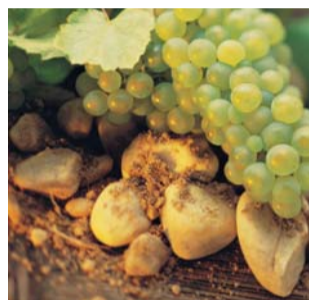




vineyards in Kobyly – The Velké Pavlovice Sub-region

## Vineyards in Moravia and Bohemia



### Soil

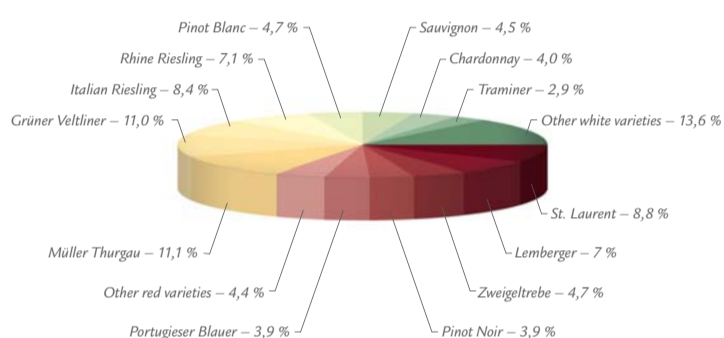
The Moravia wine-growing region is from the geological point of view divided on the western part, composed of the Bohemian Massif, and the eastern part to which the western Carpathians stretch. Moravian soils were created on the sea and sweet-water sediments and loess. Together with the rough relief of the countryside they give the prerequisites to grow and make original wines with vast type diversity. The limy soils in the environs of Pálava, the outstanding vineyards on the gravel subsoil in the Znojmo region, vine grown on the sandy soil in the Velké Pavlovice sub-region or the nutritive clay subsoil in Slovakian Moravia give Moravian wines their unique character.

The Bohemia wine-growing region has geologically younger subsoil. The soils were created by the erosion of the basaltic rocks, however, in some places also on the limy sediments. Czech vineyards are spread on the localities on warm slopes around the rivers Berounka, Labe, Ohře and Vltava.

The characteristic feature of wine-growing in the Czech Republic is the diverse spectrum of the varieties grown and the big diversity of climate conditions in the rugged landscape. The tradition of viticulture stretches back as far as to the ancient Celts and vineyards in Moravia were also planted by the Roman soldiers when camping during their crusades. Viticulture in Moravia was in blossom at the time of the Great Moravia Empire. The biggest flourish came in the Middle Ages thanks to Emperor Charles IV, who ordered to plant vineyards. At present more than 18 thousand wine-growers work in the vineyards covering an area exceeding 19,000 hectares. Especially the Moravia wine-growing region is famous for a large number of small vineyards, family wine cellars and small growers, besides medium and big wineries with large vineyards.

### Climate

The warmest wine-growing Moravia is the most favourable in temperatures in the Mikulov and Velké Pavlovice regions. Cooler Bohemia lies in the rain shadow of the Krušné Hory and České Středohoří Mountain ranges. It is a typical region of the northern border of wine-growing and its wines prove it. The climate is continental, with the influence of invasions of cool and moist air from the Atlantic Ocean or from Siberia. Summer with intense temperatures significantly accelerates maturation of grapes.



Venerie cellar of the Secondary viticulture school Valtice

## Wines from Moravia and Bohemia – Czech Republic

The different climate compared to the south of Europe and variability of individual years offer an incredible array, which together with historical tradition and folklore guarantee the originality and uniqueness of local wines. A big investment into modernization of cellar technologies during the last few years together with traditional procedures put the Moravian and Czech wines among the best European wines, which applies especially for excellent fresh white aromatic wines. The attractive fruitiness, primal aromatic agents, flowery tones in aroma, pleasantly unobtrusive acid and an “easy-to-drink” feature encouraging one to take another sip guarantee easy identification and popularity among a wide spectrum of wine lovers.

### White varieties

They are exceptionally interesting and sought after wines, in good vintages often classified by experts as the world top wines. These wines include especially varieties with a solid structure and freshness, as for example Riesling, Pinot, Chardonnay or very popular Valtelina Green and Müller Thurgau. The famous aromatic wines include Sauvignon, Moravian Muscat and Pálava with a bigger impact, both original bred varieties.



### Blue varieties

The local aromatic red wines are made most often from the varieties of St. Laurent and Lemberger, however, we must not forget about traditional Portugieser Blauer, smooth Pinot Noir, wild Zweigeltrebe and original bred varieties Cabernet Moravia and André. Blue varieties request the warmest localities, the most calorific soils and modern cellar technology.

