind, knowing the grapes had reached full maturity.

OUTSTANDING AROMATIC COMPLEXITY IN WHITES (both still and sparkling) AND ROSÉS

In the Nantais, the first Melon grapes were picked in mid-August. Balance was excellent, with acidity lower than average. The grapes are **rich, with good aromatic complexity.**

The same goes for Chenins and Chardonnays destined for dry whites and sparkling wine bases, which were picked between the end of August and 20th September. This has been

Jean-Martin Dutour, President of InterLoire, sums it up:

"Harvesting conditions were perfect throughout September and October, and harvests were managed calmly and confidently. This has been an outstanding year, the best in living memory: rich in quality and generous in quantity. A great year for the Loire Valley, putting us in a good position to meet market requirements."

a good year for sparkling wines, with conditions conducive to **excellent BALANCE.** Stocks are set to be replenished with a very high-quality product indeed.

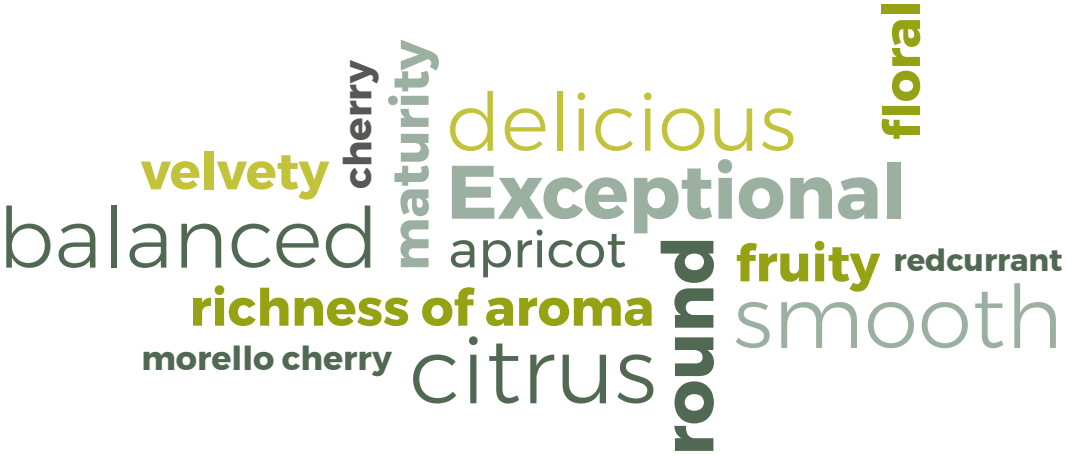
In Touraine, the first Sauvignons show thiol-based flavours of citrus and pineapple. Those picked later are full of peach and apricot, giving plenty of scope for making **superb blends.**

For rosés, Cabernets are showing a wealth of **DELICIOUSLY FRUITY** flavours - particularly cherries and redcurrants - while rosés made from Grolleau, Côt and Gamay are brimming with delightful aromas.

Moving on to sweet wines, this year's hot weather caused a certain amount of passerillage, a natural drying-out of the grapes while still on the vine. Botrytisation - where grapes are affected by a microfungus - developed slowly due to lack of humidity. Again, the grapes were in robust health, and have produced some of the **truly great sweet wines which can only be made in a particularly good year.**

