

WINES OF THE FRENCH ALPS



VIN DE
SAVOIE

PROTECTED
DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN

SAVOIE
ROUSSETTE DE SAVOIE
SEYSSEL
CRÉMANT DE SAVOIE





COMITÉ INTERPROFESSIONNEL DES VINS DE SAVOIE

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La Région
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



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GOING BACK IN TIME

Vines in Savoie have been cultivated since **ancient times** and were mentioned by Roman authors such as Pliny and Columella in the first century AC. Back then, wine quality was already considered an important factor, and influenced by the know-how of the Greeks.

In **the Middle Ages**, monasteries were important vineyard owners and led the way with experimentation in grape-growing and winemaking, resulting in a significant improvement in quality.

The gradual abolition of serfdom meant that lands were broken up and the total vineyard area increased. Between the **16th and 18th century**, vineyards extended from the plains up to the hillsides reaching more than 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) altitude. Worried about the continued expansion affecting quality levels, in 1559 Duke Emmanuel Philibert issued an edict that harvest must not start until announced by a 'ban de vendange'; this measure was to make sure grapes were picked at optimum ripeness.



THE WINEGROWERS OF SAVOIE TODAY REMAIN GUARDIANS OF THIS TRADITION OF QUALITY, SO INTRICATELY CONNECTED TO OUR TERROIR.

The **French Revolution in 1789** had a positive effect on the development of the Savoie wine region, resulting in the vineyards being farmed with greater care.

Following the devastation of the phylloxera louse, which reached Savoie in 1877, **the 19th century** ended with a real renaissance of the Savoie wine region; replanting the vineyards took place using improved knowledge of vine-growing methods.

The **period after the Second World War** marked the start of a rebirth of the wine region: winemaking methods were modernised; the wine trade was organised, and the development of winter tourism made an impact.

Vines have become very much part of the Savoyard landscape and play a valuable part in the agricultural economy.



THE ORIGINALITY OF SAVOIE WINES

3 PROTECTED DESIGNATIONS OF ORIGIN (PDO)

Savoie • Roussette de Savoie • Seyssel

22 GRAPE VARIETIES

2000 HECTARES (4,942 ACRES)

20 GEOGRAPHIC DENOMINATIONS (sub-appellations)

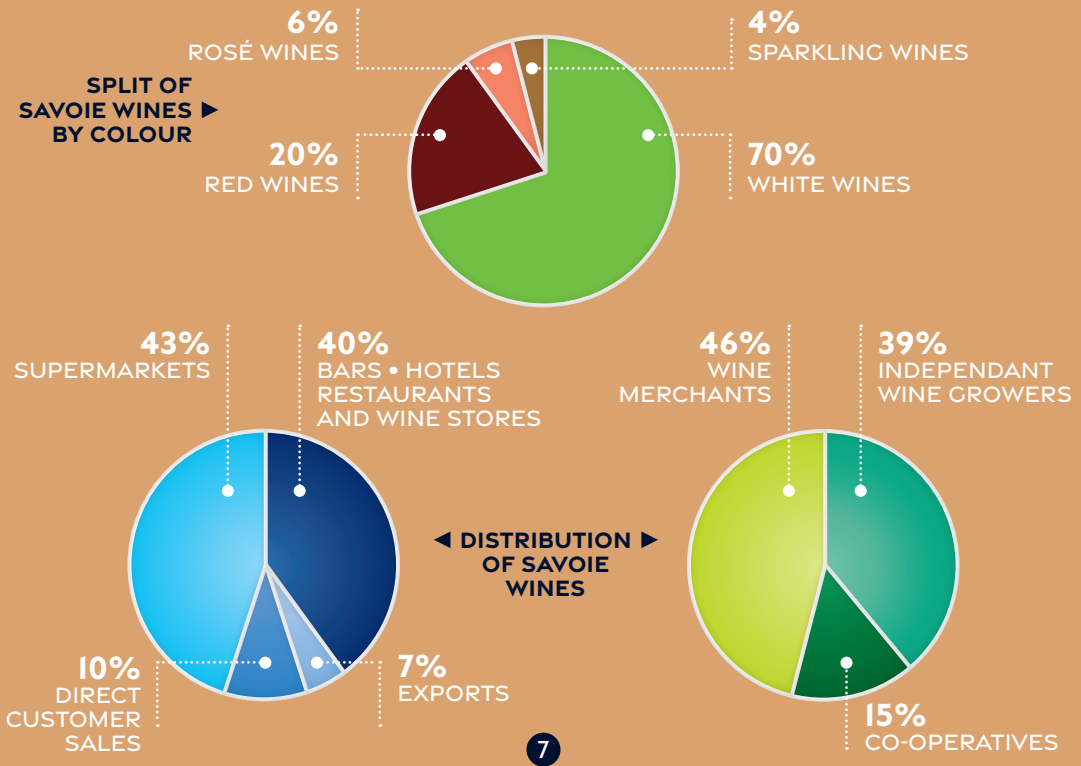
Ayse • Crépy • Marignan • Ripaille • Marin • Frangy • Chautagne • Marestel • Jongieux • Monthoux • Monterminod • Saint Jeoire Prieuré • Apremont • Les Abymes • Chignin • Chignin Bergeron • Montmélian • Arbin • Cruet • Saint Jean de la Porte

