

PORTUGAL

WINE REGIONS

Denominações de Origem
Vinhos Regionais

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Portugal Wines

Although it is common for many wine lovers to think of Portugal's wines in terms of three styles, Port, rose, and Vinho Verde, trends show dramatic changes impacting long-standing traditions here. Quality over quantity is the mantra of the day.

Growing interest in regional wines from site specific vineyards has led the way to improved overall quality. By and large the reds are more interesting than the whites, although good, barrel-aged whites are being produced.

The Portuguese have for the most part resisted the introduction of international grape varieties. Artisan producers of Baga and Trincadeira are committed to their renaissance. This is especially evident in two emerging regions, Alentejo and Ribatejo. The wines produced in Alentejo are softer and milder than those originating farther north. Ribatejo produces wines with firmer structure and a higher degree of spice.

Bucelas is an emerging region known for fine whites based on the Arinto grape.

The Dão region is highly capable of producing a warm, red wine that can be aged for 5 years. The designation noble Dão (Dão nobre), may be given to top wines here.

The quality of the wines from the Douro is impeccable. New quintas (farms) are releasing wines from previously unknown parts of the region. The Douro, composed of (from west to east) Baixo Corgo, Cima Corgo, and Douro Superior, contains countless microclimates, created in part by the twisting and turning of the Douro river, changes in orientation to the sun, variations in elevation (between 1,200 and 1,700 feet), and many other factors. Although vineyards may be very close to one another geographically, they may be vastly different in terms of the quality of grapes they may produce.

Quality Designations

Denominação de Origem Controlada (DOC) - Portugal's version of the France AC

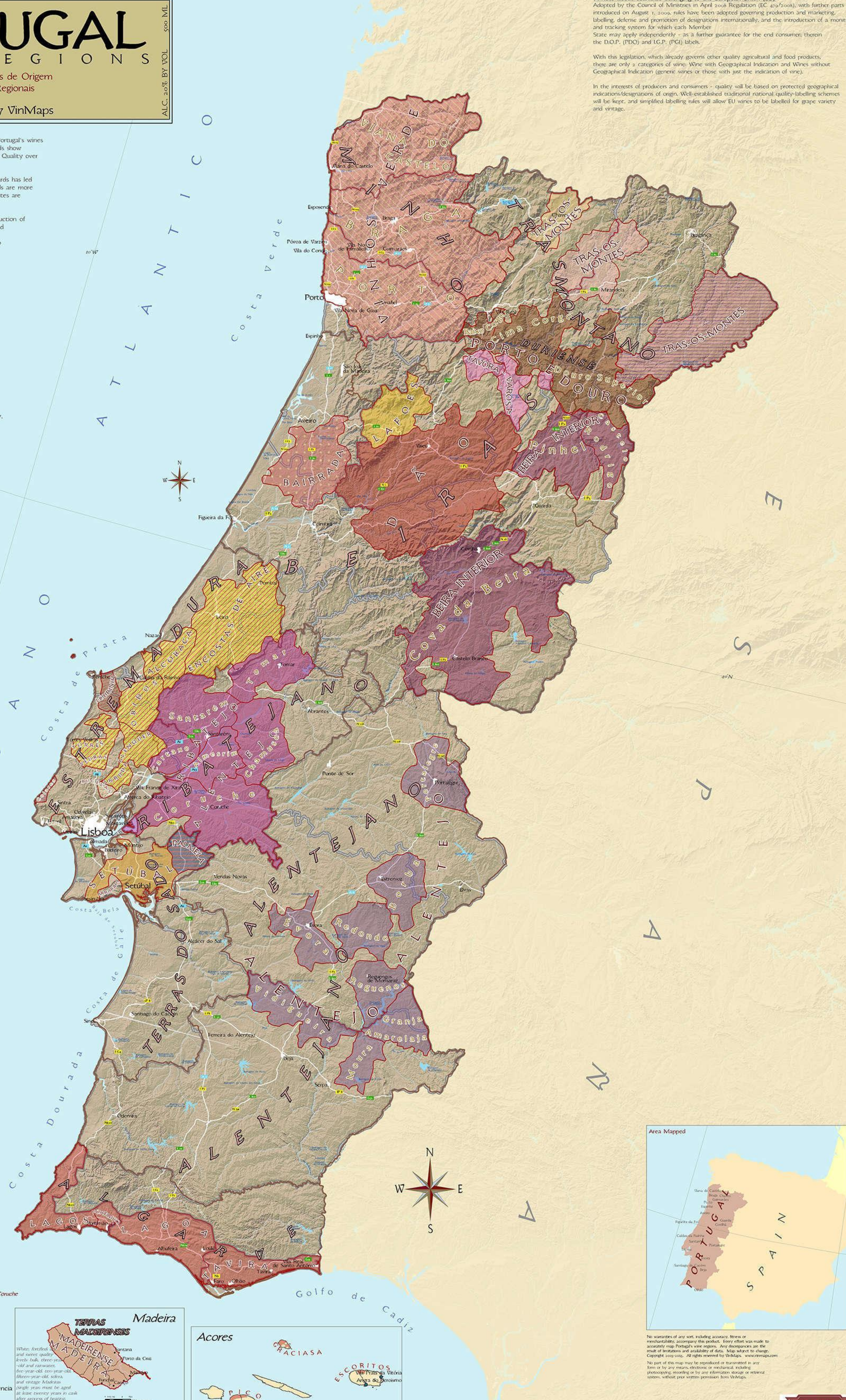
Indicação de Proveniência Regulamentada (IPR) - DOCs-in-waiting, similar to the French VDQS

