



DO YOU SPEAK ROUSSILLON WINES?

4 key information to be a Roussillon wines speaker



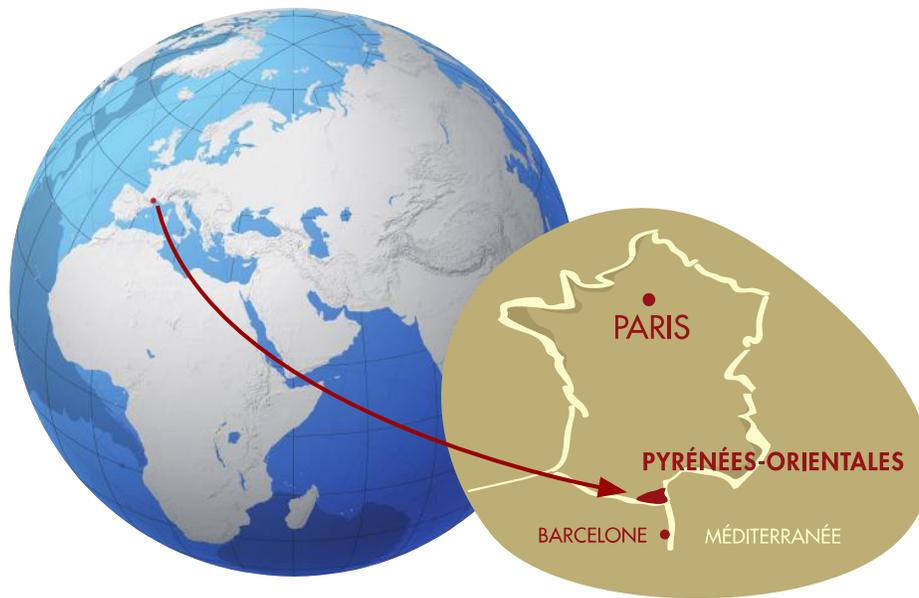
THE ROUSSILLON VINEYARDS: DIVERSITY, HIGH QUALITY IN SOUTH OF FRANCE

A wide range of dry and fortified sweet wines

14 AOPS AND 15 VARIETALS: EXTERNAL SIGNS OF WEALTH

A SOCIETY OF SMALL WINE GROWERS

VARIED TERROIRS



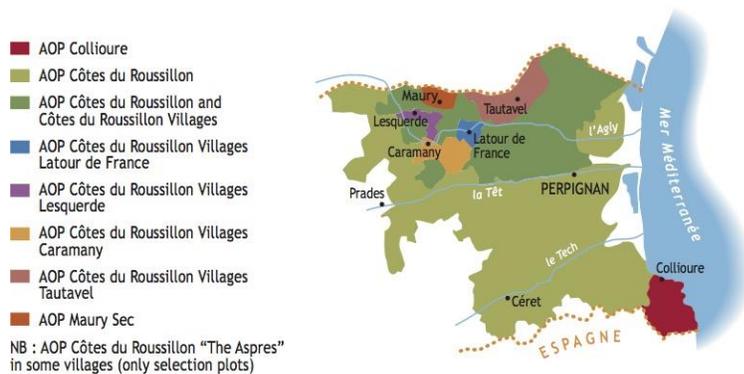


INTRODUCTION TO ROUSSILLON VINEYARDS

THE PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES region is the ninth largest producer of wine in France, with 2% of national production by volume. It produces 80% of the Vins Doux Naturels (Fortified Sweet Wines) in France.

The Roussillon produces dry, still wines and Vins Doux Naturels. With 14 AOPs from 15 different varietals and 3 IGPs, there is a wealth of different Roussillon wines, each with its own character.