+ CRÉMANT DE SAVOIE



SAVOIE WINE STATISTICS

15 MILLION BOTTLES PER YEAR:
ON AVERAGE 112,000 HECTOLITRES
(2,958,727 US GALLONS)

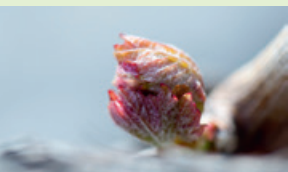




GRAPE VARIETIES

This diversity is possible thanks to the **varied soil types**, **vineyard aspects** and **climate conditions**. Savoie's situation near several regional and country borders has contributed to the spread of varieties, some of which can also be found in the regions of Piemonte in Italy or the Dauphiné and Ain regions of France.

Limited to those grape varieties authorised in this zone, their choice has been guided by how the varieties adapt to the soil and climate conditions, the latter factor being particularly important in cooler wine regions.



Savoie is the **second largest department in France for specialist vine nurseries** producing on average 25 million grafted baby vines per year. The main wine regions buying the plants are Burgundy, Champagne and Savoie.

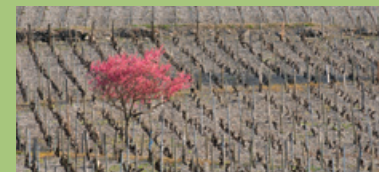


THERE ARE ABOUT 250 DIFFERENT GRAPE VARIETIES GROWN IN FRENCH WINE REGIONS.

SAVOIE WINES ARE MADE FROM **MORE THAN 20 GRAPE VARIETIES**, MAINLY INDIGENOUS, A REMARKABLE NUMBER FOR SUCH A SMALL WINE REGION.

Few wine regions can boast **such a wide variety of grape varieties, seven of which are unique in the world**: Altesse, Gringet, Jacquère, Molette, Mondeuse Blanche, Mondeuse Noire and Persan. Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Gamay from Burgundy are perfectly acclimatised too and have taken on a regional accent.

Crémant de Savoie, the most recent addition to the range of Savoie wines (from September 2015), has enjoyed unequalled success thanks especially to the indigenous grapes which make up the majority of the blend and give this sparkling wine an incomparable freshness and finesse.



VARIETY IN WHITES AND REDS

JACQUÈRE

Unique to Savoie, the white Jacquère grape is the region's most planted grape variety, with 40% of the region's vines, around 800 hectares.

Light dry crisp white wines, with delicate floral and citrus fruit flavours.

ABYMES, APREMONT, CHIGNIN, CRUET, JONGIEUX AND SAINT-JEOIRE-PRIEURÉ

ROUSSANNE

Known here as Bergeron, this white grape variety may only be grown in Chignin, Francin and Montmélian where there are around 100 hectares.

