

Sommelier Questions
Loire Valley
By Sebastian Crowther MS
REAL Wines

What are the four main geographical areas of the Loire from east to west?

- Pays Nantais
- Anjou-Saumur
- Touraine
- The Central Vineyards

Names the four Muscadet AOPs of the Nantais.

- Muscadet
- Muscadet Coteaux de la Loire
- Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu (newest from 1994)
- Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine

What is Muscadet called in the Loire?

- Melon de Bourgogne

What is 'sur lie'?

- The wine must be kept on its lees (in either tank or barrel) after fermentation until at least March 1 of the year following the harvest
- The wine is bottled directly off its fine lees between March 1 and November 30 of the year following the harvest, and not marketed until at least March 8

Name the three subregions of the Muscadet Sèvre-et-Maine AOP?

- Clisson = soil = Granite
- Gorges = soil = Clay and gabbro (igneous rock)
- Le Pallet = soil = Gneiss, quartz, and gabbro

What is the grape of Savennières AOP?

- 100% Chenin Blanc

What are the two former subareas of Savennières AOP that from the 2011 vintage were given their own AOP status?

- Coulée de Serrant
- Roche-aux-Moines

Name two of the villages that may append their name to the Coteaux du Layon AOP

- Faye d'Anjou/Faye
- Rochefort-sur-Loire/Rochefort
- Rablay-sur-Layon/Rablay
- Beaulieu-sur-Layon/Beaulieu
- St. Aubin de Luigné/St. Aubin
- St. Lambert du Lattay/St. Lambert
- Chaume ("Premier Cru")

What style of wine is produced in the Coteaux du Layon AOP?

- Blanc: 100% Chenin Blanc

- Sélection de Grains Nobles (SGN): botrytis-affected grapes

Name two sub AOPs within the Coteaux du Layon AOP that are famous for sweet wines

- Bonnezeaux
- Quarts de Chaume

What is the grape(s) permitted in Anjou Villages Brissac AOP?

- Rouge: Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon

Is white wine permitted in the Saumur-Champigny AOP?

- No
- Rouge Only: Cabernet Franc, plus a max. 15% combined Cabernet Sauvignon and Pineau d'Aunis

Name the three best red wine producing AOPs of Touraine.

- Chinon
- Bourgueil
- St-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil
- All Cabernet Franc plus a max. 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
- All can produce rose for same grapes

Can white wine be produced in any of the previous questions AOPs?

- Chinon OLN
- Blanc: 100% Chenin Blanc

What is the grape permitted in the Cour-Cheverny AOP

- Blanc ONLY: 100% Romorantin

What is the primary soil type of Vouvray?

- Tuffeau limestone

What styles of wine are permitted in Vouvray?

- Blanc
- Vin Mousseux/Pétillant

What are the grape(s) permitted in Vouvray?

- Min 95% Chenin Blanc, plus a max. 5% Orbois (Menu Pineau)

What AOP sits on the opposite bank of the Loire River to Vouvray?

- Montlouis-sur-Loire

Name the sub AOP of the Coteaux du Loir that specialises in Chenin Blanc

- Jasnières

Near what river is the Jasnières AOP situated?

- Loir River

If I ordered a glass of Menetou-Salon AOP Blanc, what dish would you recommend to pair with it?

- Dishes good with Blanc: 100% Sauvignon Blanc. Local goats cheese, lighter seafood based dishes

What grape is used in the Pouilly-sur-Loire AOP?

- Blanc: 100% Chasselas

What styles of wine are permitted in the Sancerre AOP?

- Blanc: 100% Sauvignon Blanc
- Rosé: 100% Pinot Noir
- Rouge: 100% Pinot Noir

What are the three primary soil types of the Sancerre AOP?

- Terres Blanches - Terres blanches is a continuation of the same Kimmeridgian clay that extends into Chablis
- Caillottes - is a stony soil, littered with fossils
- Silex - higher proportion of flint, continuing into the communes of Pouilly-Fumé across the river, where a certain “gunflint” character is implied in the wines.

What styles of wine and grapes are permitted in the Côte Roannaise AOP & Côtes du Forez AOP?

- Rosé: 100% Gamay
- Rouge: 100% Gamay