For dry wines, the AOPs are:



- Collioure (white, rosé, red)
- Côtes du Roussillon (white, rosé, red)
- Côtes du Roussillon les Aspres (exclusively red)
- Côtes du Roussillon Villages (red), along with 4 specific wines identified by the name of the town:
 - Côtes du Roussillon Villages Caramany
 - Côtes du Roussillon Villages Latour de France
 - Côtes du Roussillon Villages Lesquerde
 - Côtes du Roussillon Villages Tautavel
- Maury Sec (red)

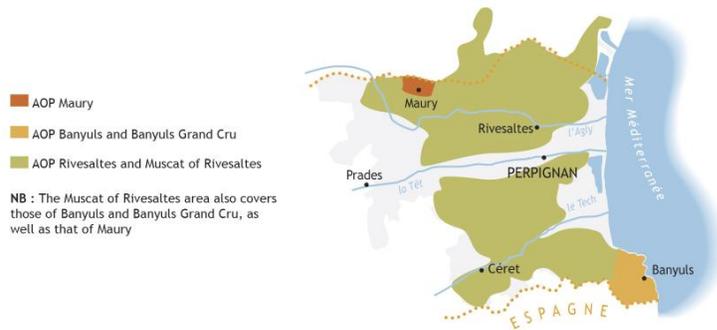


The IGPs are:



- Côtes Catalanes (white, rosé, red and Rancio)
- Côte Vermeille (white, rosé, red and Rancio)
- IGP d'Oc (covers Roussillon area) (white, rosé, red)

For Vins Doux Naturels (Fortified Sweet Wines), the AOPs are:



NB : The Muscat of Rivesaltes area also covers those of Banyuls and Banyuls Grand Cru, as well as that of Maury

- Rivesaltes (Ambré, Tuilé, Grenat, Rosé, Hors d'Age, Rancio)
- Maury (Ambré, Tuilé, Blanc, Grenat, Hors d'Age, Rancio)
- Banyuls (amber and tawny colored, white, Rosé, Hors d'Age, Rancio, Rimage)
- Banyuls Grand Cru (tawny colored)
- Muscat de Rivesaltes (white)

Ambré and Tuilé wines may use the "Hors d'Age" and/or "Rancio" denotation when they are aged for five year or more.

14 AOPS AND 15 VARIETALS: EXTERNAL SIGNS OF WEALTH

In the Roussillon, the vines, which still covered an area of around 70,000 hectares in the 1960s, now cover 22,000 hectares, 70% of which are classified into AOPs.

Roussillon vines have a maximum average yield of 32 hl/ha. By way of comparison, the average yield of all French AOP vines is 60 hl/ha. The total average production is 785,000 hl per year, of which 298,400 is AOP Dry wines and 138,200 is AOP Vins Doux Naturels (Fortified Sweet Wines). About 286,600 hl is made into IGP wines.

The AOP Vins Doux Naturels are made from a limited range of distinguished varieties: Grenaches, Macabeu, Malvoisie du Roussillon, Muscats. The AOP Dry Wines use Grenaches, Carignan noir, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Cinsault, Lladoner Pelut, Macabeu, Malvoisie du Roussillon, Roussanne, Marsanne and Vermentino.



A SOCIETY OF SMALL WINE GROWERS

Vine growing is essentially done by family businesses. Roussillon has around 2,200 wine growers. The vineyards are small, averaging 10 hectares in size, 90% of which are managed by their owners.



The Cooperative movement, which began early in 1907, spread a great deal between the two wars; today, nearly every winegrowing village has its cooperative cellar. The Pyrénées-Orientales currently has around 25 winemaking cooperatives, responsible for 75% of wine production. The other 25% is produced by 345 private cellars. Around 100 wine merchants are also selling Roussillon wines (2 of them represent more than 80% of the volumes).

VARIED TERROIRS

Roussillon is like an amphitheater, dominated by heights that are often difficult to cross, separating it from the neighboring provinces. Geologically speaking, Roussillon is a rugged area that underwent drastic changes during the tertiary and quaternary periods.



After the Pyrenees rose up, the Southern and Northern parts of the Pyrénées-Orientales developed in very different ways. As a direct consequence of these many changes, the variety of soils and subsoils mean that there are some fascinating geological walks, as each main area is divided into many terroirs with very distinct characters, some of which are recognized by an individual AOP.



I want to improve my level of Roussillon wines speaker: www.roussillon-wines.com