Rich, full-bodied dry white wines with a lovely apricot and honeyed character.

CHIGNIN-BERGERON

ALTESSE

Indigenous to Savoie, plantings of this white grape are increasing with about 340 hectares planted.

Mid-weight, dry white wines with freshness to balance yellow stone fruit flavours and a fine mineral edge.

FRANGY, MARESTEL, MONTERMINOD, MONTHOUX, SEYssel

CHASSELAS

This white variety is grown in Haute-Savoie with around 80 hectares planted.

Soft and round dry white wines, with apple and floral aromas.

CRÉPY, MARIgnAN, MARIN, RIPAILLE

CHARDONNAY

Covers an area of 90 hectares (225 acres).

Small, compact cylindrical grape bunches. Amber-yellow, small spherical grapes.

CHAUTAGNE, COMBE DE SAVOIE.

Indigenous to our wine region,

the **MOLETTE** grape variety accounts for 18 hectares (45 acres) in Seyssel; just 3 hectares (7.5 acres) are grown of **MONDEUSE BLANCHE**.

GRINGET

Unique to Savoie, there are less than 23 hectares of this white grape grown in Ayze, Bonneville and Marignier.

Mid-weight dry wines with attractive aromatic and mineral flavours.

AYZE



JACQUÈRE

ALTESSE

MONDEUSE

ROUSSANNE

GRINGET

MONDEUSE

Indigenous to Savoie, plantings of this red variety are increasing, with current plantings around 240 hectares.

Medium weight with attractive raspberry and violet aromas, and a firm structure with rustic forest floor flavours.

ARBIN, SAINT-JEAN-DE-LA-PORTE, CHIGNIN...

PINOT

There are just under 100 hectares of Pinot Noir grown across the region.

Soft and rounded reds with attractive cherry fruit flavours and good structure.

CHAUTAGNE, COMBE DE SAVOIE, CHIGNIN, JONGIEUX...

GAMAY

The most planted red variety in Savoie, plantings are stable with around 270 hectares grown.

Light-bodied fresh easy-drinking wines with attractive red fruit character.

CHAUTAGNE, CHIGNIN, JONGIEUX...

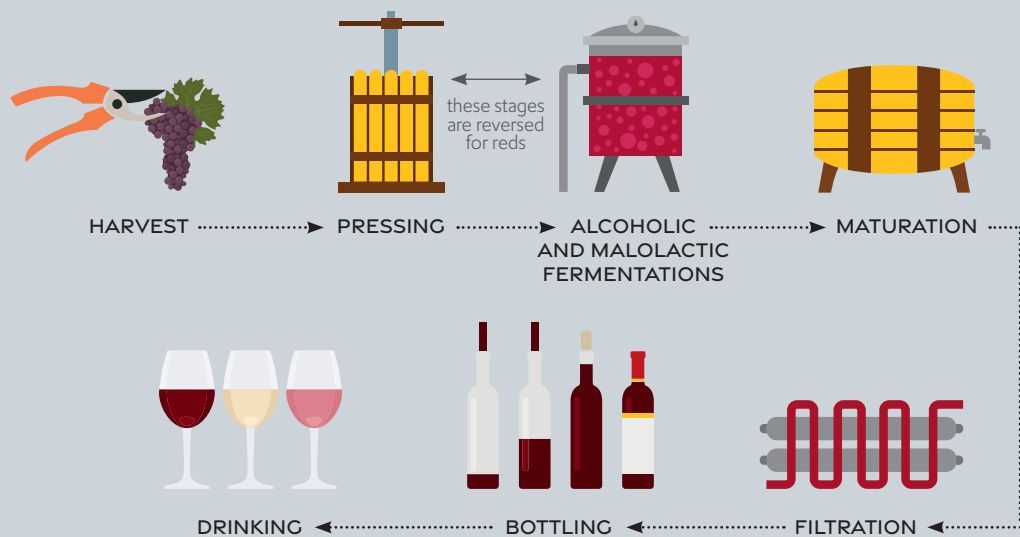
Indigenous to our wine region, there are just 8 hectares (20 acres) grown of the **PERSAN** grape variety.



