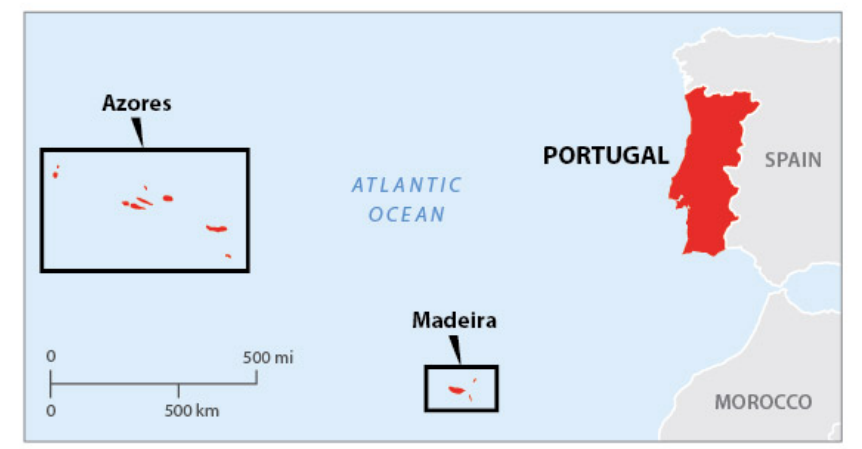


PORTUGAL

wine regions



European Union Wine Classifications

Denominação de Origem Protegida (DOP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) Equivalent to Portugal's <i>Denominação de Origem Controlada (DOC)</i> Certifies specific appellation of origin and adherence to strict viticultural and production regulations
Indicação Geográfica Protegida (IGP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) Equivalent to Portugal's <i>Vinho Regional (VR)</i> and <i>Indicação Geográfica (IG)</i> Indicates a broader geographic region of origin and adherence to less restrictive viticultural and production regulations
Vinho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wine (table wine) Replaces Portugal's <i>Vinho de Mesa</i> Least restrictive viticultural and production standards; no indication of origin permitted, grapes may be sourced from anywhere in Portugal

Principal Varieties

The history of wine in Portugal is thousands of years old. Over the millennia, a diverse multitude of wine grapes have evolved and adapted to the local geography that are unique to Portugal. Despite this, many regions are authorizing the planting of more familiar non-indigenous grapes, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Alicante Bouschet, and Syrah for red wines (the latter two showing particular promise), and Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon, and Viognier for white wines. Of Portugal's more than 250 indigenous varieties, those listed below are the most important and show the most promise.

Black Varieties

- Afroeiro:** central to the Dão region, it is also successful in southern regions (Alentejo, Tejo and Palmela); deeply colored, offers good balance between acidity, tannins, and alcohol; fruit flavors of strawberry and blackberry
- Baga:** widely planted in the Beira and Dão regions, considered one of Portugal's best black varieties; very dark, tannic, complex and age-worthy, suggestive of berry, red cherry, black plum, tobacco, and coffee flavors
- Bastardo** (*Trousseau in France*): primarily planted in the Douro region as an important blending variety for Port and also planted in Madeira; red fruit flavors and coloring, high in alcohol
- Castelão / Periquita:** best in sandy soils in the south's hot climate, particularly the Península de Setúbal and adjacent regions (as Periquita); good balance of tannins and acidity, fruit flavors of dried plum and redcurrant
- Jaén** (*Mencia in Spain*): planted primarily in the Douro and adjacent Beira Interior regions; a useful blending partner to soften highly tannic wines; by itself, offers a medium-bodied red wine with floral aromatics and red fruit flavors
- Tinta Barroca:** primarily grown in the Douro region, common Port wine grape; dark color, high alcohol and low tannins, offers aromatics with fruit flavors of plum and cherry
- Tinta Cão:** primarily grown in the Douro region, an important Port wine grape; excellent balance of tannin, acid, and alcohol; age-worthy and offers rich coloring and aromatics, flavors of black cherry and spice
- Tinta Negra** (*Negramoll in Spain*): widely planted in the Madeira/Madeirense region and the only black variety used in Madeira fortified wine; by itself, it produces unremarkable fruit-flavored wine
- Tinta Roriz / Aragonez** (*Tempranillo in Spain*): valued throughout Portugal and widely planted in the Douro and Dão regions (as Tinta Roriz) and Alentejo region (as Aragonez); important grape in Port wine and also as a dry wine blended with Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca; deeply colored, aromatic, and tannic with berry fruit and spice flavors
- Touriga Franca:** widely planted and particularly notable throughout the north and Douro region, it is one of Portugal's most important black varieties; important in Port wine and as a dry wine blended with Tinta Roriz and Touriga Nacional; offers elegant, smooth tannins, floral aromatics, and red fruit flavors
- Touriga Nacional:** planted throughout the country, considered Portugal's best black variety with the best expression from the Douro and Dão regions; the key grape in Port wine, and when blended primarily with Tinta Roriz and Tinta Franca can produce some of Portugal's most notable dry red wines, similar to Cabernet Sauvignon, offers dark color, firm tannins and a complexity of dark fruit, floral, spice, and leather flavors and aromas to go along with excellent ageing potential
- Trincadeira / Tinta Amarela:** widely planted, but most successful in the south's hotter and drier climates, particularly in Alentejo (as Trincadeira) and Douro and Dão regions (as Tinta Amarela); common in Port wine, also successful as a dry wine blended with Aragonez in Alentejo or Touriga Nacional in the Douro region; offers a good balance of acidity and soft tannins with flavors of red and black fruit, spice, pepper, and floral notes
- Vinhão / Sousão:** widely planted in the Minho/Vinho Verde region, used in the Douro region for Port wine (as Sousão); produces most Minho/Vinho Verde red wine, a region generally known for white wine; a relatively light-bodied red, it is nonetheless darkly colored (due to dark skins and red colored flesh/pulp), and offers a fruity, tannic wine with sharp acidity