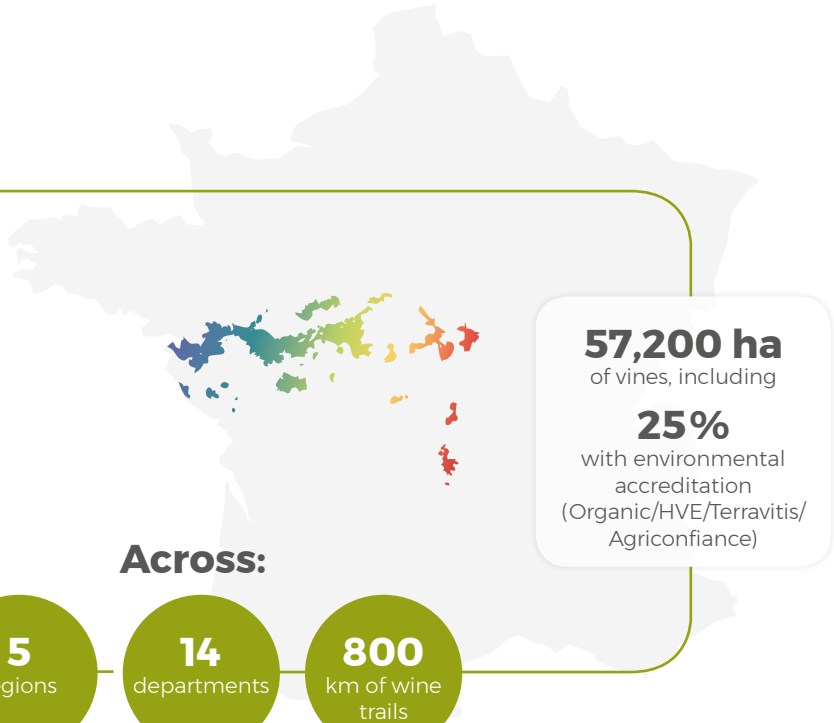
SMOOTH, WELL-ROUNDED REDS

Harvesting finished around 10th October for Cabernet Franc and Côt, while Cabernet Sauvignons finished picking in mid-October. The future looks **as bright for reds as it does for whites and rosés,** in yield as well as quality, and the hot weather has led to higher-than-average potential alcohol levels. This year, the Cabernets from sandy terroirs show thiol- based flavours, with red fruit and florals, notably violets. Tuffeau wines are **FRUITIER** and more **CONCENTRATED**, with morello cherry and raspberry jam flavours. Colours are deep and intense, almost black. The wines are **well-ROUNDED**, velvety-smooth and **SILKY**; the Côts in particular are magnificent, their profiles quite unlike what we're used to. We're looking forward to seeing a good range of vins de garde this year, wines that will age for 10 or even 15 years.



Vineyards

51
appelations and designations of origin
4
Loire Valley PGIs



57,200 ha
of vines, including
25%
with environmental accreditation (Organic/HVE/Terravitis/ Agriconfiance)

Across:

5 regions
14 departments
800 km of wine trails

3rd
largest French wine region by AOP volume

1st
Largest AOP vineyard area for **sparkling wine** (excl. Champagne)

1st
Largest AOP vineyard area for **white wine**

2nd
largest AOP vineyard area for **rosé wine**

2000 years
OF HISTORY

1 of 10
European vineyards recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
UNESCO
from Sully-sur-Loire to Chalonnes-sur-Loire