WINEMAKING

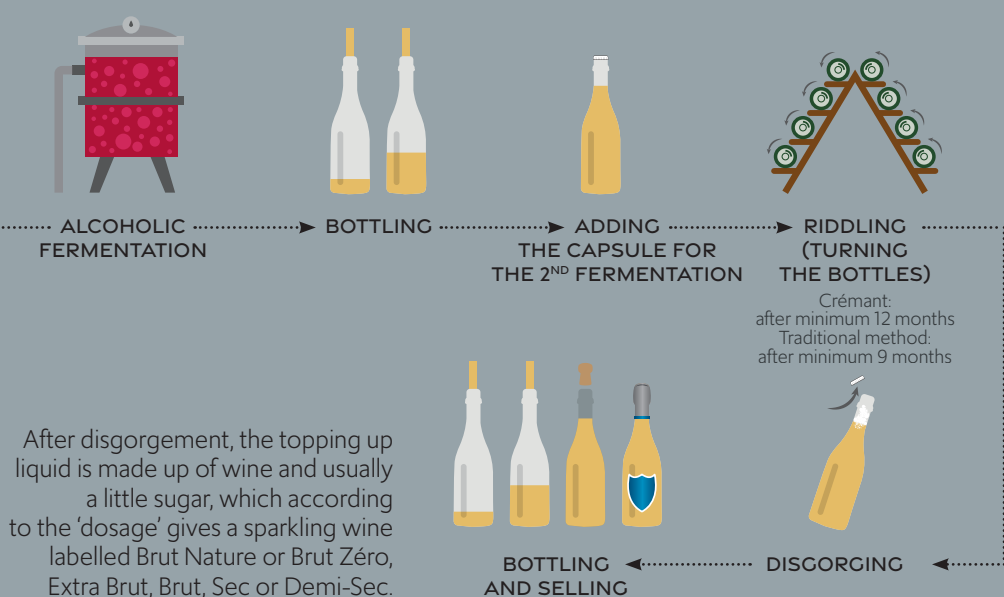
GRAPES FOR CRÉMANT DE SAVOIE MUST BE HAND-HARVESTED. TO ENSURE ITS INDIVIDUALITY, THE BLEND MUST BE MADE FROM A MINIMUM OF 60% SAVOIE VARIETIES.

MAKING REDS, WHITES AND ROSÉS



The **colour of a rosé wine** depends partly on the grape variety (Gamay, Pinot Noir or Mondeuse) and partly on the length of time that the juice spends in contact with the skins. The longer the time, the darker the colour.

MAKING SPARKLING WINES, CRÉMANT





P.D.O.

PROTECTED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN

This controlled appellation denotes a **close connection between the wine and the land**. A specific PDO wine must not be produced outside its designated terroir. The PDO system was conceived **to guarantee the wine's origin** and to provide consumers with a **quality certification**.

(source: INAO - the French national institute of appellations of origin)

The production of an PDO wine is strictly specified and subject to checks, which are carried out by an independent body, certified by the INAO.

The first designation in the Savoie region was **Seysssel**, designated CDO in 1942. The CDO **Savoie** and CDO **Roussette de Savoie** were given the designation in 1973. All are now PDO.



THE IDEA OF TERROIR IS THE BASIS FOR THE CONCEPT OF FRANCE'S APPELLATION OF ORIGIN.

WE OFFER SAVOIE WINE STYLES TO SUIT EVERYONE...

P.D.O. SAVOIE

WHITE, RED,
ROSÉ, CRÉMANT
AND SPARKLING

White: Aymes, Apremont, Ayze, Chautagne, Chignin, Chignin-Bergeron, Crépy, Cruet, Jongieux, Marignan, Marin, Ripaille, Montmélian, Saint-Jeoire-Prieuré

Red: Arbin, Chautagne, Chignin, Jongieux, Saint-Jean-de-la-Porte

Sparkling: Ayze

P.D.O. ROUSSETTE DE SAVOIE

ALTESSE

Still white

Frangy, Marestel, Monterminod, Monthoux

P.D.O. SEYSSEL

Still and sparkling whites





VITICULTURE IN 4 SEASONS

Like any agricultural activity, growing vines follows the rhythm of the seasons.

