



WINEinMODERATION

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WINES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

*With love for
the land*

EN

WINEMAKING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic is known for its romantic scenery, rich history and diverse art scene. It has also put itself on the world map of wine with **great wines produced both from local and international varieties**. In the wine-growing regions, wine culture and heritage can be felt at every turn. You can head into **picturesque cellar streets**, walk among the vineyards along educational trails, or admire the modern architecture of winery estates designed by renowned architects.

Thanks to **more than a thousand years of winemaking history**, wine is an essential part of life here. Thousands of Czech winemakers are passionate about creating wines which respect tradition but also follow and shape the latest trends. Czech grape-producers have contributed to the development of viticulture by cultivating several new varieties, including varieties suitable for **organic production**. The basis of viticulture in the Czech Republic is maintaining a close

relationship with the environment and with the earth itself. The gold standard is to grow grapes in an **integrated production system** which ensures sustainable growth. In this context, the range of wines from organic production is expanding in the Czech Republic and some of our winemakers are increasingly using a **biodynamic approach to growing grapes**.

The Czech Republic is one of the smaller wine-producing countries, so local winemakers do not seek to offer huge batches of wine at a low price. However, they can offer **top quality wines from unique terroirs** that regularly win awards at the world's most prestigious competitions.

DIVERSITY OF OUR WINES

A specific feature of the Czech wine industry is the **varied composition of vineyards**, even among small producers. Here we not only grow varieties which are widespread all over the world, but we also boast a tradition of grape cultivation and the creation of several new varieties, such as Pálava, Moravian Muscat, and André. Currently, the most cultivated varieties in Czechia are Grüner Veltliner, Müller Thurgau, Riesling, Welschriesling, Pinot Gris and Blaufränkisch, and these varieties account for almost half of all vineyards in the country.

The diversity of the landscape is reflected in the styles of our wines. Their common features are balanced, **fresh acids and strong aromatics**, which Moravian and Czech wines owe in particular to the specific climate with its temperature **differences between warm days and cool nights**. There is a strong tradition of varietal wines in this country, but winemakers are increasingly taking

advantage of the benefits of blending. Our winemakers use a variety of production techniques, ranging from modern controlled fermentation in stainless steel tanks to old traditional production methods such as the production of orange wines or wines produced using clay qvevri vessels.

Regional wine labelling systems such as VOC appellations (Wines of Original Certification) are becoming frequent. The most common classification is still the division into categories based on the sugar content of the grapes at harvest. Almost all of these categories offer great wines ranging from dry to sweet. The production of sparkling wines made using the traditional method is also on the rise.



Wines from Moravia
Wines from Bohemia
CZECH REPUBLIC

VISIT WINE EVENTS OF CZECHIA



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Planning a trip?
Save your favourite wine events
and destinations.

WINE TOURISM

Every year, countless visitors from all over the country and abroad come to visit Czechia to enjoy our vibrant wine tourism scene. Historical and modern wine cellars, educational trails through vineyards, and charming cellar alleys are particularly popular. The centrepiece of wine tourism in Czechia is the annual collection of one hundred of the best wines our country has to offer in the tasting exhibition of the Wine Salon of the Czech Republic. It is located in the historic cellar of the Valtice Chateau. Thanks to the selection of representative wines from all our subregions, the Wine Salon serves as a showcase of Moravian and Czech wines. Very popular are the so-called open cellar days, where the visitors can taste wines directly from the winemakers and take a look behind the scenes. Hundreds of wine events take place throughout the year, and some even have a historical character and a rich cultural

programme, such as the wine festivals in Znojmo, Mikulov, and Mělník.

Hand in hand with the growing popularity of wine, the range of special wine destinations has grown. Guaranteed level of service is offered by wineries, wine cellars, shops, restaurants and accommodation certified under the Wine Tourism Certification project.

Many other places, events and wine destinations deserve attention and a visit, an overview of which is available at www.vinazmoravyvinazcech.cz.

THE PAST AND PRESENT

The origins of viticulture and winemaking in our region are linked to the arrival of Christianity in the 9th century and the formation of the early Bohemian state in the 10th and 11th centuries. After the Thirty Years' War, the paths of winemaking in Bohemia and Moravia diverged. In Bohemia, the industry gradually became more of a rarity, but in Moravia it retained its character as an important economic sector and winemaking became embedded in the folk culture. In the 19th century, viticulture and winemaking modernised and the sector eventually overcame even the greatest decline after the First World War.

Restitution of vineyards and privatization after the Velvet Revolution led to the renewal of family-owned wineries and the creation of new winemaking companies. Present-day winemaking uses modern and environmentally friendly technologies and produces world class wines. Wine tourism is rapidly developing, and the

cultivation of new grape varieties is also progressing, particularly with regard to disease resistance and the acquisition of varieties suitable for the production of organic wines.

Today, our wines have already become well-regarded all over the world. In addition to the renowned white wines, there is a growing demand for red and rosé wines and, in recent years, sparkling wines. Even natural wines have found popularity among modern wine lovers.

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HOW TO CHOOSE?