Wines

24 varietals, chiefly

Production by colour

Vineyards Wine-Related Businesses

6,200 winegrowers

250 négociants

16 cooperative wineries

Wine Tourism

1st France's top Wine Tourism region based on quality of service*

CAVES TOURISTIQUES

350 wineries open to visitors

100% visitor satisfaction

1/3 visitors from abroad

1,000 estates open to the public

* joint with Alsace

Sales

Turnover 2017
€ 1.3 billion

from export
K€ 278,000

253 million bottles in France **(79%)**

67 million bottles exported **(21%)**

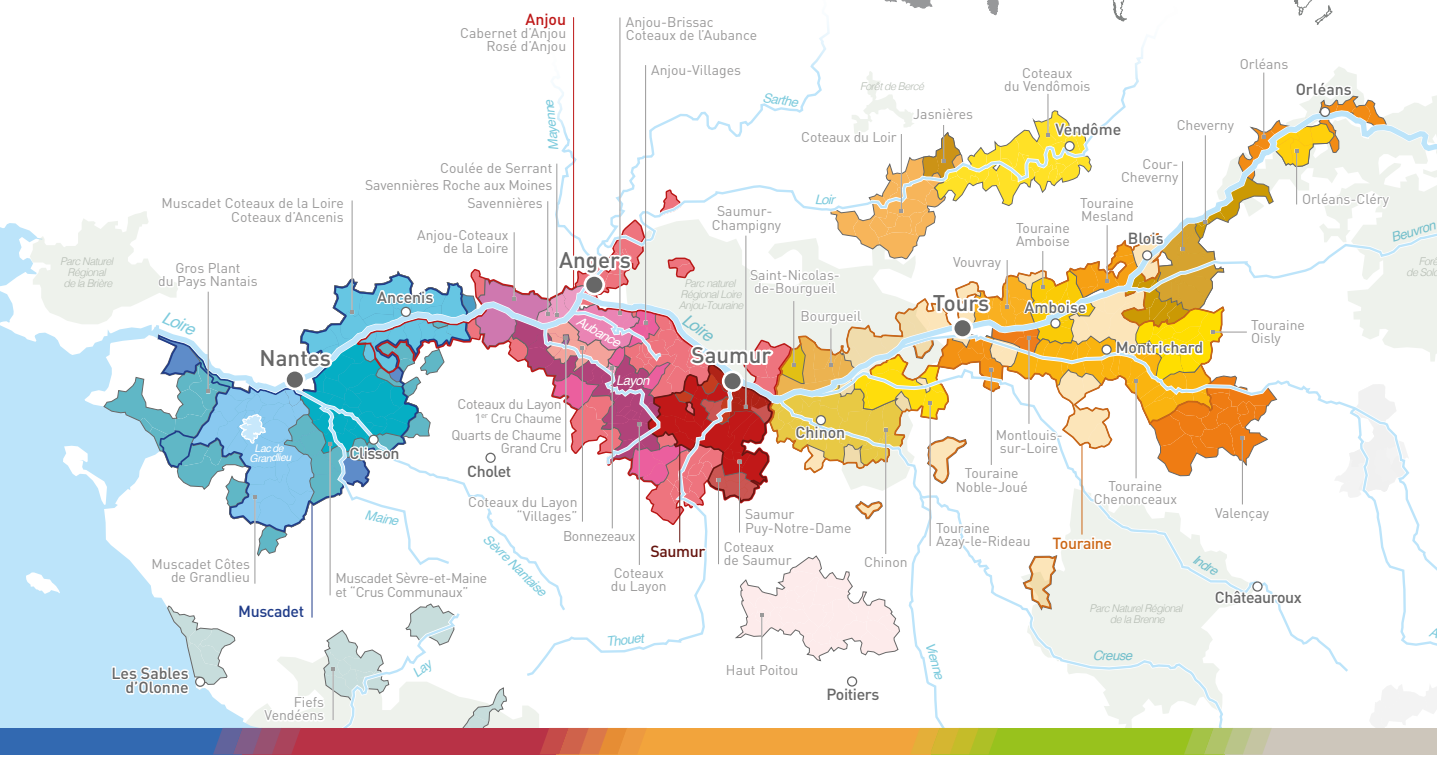
320 million bottles sold every year across 160 countries

bottles per second

Breakdown of exports by volume/country

Sources : InterLoire, BIVC, INAO, Douanes, IRI, Bebetter

VINS DU VAL DE LOIRE



Zoom AOP PGI area InterLoire

THE NANTES VINEYARDS

From the Atlantic coast to the farthest reaches of Anjou, the Nantes vineyards encompass 7 AOPs[1] and the Loire Valley PGI, and measure 12,500 hectares. Wines here - reds, whites and rosés - are startlingly fresh and crisp. The majority of wine made here is white, the star player being Muscadet made from the Melon de Bourgogne grape. Nantes Reds and Rosés are made under the Coteaux d'Ancenis appellation.

1. **AOPs:** Fiefs Vendéens, **Coteaux d'Ancenis*, Gros Plant du Pays Nantais*, Muscadet*, Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu*, Muscadet Coteaux de la Loire*, Muscadet Sevre et Maine***
PGI: Loire Valley*
* Administrated by InterLoire

APPELLATIONS

7 appellations
1 PGI
3 designations
4 gaining formal recognition

VOLUME PRODUCED

880,000 hl
incl. **492,000 hl** of AOP
and **140,000 hl** of PGI
24% of total Loire Valley production by volume

COLOURS

White: **82%**
Rosé: **12%**
Red: **6%**

METTEURS EN MARCHÉ

Winegrowers: **1,270**
Cooperative wineries: **2**
Négociants: **45**

VENTES AOP

France: **83%**
Export: **17%**

AOP BOTTLES SOLD

50 million

Sources : InterLoire, Douanes année 2018 pour la récolte et 2017-2018 pour la commercialisation (données AOP)

TOP 3 AOPs by volume

THE ANJOU-SAUMUR AND HAUT-POITOU VINEYARDS

With their 19 appellations[1] and Loire Valley PGI, the Anjou-Saumur and Haut-Poitou vineyards cover 21,400 hectares and enjoy a tremendous amount of diversity, producing sweet and dry white wines, fresh and tender rosés, and reds ready to drink young or to lay down... the list is almost endless.