¹ One of the five grapes officially recommended for Port wine ² Madeira wine grape

White Varieties

- Alvarinho** (*Albariño in Spain*): important grape from the Minho/Vinho Verde region, considered Portugal's finest white variety, aromatic with high acidity, zesty minerality, and citrus and peach fruit flavors; often made in a lightly fizzy style
- Antão Vaz:** performs well in warmer southern climate (Alentejo region), considered one of Portugal's best white varieties; capable of many styles, from light, crisp and citrusy to fuller-bodied wines; offers tropical fruit flavors and citrus notes
- Arinto / Pedernã:** widely planted, most associated with the Vinho Verde (as Pedernã), Alentejo, Do Tejo, and Bucelas regions; crisp acidity and minerality, often used as a blending partner offering citrus fruit and green apple notes
- Bical:** primarily planted in the Beira, Bairrada, and Dão regions, it is often used for sparkling wine (blended with Arinto); offers slightly floral aromas and flavors of peach, apricot, and sometimes tropical fruit
- Encruzado:** planted mostly in the Dão region, it is arguably Portugal's best white variety, capable of excellent age-worthy wine with a perfect balance of sugar and acid; offers complex floral aromas, minerality, citrus and tropical fruit
- Fernão Pires / Maria Gomes:** perhaps the most widely planted white variety; best in the warmer southern climate, notably the Tejo, Lisboa and Bairrada (where known as Maria Gomes) regions; aromatic with lemon, lime and orange flavors
- Gouveio** (*Godello in Spain*): native to northern Portugal (Trasmontano and Douro regions), now grown mostly in the Douro, Dão, and Alentejo regions and one of the grapes used in white Port wine; used as a base for sparkling wine in Távora-Varosa region; offers good acidity and fresh citrus aromas with apple and peach notes
- Loureiro:** important in the Minho/Vinho Verde region, widely used in white wines either as part of a blend or on its own; offers balanced acidity and floral aromatics with apple, peach, and orange notes
- Malvasia Fina** / **Boal**: planted mostly in the Douro, Dão, Beira Interior, and Távora-Varosa regions, also found in the Azores and Madeira (as Boal) where it makes the fortified wine of the same name; one of the grapes used in white Port wine and as a base for sparkling wines; offers subtle and delicate aromatics, moderate acidity, and smoky and nutty notes
- Rabigato:** planted almost exclusively in Trasmontano/Trás-os-Montes and Douro/Douro Superior (as one of the best white grapes); used in white Port and as a blending partner in dry white wine; good acidity, minerality, with orange blossom and acacia notes
- Sercial** / **Esgana Cão:** planted primarily on Madeira where it makes the fortified wine of the same name; also grown on the mainland, notably the Bucelas region (as Esgana Cão); offers exceptionally dry, high acid wine capable of aging
- Síria / Roupeiro / Códega:** planted mostly in inland areas and along border with Spain, notably the Trasmontano, Duriense (as Códega), Beiras, and Alentejano (as Roupeiro) corridor; used in white Port wine; offers light acidity, floral aromatics, and citrus aromas and flavors of melon and peach
- Trajadura / Treixadura:** planted primarily in the Minho/Vinho Verde region and commonly used as a blending grape with Alvarinho, Arinto, and Loureiro; aromatic with a good balance of acidity and alcohol, flavors of peach, apple, and pear
- Verdelho:** traditionally planted on Madeira and used to make the fortified wine of the same name, it is also one of the main grapes in the Azores; aromatic with crisp acidity, offers fruit and citrus flavors
- Viosinho:** planted primarily in the north (Trasmontano/Trás-os-Montes and Douro regions), it is used in white Port wine and as a blending partner in dry white wines; aromatic with good acidity and structure, with flavors of apricot and peach