Choosing the right wine can be a difficult task as it is important to consider not only the wine region and its typical grape varieties but also the skill of the winemaker. Yet the wine label can help a bit.

In the Czech Republic, you will almost always find the grape variety and the division according to the residual sugar in the wine:



dry (max. 4 g of res. sugar per liter, with exceptions up to 9 g)



semi-dry (4 to 12 g of res. sugar per liter, with exceptions up to 18 g)



semi-sweet (12 to 45 g of res. sugar per liter)



sweet (over 45 g of res. sugar per liter)

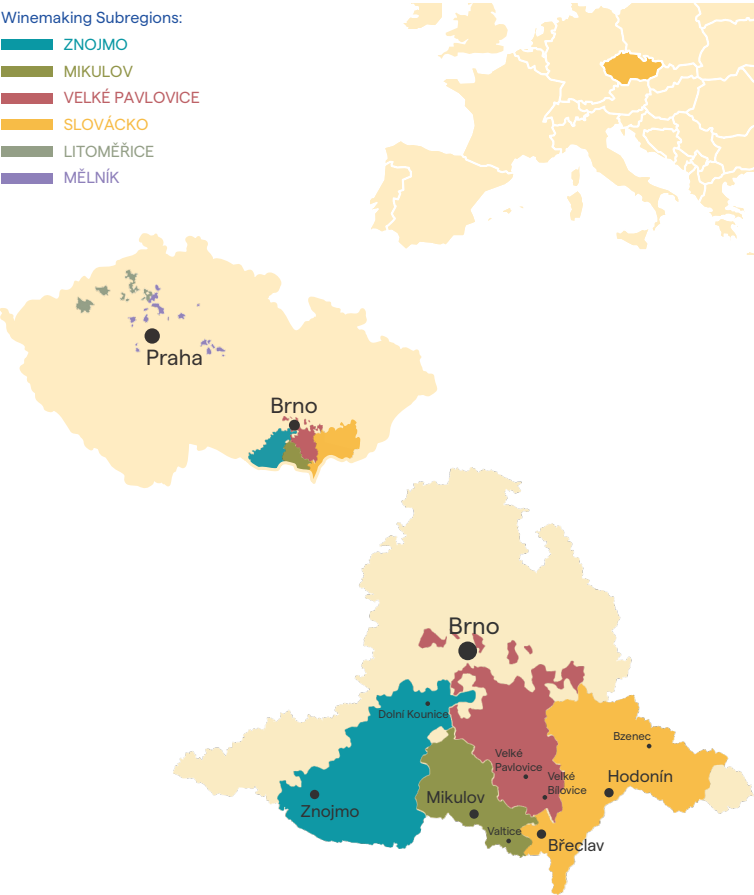
High-quality and interesting wines that reflect the place of origin and the character of the grape variety can be found in the dry wine category. Some even carry the VOC designation of origin. Semi-sweet and sweet wines go well with desserts and

they are popular for their juiciness and harmony. You will also encounter the “Quality wine with special attributes” system of dividing wines into several categories. These categories indicate the quality of the wine according to the sugar content of the must when the grapes are picked, and with each additional attribute the minimum threshold for the sugar content of the grapes is higher. The first of the attributes are cabinet wines, which tend to be lighter, dry and pleasantly drinkable. The next and most widespread is the late harvest category. These wines are typically extractive and full-bodied. Following is the selection of grapes category, and these wines can be dry, opulent with higher alcohol, or rather fruity, semi-dry to semi-sweet. The remaining categories of this system represent mostly sweet wines and include the selection of berries category, ice and straw wines, and lastly the selection of botrytised berries category. More information, news and a calendar of wine events in Czechia can be found at: www.vinazmoravyvinazcech.cz.

WINE REGIONS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Winemaking Subregions:

- ZNOJMO
- MIKULOV
- VELKÉ PAVLOVICE
- SLOVÁCKO
- LITOMĚŘICE
- MĚLNÍK



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BOHEMIA WINE REGION



The Bohemian wine region belonged for a long time to the northernmost outposts of the European wine world. The region is divided into two subregions: **Mělník and Litoměřice**.

The Litoměřice subregion is our **smallest winemaking subregion**. Its vineyards lie mainly on the southern slopes of the Central Bohemian Highlands. The soils of the local vineyards are often basalt, with limestone found on the lower part of the slopes, which gives the wines **distinctive mineral tones**. The varieties most often found here are Müller Thurgau, Riesling, St. Laurent and Pinot varieties. In the Middle Ages, Litoměřice was the second largest wine-growing center in Bohemia after Prague. The town of Most is also

important for this region, as are the winemaking villages of Malé Žernoseky and Velké Žernoseky. The vineyards of the Mělník subregion lie mostly on calcareous sandstone and argillite bedrock which is covered with an alluvial sandy topsoil. These conditions are **excellent for growing both white and red varieties**. Typical varieties are Riesling, Pinot Noir and Müller Thurgau. The city of Mělník is the most famous wine producing center of Bohemia. The wines typical of this region bear the designation of the only VOC appellation in the Bohemian wine region, namely VOC Mělník. The subregion also includes **Prague with the St. Wenceslas Vineyard**, the oldest vineyard in Bohemia, and Kutná Hora.