Whether the vineyards are worked conventionally, organically, biodynamically or sustainably, farming vines requires **daily attention**.

And whether they are working in the vineyards or in the cellars, winegrowers have to use their **know-how** on a daily basis, tending their lands to make **quality** Savoie wines.



Today, there are several certifications to acknowledge this expertise and to designate how wines have been produced.



ORGANIC
FARMING



"HAUTE VALEUR
ENVIRONNEMENTALE"



BIODYNAMICS

LIKE ANY AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY,
GROWING VINES FOLLOWS
THE RHYTHM OF THE SEASONS.



Vines must be pruned to limit their growth and improve quality. During this time the vineyard soils are also enriched and ploughed.



While the soils may be aerated by hoeing, the vines are coming to life with budbreak. The vine-grower must control the growth, by bud-rubbing, as well as tying up the vine canes and attaching them to the trellis.



The beginning of summer is when flowering occurs in the vineyards. The flowers are delicate, and the vines require much attention to ensure a good harvest. Tasks include trimming, de-leafing, canopy management and green harvest.



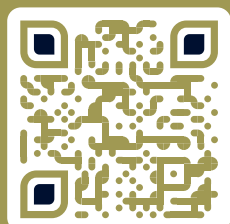
This period brings the excitement of grape picking, the culmination of a year's work ending with harvest - by hand or by machine. In the cellars, everything is ready to bring in the grapes and begin the winemaking process.



WINE TOURISM IN SAVOIE MONT BLANC

The Savoie's picturesque wine region is a perfect choice for travellers seeking an original experience. You can enjoy an array of spectacular scenery with snow-capped mountain peaks, sun-drenched lakes and steep, vine-covered slopes whose colours evolve with the seasons. Beautiful, unspoilt surroundings help you feel relaxed, refreshed and reinvigorated.

Another highlight of exploring the wine region is meeting the winegrowers - the men and women who are the proud custodians of ancestral traditions and local know-how. During a visit to Savoie's welcoming wine tasting cellars you can share the appreciation of authentic, meticulously-made wines with the winegrowers themselves.



FIND THE CELLARS OF THE VINEYARD



THE VINEYARDS PROVIDE THE GATEWAY TO APPRECIATE THE SAVOIE REGION'S HISTORY, TO DISCOVER ITS HERITAGE, IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ITS TRADITIONS AND ENABLE YOU TO EXPLORE THE WIDE RANGE OF ATTRACTIONS.

Savoie's wine tourism offering is expanding all the time.

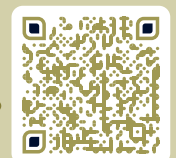
To explore our regions and for an original experience, you can choose from tailor-made tours or package deals (including lodgings, meals, vineyard visits and other activities).



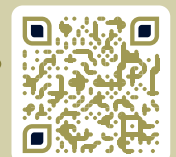
Savoie has two areas awarded the Vignobles et Découvertes certification.

Their websites offer a range of suggestions to help you organise a perfect wine tourism break.

