WINE REGIONS OF GERMANY



Wines of Germany

1. **Ahr**, although the northernmost wine region, mostly grows reds. Spicy Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) and charming Portugieser thrive in stony soils on craggy slopes.

2. **Baden** is the land of full-bodied wines, excelling at Spätburgunder, Weissburgunder, and Müller-Thurgau. As Germany's southernmost region, Baden enjoys a sunny, Mediterranean climate.

3. **Franken**, located in Bavaria, specializes in whites from Silvaner to Müller-Thurgau. The region is known for bottling its best wines in an unusual flask-shaped glass called Bocksbeutel.

4. **Hessische Bergstrasse** makes good wines from Riesling and Grauburgunder that are rarely exported. Named for the old Roman trade route 'Strata Montana,' this tiny region runs parallel to the Rhine River.

5. **Mittelrhein**, known for Riesling and Spätburgunder, occupies a celebrated slice of the Rhine famous for castles. Notably, the upper middle Rhine valley is a UNESCO world heritage site. The region's vineyards are protected by steep stony hills and narrow valleys.

6. **Mosel** is famous for storybook-pretty villages and racy, delicate whites. South-facing steep vineyards of slate soil retain heat for ripening Riesling grapes.

7. **Nahe**, named after a river, gives wines of renown, focus and intensity. Riesling, Müller-Thurgau, and Grauburgunder ripen easily in the mild, frost-free climate and legendary diverse soils.

8. **Pfalz** is a large and celebrated region of uninterrupted vineyards and countryside. Riesling and the red grape Dornfelder thrive in the warm, sunny climate, which is moderated by the Palatinate Forest.

9. **Rheingau** boasts a noble pedigree of Riesling and Spätburgunder, as well as the first harvest of Riesling Spätlese in 1775. Permission from the prince to begin harvest was accidentally delayed by several weeks, during which time noble rot increased the sugar levels in the grapes, producing a rich, luscious wine.

10. **Rheinhessen**, currently experiencing a renaissance, is Germany's largest production region. Visit the historical wine villages of Oppenheim and Nierstein to taste Riesling, Müller-Thurgau, and Dornfelder.

11. **Saale-Unstrut** is a small but historic area with vine cultivation stretching back to AD 998. Dry but with significant frost threats, white grapes Müller-Thurgau and Weissburgunder grow best.

12. **Sachsen** is the smallest and easternmost of Germany's regions. Focused on whites, Müller-Thurgau, Riesling, and Weissburgunder are best suited to the cold winters and warm, dry summers.

13. **Württemberg** is a bucolic land boasting forests and orchards dotting rolling hills. Specializing in lesser-known varieties Trollinger and Lemberger, 70 percent of vineyards are dedicated to reds.