
Chapter 14

The Dordogne and South-West France



The Dordogne

East of Entre-Deux-Mers

Similar climate to Bordeaux - less moderating

Bergerac = red/white - same varieties as Bordeaux

Monbazillac = good value sweet wines - Semillon/Botrytis

South West France

Cahors

- East of Bordeaux - either side of the River Lot
- 'Black wines' - tannic/long-lived
- Best vineyards = fertile valley bottom / Poorer soils = slopes/plateau above.
- Malbec (as well as Merlot/Tannat) planted
 - Oak aged/deep colour/high tannin/intense/dark black fruit/cedar earth

Côtes de Gascogne

- Large area/IGP production
- Ugni Blanc grape - dry/light body/whites - green apple

Madiran

- South of Côtes de Gascogne, near Pyrenees
- Tannat - high tannin/deep colour
 - Usually need long bottle ageing, but winemaking catching up - now best wines concentrated black fruit/soft ripe tannins.

Jurancon

- Dry + sweet wines
- Sweet wines - made from Petit Manseng - passerillage (not Botrytis) - apricot/grapefruit/spicy notes (new oak)

Multiple Choice Practice Questions

1) What is the primary grape variety used to produce red wines in the Cahors region of France?

- a) Cabernet Sauvignon
- b) Merlot
- c) Malbec
- d) Syrah

2) What is the primary grape variety used to produce white wines from the Cotes de Gascogne region in high volumes?

- a) Chardonnay
- b) Ugni Blanc
- c) Sauvignon Blanc
- d) Viognier

3) Which of the following regions are well known for producing dry and sweet wines?

- a) Jurancon
- b) Madiran
- c) Burgundy
- d) Cahors

4) Where is the Dordogne region situated?

- a) East of Entre-Deux-Mers
- b) North of Entre-Deux-Mers
- c) South of Entre-Deux-Mers
- d) West of Entre-Deux-Mers

5) Which of the following regions would produce wines most similar to Sauternes?

- a) Cahors
- b) Jurancon
- c) Bergerac
- d) Monbazillac

Answers:

1. c) Malbec
2. b) Ugni Blanc
3. a) Jurancon
4. a) East of Entre-Deux-Mers
5. d) Monbazillac