TOURISME
EN CŒUR DE SAVOIE



AIX-LES-BAINS
RIVIERA DES ALPES

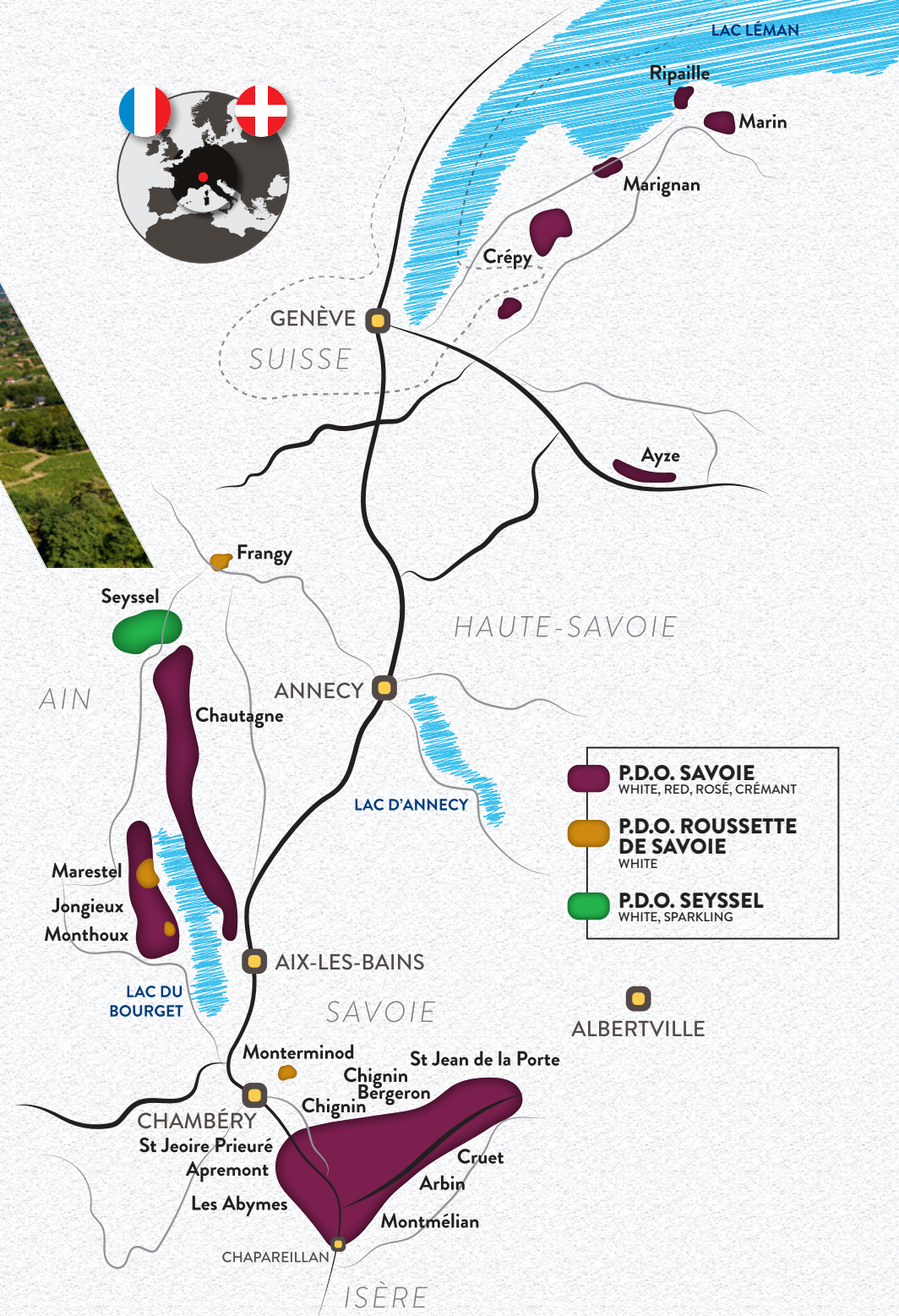




VIGNOBLE DE SAVOIE

The Savoie vineyard areas are set in **spectacular scenery**, lying in the valleys between the majestic French Alps mountains and the deep blue waters of the glacial lakes. As well as a chance to enjoy the tasty mountain wines and foods, a visit to the historic Province of Savoie can include cultural and sporting activities from mountain hikes or extreme sports to the fun of traditional village festivals.

