



France's Alsace wine region seems a world apart from the rest of France. The region lies in the far northeast of France, which stands out from other French wine-producing areas because of its Franco-Germanic character. This is the result of the region having switched between German and French sovereignty several times – a history, which is clear not only in Alsatian architecture and culture, but also in its wines.

The grape varieties that grow there, for the most part, don't grow elsewhere in France. Today, many of the French who live in Alsace have Germanic names, and the towns have Germanic names, but the region is French. And yet Alsace wines have been shaped by Germany. Like German wines, they are predominantly white wines, predominantly unblended wines (*each made from a single grape variety*) and usually without oaky flavor.