#### The most popular white varieties

**Müller Thurgau** – decent wine with a delicate aroma resembling vanilla and elderberry bloom with light muscat tones in taste, with delicate acids.

**Grüner Veltliner (Veltlínské zelené)** – traditional wine of a straw yellow shade with a delicate honey linden aroma and fresh spicy taste resembling almonds and pepper.

**Italian Riesling (Ryzlink vlašský)** – pleasant neutral wine with a delicate, unobtrusive fruity taste and flowery aroma.

**Rhine Riesling (Ryzlink rýnský)** – elegant wine of a golden colour with delicate spicy aromatic tones resembling linden bloom, honey and peaches.

**Pinot Blanc (Rulandské bílé)** – full-bodied extractive wine of a harmonious composition with a flowery aroma, complemented by bouquet of tropical fruit and hazel-nut.

**Sauvignon** – aromatic fresh wine of a light green-yellow colour with a distinct peach or even nettle aroma and a full spicy taste.

**Chardonnay** – full-bodied harmonious wine with an aroma resembling tropical fruit, attractive taste with creamy honey spice and a higher acid content.

**Pálava** – full-bodied wine with a lower content of acids, smooth and with a long lasting aftertaste, with aroma resembling roses and vanilla.

**Moravian Muscat (Muškát moravský)** – lighter wine with a flowery Muscat aroma and pleasant harmony when the wine has enough acids.

**Aurelius** – quite a robust wine, harmonious, slightly spicy, aroma similar to Rhine Riesling, but more intense, resembling quince-linden trees.

#### The most popular blue varieties

**St. Laurent (Svatovavřínecké)** – velvety smooth dark wine with a harmonious taste, aroma resembling dried plums or plum jam with a distinct and full taste.

**Lemberger (Frankovka)** – wine of a fervent colour with a harmonious spicy taste, fruity bouquet of overripe cherries with delicate piquant tones.

**Zweigeltrebe** – full-bodied wine with a pleasant aroma of cherries and berries delicate spicy taste with pleasant tannin acid.

**Pinot Noir (Rulandské modré)** – harmonious full-bodied wine with a typical taste and aroma resembling small red fruit, velvety, pleasant tannin acid.

**Portugieser Blauer (Modrý Portugal)** – lighter wine of a mellow taste with a delicate aroma resembling forest fruit, less distinct acid and lower alcohol content.

**André** – wine with a dark garnet colour and aroma of mellow blackberries, tannins and acids in young wine, a full-body together with substantial fruitiness in wines matured in bottles.

**Cabernet Moravia** – wine with black current aroma, fruity in taste with well structured tannins, suitable for maturing in bottles.

In the Czech Republic several new original varieties have been bred. Besides the varieties of Pálava, Aurelius, Moravian Muscat, André, Cabernet Moravia, there are also Lena, Malverina, Veritas, Vrboška, Agni, André, Ariana, Laurot, Neronet and Rubinet.

## Wine Category Overview

Similarly as in other European wine-growing countries also the wines produced in the Czech Republic are divided into various categories. The Czech Classification System, set in the Viticulture Act from 2004, is based on the sugar content of grapes used for wine production. Sugar content is measured in degrees of the Czechoslovakian normalized saccharimeters, measuring how many kilograms of sugar are in 100 litres of must.

### Wine categories according to sugar content

**Table wine** – from grapes, which reached at least 11° sugar content, vintage and variety must not be stated on the label.

**Regional wine** – table wine, made from grapes grown on the vineyard suitable or Quality wine, where the highest yield per hectare wasn't exceeded; grapes have to reach at least 14° sugar content and the label can state the variety and territory.

**Quality brand or varietal wine** – grapes harvested on the vineyard suitable for Quality wine with kept yield per hectare and reaching at least 15 degrees of sugar content. Quality brand wine is made from three varieties at maximum, Brand wine from various mixtures of grapes, mash, cider or wines according to a stable recipe. Besides the name of the region the labels can also contain the name of variety, wine-growing sub-region, village and vineyard.

**Quality predicate wine** – according to the degree of sugar content

– **Kabinett wine** – grapes have to reach at least 19°, grapes must reach at least 19°, lighter, dry, pleasant to drink

– **Late harvest** – at least 21°, grapes are harvested much later, quality, extractive, dry or semidry wines

– **Selection from grapes** – at least 24°, full-bodied wines, extractive, with higher alcohol content, sometimes with higher residual sugar content

– **Selection from berries** – at least 27°, wines made from selected grapes, which were maturing in the vineyard for a very long time. They are full-bodied, extractive, semisweet or sweet

– **Ice wine** – is made from grapes with a sugar content of at least 27°, which were harvested only after the first frost at temperature –7° C and lower

– **Straw wine** – is made from the grapes, which were lying for at least three months prior to processing on straw or reed, or were hung in a well-ventilated room and the must showed a sugar content of at least 27°

– **Selection from raisins** – is made only from selected berries affected by the noble grey mould or from overripe berries, which reached a sugar content of at least 32°

For predicate wines it is not allowed to increase the sugar content in the must. Besides the name of region and sub-region the labels can contain also the name of variety, wine-growing village and vineyard.