ZNOJMO SUBREGION



Our second wine region is the **Moravia wine region**, which is the heart of the wine industry in the Czech Republic. It is divided into a total of four subregions, the westernmost of which is the Znojmo subregion. This subregion is known as the **kingdom of aromatic white wines**. The most typical varieties here include Sauvignon blanc, Riesling, and Grüner Veltliner. These three varieties are also the representatives of the first appellation-based system in the country: VOC Znojmo. The fresh, aromatic, and medium-bodied wines of this area are produced here thanks to the cold winds and thermoregulating effect of the Dyje River. The centre of the subregion is Znojmo, which regularly hosts one of the biggest wine events

in the country: the **Znojmo Wine Festival**. Most of the winemaking villages in the subregion are located around this city, e.g. Nový Šaldorf, Šatov, Chvalovice, Dobšice, Hnanice, Vrbovec or Lechovice. The centre of red wine production in the Znojmo subregion, Dolní Kounice, lies close to Brno. The pride of the subregion is the **Šobes vineyard in the heart of the Podyjí National Park**, which is one of the oldest and most famous vineyards in the country and also one of the **best vineyards in all of Europe**. Other attractions of this subregion include the painted cellar in Šatov and one of the largest cross-vaulted cellars in the village of Příměťce.

MIKULOV SUBREGION



The Mikulov subregion is a unique place for growing grapes and gives rise to wines with a truly unique character. The subregion is dominated by the limestone massif of the Pavlov hills, known as Pálava. The deep loess soils here provide a diverse range of nutrients necessary for the development of aromatic compounds, distinctive spiciness and an original mineral expression. Pálava's vineyards consist mainly of Welschriesling and Grüner Veltliner. The local Welschriesling wines possess a truly unmistakable character. An important part of this subregion is the town of Valtice which is often referred to as the wine capital of Czechia. In the cellars of the local chateau is located a year-round tasting exhibition of the Wine Salon of

the Czech Republic which annually presents 100 of the best Moravian and Czech wines for the given year. One of the jewels of the region is also the town of Mikulov, where the popular Pálava Wine Festival is held every year. The Lednice-Valtice area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is also a popular tourist destination. Two of our important varieties, Pálava and Aurelius, were cultivated in the viticultural research station in Perná. Three VOC appellation systems, i.e. Wines of original certification, operate in the Mikulov subregion, namely VOC Mikulovsko, VOC Pálava and VOC Valtice.

VELKÉ PAVLOVICE SUBREGION



The heart of **red wine production** in Czechia is the Velké Pavlovice subregion. The central part with soils with high magnesium content is known as **Modré hory** (the Blue Mountains). Black grape varieties are grown in more than half of the vineyards here and the most common are **Blaufränkisch**, **St. Laurent**, and **Zweigeltrebe**. However, white varieties, particularly aromatic varieties such as **Gewürztraminer**, **Hibernal**, **Pálava** and **Moravian Muscat**, also thrive on the sandy soils found here. The subregion is dominated by two important winemaking municipalities, **Velké Bílovice** (the largest wine-growing municipality in the country) and **Velké Pavlovice**, from which the region got its name and where

an important viticultural research station is located. The now common **André** and **Agni** grape varieties were first cultivated here. It is also worth mentioning the villages **Čejkovice**, **Kobyly**, **Hustopeče**, **Zaječí**, **Rakvice** or **Němčičky**. Thanks to their picturesque vineyards, many of the subregion's villages have been featured in several **movies** and **TV series**, making them well-known throughout the country. The wines typical of the region are represented by four appellation systems: the **VOC Hustopečsko**, **VOC Kraví Hora**, **VOC Modré hory** and **VOC Vinice Velké Pavlovice**.

SLOVÁCKO SUBREGION



The spectrum of grape varieties in the Slovácko subregion is as diverse as its natural conditions. The local higher situated vineyards produce **full-bodied wines with fresh character**, fine acidity and strong aromatics. Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris, Silvaner and Chardonnay thrive in the area near the White Carpathians. Among the black grape varieties, Blaufränkisch, Zweigeltrebe, St. Laurent, Blauer Portugieser, and Pinot Noir are the most common. In addition to the larger towns such as Uherské Hradiště, Kyjov, Břeclav and Bzenec, many other interesting places are also worth a stop on your wine tour in the Slovácko subregion. One of the regional gems is the **historical wine cellar complex Plže** on the outskirts of the village of Petrov,

or one can pay a visit to the unique village of Nechory near Prušánky, which is **made up entirely of wine cellars**. The Klínky vineyard in the village of Vracov, from which grapes have repeatedly been sourced for the production of the Champion of the highest wine competition in the Czech Republic (the Wine Salon), is also worthy of attention. The most characteristic wines of Slovácko can belong to several VOC appellation systems, namely VOC Bzenec, VOC Blatnice, VOC Mutěnice or VOC Slovácko.



DISCOVER THE 100 BEST WINES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE WINE SALON

Permanent tasting exhibition at the Valtice Chateau



TICKETS



OPENING HOURS

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