2000 hectares (4,942 acres)
 3 Protected Designations of Origin
 20 geographic denominations



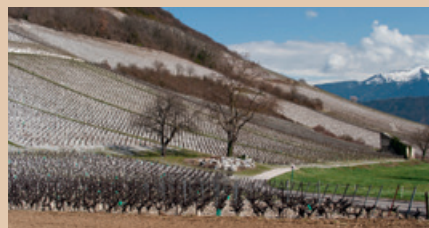


- **Chambéry:** the old town, the Château des Ducs de Savoie and nearby les Charmettes (once home of J-J Rousseau)
- **Near Apremont:** the Mont Granier pass (1134 m), the vineyards set amidst the boulders and “sartos”, little winegrowers huts
- **Myans:** Black statue of the Virgin Mary “La Vierge Noire”, a place of pilgrimage
- **Lac Saint-André,** a lake surrounded by vineyards
- **Chignin:** the ruined towers of St-Anthelme
- **Montmélian:** the old town and the wine museum “Musée de la Vigne et du Vin”
- **Near Saint-Pierre-d’Albigny:** the medieval Château de Miolans, the Col du Frêne, gateway to the Bauges mountains

CLUSE DE CHAMBÉRY & COMBE DE SAVOIE

From Chambéry, heading south on the D12 towards St-Baldoph, you reach the designated appellation of **Apremont**, and then the village of the same name, set in the middle of the rocky debris remaining from the landslide of Mont Granier in 1248. This is the heart of the largest vineyard district of Savoie.

Bauges regional park through St-Jean-de-la-Porte, St-Pierre d’Albigny, Cruet, and Arbin, known for the finest red wines from the **Mondeuse** grape.

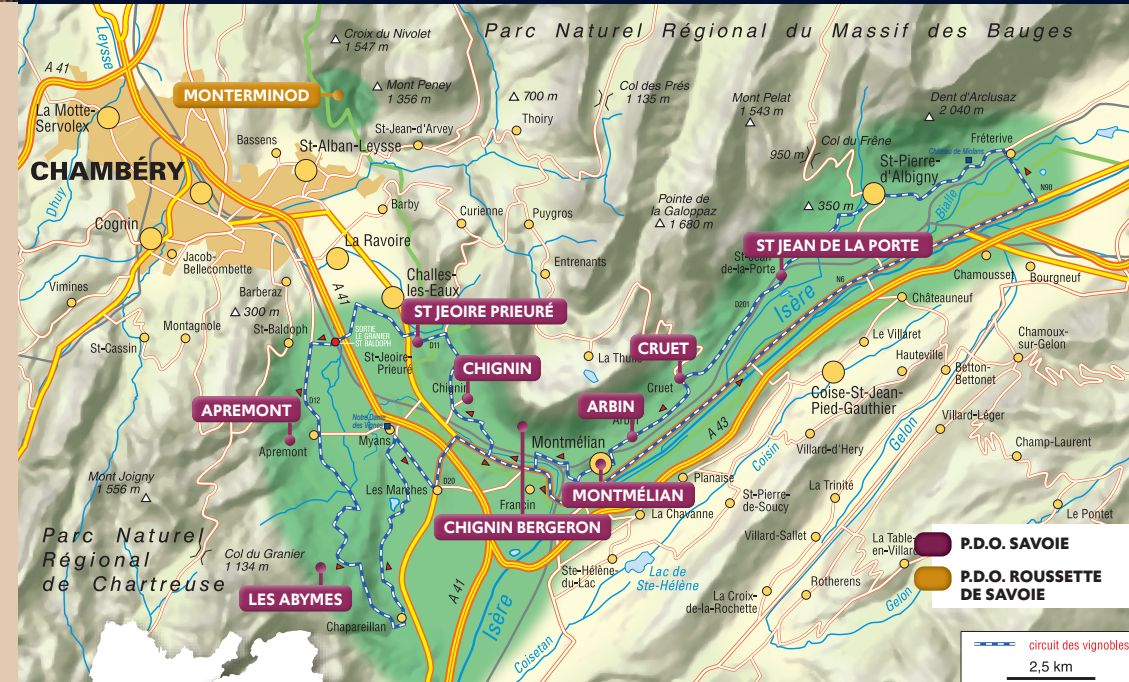


To explore the appellation of **Abymes**, head up to the edge of the Chartreuse regional park, by the village of Chapareillan, and then return north via Les Marches, the pretty Lac St-André and Myans.