Vinho Regional (VR) - In many cases used for wines containing imported grape varieties

Regions

Denominações de Origem

-  Bucolic reds and whites
Planalto Mirandes
-  Creamy white, few fine reds
Lafões
-  Dão nobre, 80% Reds, Touriga Nacional
Dão
-  Elegant whites from the Arinto grape
Bucelas
-  Grapy red, sparkling wine, with roasted pig
Bairrada
-  High quality wine Brandy
Lousalva
-  Legendary Reds, almost extinct
Colares
-  Light reds and pinks
Valepos
-  Light reds, low tannins
Távora-Varosa
-  Light whites, malvasia
Chaves
-  Mostly red, high alcohol, undistinguished
Lagos, Lagoa, Távora
-  PORT, dry reds, red table wines
Baixo Corgo, Cima Corgo, Douro Superior
-  Quality reds
Cova da Beira, Pinhel, Castelo Rodrigo
-  Red, acidic, white, young, semi-sparkling, fizzy
Braga, Porto, Vila do Castelo
-  Red, plummy, Arogonz, Trincadeira, Moreto
Portalegre, Beira, Redondo, Évora, Reguengo, Granja, Amaralaja, Moura
-  Red, sold in 5 litre flagons to local bars
Fofoar, Santarém, Cartaxo, Almesim, Chamusca, Coruche
-  Sweet, muscatel, vivid orange-red to chestnut, rich
Setúbal
-  Well known Red
White
-  Whites, outnumber reds
Encostas de Are, Alcobaca, Odivos, Alenquer, Amadã, Torres Vedras
-  DOC Boundaries
-  Vinhos Regionais
- Text in this style** denotes Indicação de Proveniência Regulamentada (IPR)
- Text in this style** denotes Denominação de Origem Controlada (DOC)
- Text in this style** denotes Vinhos Regional (VR)



A note about countries belonging to the European Union (EU): Adopted by the Council of Ministers in April 2008 Regulation (EC 479/2008), with further parts introduced on August 1, 2009, rules have been adopted governing production and marketing, labeling, defense and promotion of designations internationally, and the introduction of a monitoring and tracking system for which each Member State may apply independently - as a further guarantee for the end consumer; therein the D.O.P. (PDO) and I.G.P. (PGI) labels.

With this legislation, which already governs other quality agricultural and food products, there are only 2 categories of wine: Wine with Geographical Indication and Wines without Geographical Indication (generic wines or those with just the indication of vine).

In the interests of producers and consumers - quality will be based on protected geographical indications/designations of origin. Well-established traditional national quality-labeling schemes will be kept, and simplified labeling rules will allow EU wines to be labeled for grape variety and vintage.