### Wine categories according to an origin or a specific production method

**Wine original certificate (VOC)** – specific wine category according to the new Viticulture Act, wines from the precisely defined locality.

**Other wine categories** – sparkling wines, semi-sparkling wines, liqueur wines



Wines from Moravia  
Wines from Bohemia  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
...GREAT WINES FROM A SMALL COUNTRY...

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## Wines from Moravia and wines from Bohemia



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# Vineyards in Moravia and Bohemia

Vine is one of few plants, which can fully and at the same time sensitively express the imprint of countryside and locality in its final form – wine.

Natural conditions of MORAVIA and BOHEMIA – wine-growing regions of the Czech Republic, spreading on the northern border of wine-growing in Europe, give the preconditions to make wines of outstanding quality, especially due to their spicy full body and delicate expression of gentle aromatic agents. Besides pleasant taste features the wines also have a higher content of wholesome natural agents.

[www.wineofczechrepublic.cz](http://www.wineofczechrepublic.cz)  
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vineyards around Velké Žernoseky

## 1. The Litoměřice Sub-region

It is the smallest sub-region. The basaltic subsoil of the dry Most region gives wines a strong mineral content with smoky tones. The environs of Roudnice nad Labem and Žernoseky is composed of lime sandstones, loess and marl, which provides structural and solid wines. The most popular varieties are Müller Thurgau, Rhine Riesling, St. Laurent and Portugieser Blauer.



wine cellars in Píže

## 6. "Slovácko" Sub-region

Those who seek terroir and genius loci will appreciate the diversity of the countryside, soil and microclimate of this area. Famous wines such as Bzenecká Lipka from Bzenec or Blatnický Roháč from Blatnice have been popular among wine lovers already for many decades. Vineyards between Tupy and Polešovice are famous thanks to their excellent Moravian Muscat, which also has its origin here. In Podluží area during the last few years the local prospective variety Cabernet Moravia is becoming more and more popular for making red wines.



Velké Bílovice



vineyards near Roudnice nad Labem

## 5. The Velké Pavlovice Sub-region

The rough relief of the countryside peaking to the north behind the largest wine-growing village of Velké Bílovice towards the hills of the Hustopeče Highlands and slowly declining as far as Brno, hides the southern slopes of loess-clay soil with a sufficient magnesium content. Extraordinary red wines are born here, especially Portugieser Blauer and Limberger. Typical representatives of excellent white wines are Valtelina Green, Traminer or Neuburg. The sandy soil near Žabčice gives an interesting aroma to the Muscat variety.

## 4. The Mikulov Sub-region

The southern slopes of the Pálava Hills are the first ones in the entire Moravia where snow disappears after winter; they have one of the warmest climates. This was known already at the time of Roman soldiers, who once established vineyards there. Varieties as Italian Riesling, Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc do extremely well here. Also varieties of Sauvignon, Müller Thurgau, Rhine Riesling or Pinot Gris have good results in this area. Pálava gave its name to the newly bred variety, which excels in aroma. Limy soil – clay, claystone and loess – created on the slate sediments give the prerequisites for sparkling wines. The local conditions are suitable for blue varieties. The chateau in Valtice houses the National Wine-growing Centre. Pálava gave its name to the newly bred variety, which excels in aroma.



vineyards above Mikulov

## 2. The Mělník Sub-region

The Mělník sub-region is characterised by lime marl or gravel-sand sediments, which soil gives local wines of a strong impact and which are fresh and easy to drink. From the historical point of view the most popular varieties are from the Pinot family (Pinot Noir, Gris and Blanc, Chardonnay). Another significant centre of wine-growing is around Kutná Hora and even the capital of Prague has its vineyards. Karlštejn houses the Research Viticulture Centre.

## 3. The Znojmo Sub-region

Its cooler climate gives the prerequisites for full bodied and fresh aromatic white wines, especially on the typical gravel-sand sediments with localities of clay and loess in the Znojmo area, which involves varieties Valtelina Green, Müller Thurgau and Rhine Riesling. The Dolní Kounice area excels in red wines – above all Limberger and St. Laurent. Among the popular wine-growers' destinations is for example the Wine Cross Cellar in Přímětice, Šobes vineyard in the Podjí National Park and the ruins of Rosa Coeli monastery in Dolní Kounice.



the Šobes vineyard in the Podjí National Park