Return to Montmélian and take the main D1006 road along the Isère towards Albertville. Turn left towards Fréterive and then left again along the D201. Head back to Montmélian on the edge of the

Once you reach Montmélian, at the foot of the mountain named “la Savoyarde”, continue to your right, through Francin, Torméry and Chignin, famous for the white wine **Chignin-Bergeron**.

Follow on to St-Jeoire-Prieuré with its tiny vineyard **Monterminod** lying below the Nivolet croix, overlooking Chambéry.





CHAUTAGNE & JONGIEUX

From Chambéry, head to Le Bourget-du-Lac on the D1504; drive through the Tunnel du Chat and immediately after the tunnel turn right on the D44 towards Billième. Here you will find charming villages surrounded by vineyards of the appellations **Monthoux**, **Marestel** and **Jongieux** on the edge of the Epine mountain. Continue on through Conjux to Chanaz.



Take the road along the top of the lake (D914) to Chindrieux, and then the D991 north into the heart of the **Chautagne** district. Alongside the Rhône river you will find the town of **Seysssel**, with the vineyards above it known for sparkling wines.

Explore the vineyards with a circuit via Corbonod in the Ain department, and then return to the main road and head northeast. After Vallières, take the D310 right towards **Frangy**, the kingdom of the Altesse grape making excellent **Roussette de Savoie** white wines.

Return to Seyssel and at Chindrieux, follow the Lac du Bourget along the D991 until you reach Aix-les-Bains.



- **Bourget-du-Lac:** the village priory
- **Via Chanaz:** Abbaye Royale d'Hautecombe (D120)
- **Between Seyssel and Frangy:** Château de Clermont (D57)
- **Above Chindrieux:** panorama over the lake from Saint-Germain la Chambotte
- **Aix-les-Bains:** the town gates and centre, and the marina on the lake

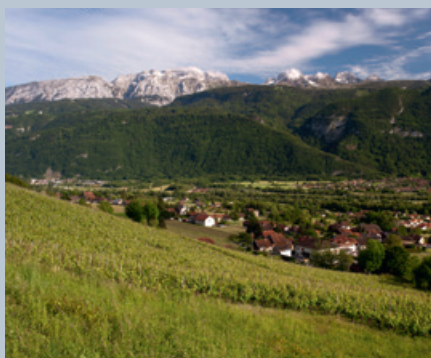


- P.D.O. SAVOIE
- P.D.O. ROUSSETTE DE SAVOIE
- P.D.O. SEYSSSEL



LÉMAN & ARVES

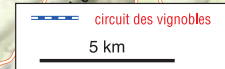
From Annecy head north towards La-Roche-sur-Foron. Turn right, eastwards to Bonneville, Ayze and then Marignan on D19, and then return west on the D6 and D12 to Findrol: the vineyards here are in the **Ayze** appellation where the rare Gringet grape is grown on the subalpine molasse or marine deposits.



Head towards Thonon-les-Bains, via Bonne, in the district called Bas Chablais where the Chasselas grape reigns supreme. From Cranves-Sales you will see the vineyards of **Crépy** on rocky moraines.

Turn back via Saint-Cergues till you reach Douvaine, and continue towards Thonon, via Chilly, Massongny and Séez at the foot of the Mont de Boisy, home to the wines of **Marignan**. Continuing again to Thonon on D1005 you will find the spectacular Château de **Ripaille** with its vineyards planted just above Lac Léman (Lake Geneva).

And finally, enjoy a circuit of the **Marin** vineyards via Armoey, Champagne and Marin.



P.D.O. SAVOIE



- **La Roche-sur-Foron**: the Tower
- **Near Reignier/Scientrier**: the dolmen called la Pierre aux Fées (the fairy stone)
- **Beyond Douvaine**: the village of Yvoire on the shores of Lake Léman
- **Near Thonon**: Château des Allinges
- **Thonon-les-Bains**: Château de Ripaille with its vineyards and arboretum



VIN DE SAVOIE

APPELLATIONS D'ORIGINE PROTÉGÉE



VINDESAVOIE.FR



La Région
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



LE DÉPARTEMENT

**haute
savoie**
le Département