1. **AOPs: Anjou*, Anjou-Coteaux de la Loire*, Anjou-Villages*, Anjou-Villages Brissac*, Bonnezeaux*, Cabernet d'Anjou*, Coteaux de l'Aubance*, Coteaux de Saumur*, Coteaux du Layon*, Coulée de Serrant*, Haut-Poitou*, Quarts de Chaume Grand Cru*, Rosé d'Anjou*, Saumur*, Saumur-Champigny*, Savennières*, Savennières Roche aux Moines*, Crémant de Loire*, Rosé de Loire*.**
   PGI: Loire Valley*
   * Administrated by InterLoire

APPELLATIONS

19 appellations
1 PGI
8 designations

VOLUME PRODUCED

1,342,000 hl
incl. **1,080,000 hl** of AOP
and **112,000 hl** of PGI
37% of total Loire Valley production by volume

COLOURS

Rosé: **44%**
Red: **18%**
Sparkling: **22%**
White: **16%**

PRODUCERS

Winegrowers: **2,083**
Cooperative wineries: **5**
Négociants: **45**

SALES

France : **83%**
Export : **17%**

BOTTLES SOLD

124 million

Sources : InterLoire, Douanes année 2018 pour la récolte et 2017-2018 pour la commercialisation (données AOP)

TOP 3 AOPs by volume

THE TOURAINE VINEYARDS

The Touraine vineyards stretch from Montsoreau at the borders of Anjou to Blois, encompassing 17 appellations[1] and the Loire Valley PGI - a total of 16,300 hectares.
They include some of the Loire Valley's best-known appellations - such as Chinon, Saint-Nicolas-de Bourgueil and Vouvray - on both sides of the Loire.

1. **AOP :** Bourgueil, Cheverny, **Chinon*, Coteaux du Loir*, Coteaux du Vendômois***, Cour-Cheverny, **Jasnières***, Montlouis-sur-Loire, Orléans, Orléans-Cléry, **Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil*, Touraine*, Touraine-Noble-Joué***, Valençay, **Vouvray*, Crémant de Loire*, Rosé de Loire***.
   PGI: Loire Valley*
   * Administrated by InterLoire

APPELLATIONS

17 appellations
1 IGP
5 designations

VOLUME PRODUCED

992,000 hl
incl. **818,000 hl** of AOP
and **70,000 hl** of PGI
27% of total Loire Valley production by volume

COLOURS

Red: **36%**
White: **35%**
Sparkling: **16%**
Rosé: **13%**

PRODUCERS

Winegrowers: **1,600**
Cooperative wineries: **11**
Négociants: **125**

SALES

France : **80%**
Export : **20%**

BOTTLES SOLD

59 million

Sources : InterLoire, Douanes année 2018 pour la récolte et 2017-2018 pour la commercialisation (données AOP)

TOP 3 AOPs by volume

PRESS CONTACT

Anne-Sophie Lerouge
Tel. +33 (0)2 47 60 55 23 · as.lerouge@vinsvaldeloire.fr

ABOUT INTERLOIRE

Interloire is the joint professional association for Loire Valley wines, and lies at the heart of France's 3rd largest appellation-wine producing area. It brings together 3,000 winegrowers, negotiants and cooperatives from the Nantais, Anjou-Saumur and Touraine. Interloire encompasses Loire Valley appellations, denominations and PGIs across 43,000 hectares, covering 14 departments from the Vendée to Puy-de-Dôme, accounting for 80% of the Loire Basin's wine production volume.

With a 6 millions Euros budget, Interloire's missions include:

economic governance and forward planning

research and development

the safeguarding and promotion of Loire Valley wines

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