

THE WORLD OF SPANISH WINES

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Enotourism is becoming more and more popular nowadays. The main purpose of it is to taste wine and explore the regions where it is produced. Many travel packages often involve the relaxing part or enjoying historical sights, but the difference is the active part wineries are taking in it, showing the visitors where and how their favorite drink is produced.

Spain has the biggest vineyard surface in the world. Contrary to the stereotype, Spain has an extremely varied climate and you will find lots of smaller “micro-climates” across the country, each perfect for growing different kinds of grapes. This means that Spain has a huge variety of distinct and different beautiful vineyard landscapes to explore. Each wine region in Spain has something different to offer: winery architecture and design, vineyard patterns, the colours and scents of the different soils and terroirs, the local food produce to accompany the wine, and of course, the wine itself.

The most famous wine regions in Spain are:

- Rioja (the wines of Rioja are the most famous of Spain and its long tradition supports their fame);
- Ribera del Duero (it is one of Spanish top wine producing region. It specializes in red wines and its geography is shaped by the Duero river);
- Rueda and Toro (it is home of excellent white wines);
- Navarre (it is famous for its rose wines, but other types of wine are also produced);
- Madrid (a large number of tapas bars and restaurants offer wine from all over Spain and some of the best wine lists in the country are to be found here);
- Malaga (it specializes in sweet wines from the Pedro Ximenez and Moscatel grape varieties. It covers an area close to the sea);
- Jerez de la Frontera (Jerez means « sherry ». this region makes wines that are unique to the world: vino fino, amontillado, oloroso. You will not find other wines that have been elaborated by the same art, or taste the same as sherry).

Spain's wine offer is almost limitless. Keeping in mind that Spain has been producing wine since the time of the Romans, it's normal there's so much to choose from. Whichever part of Spain you're at, you will surely find a wine suitable for your needs.

The best Spanish wines are:

- Apostoles Palo Cortado Viejo - DO Jerez - González-Byass;
- Chinchilla Conarte 2006 - DO Málaga - Bodega Doña Felisa;
- Alvear Pedro Ximenez 1927 - DO Montilla Moriles - Bodegas Alvear;
- Enate Rosado 2008 - DO Somontano – Enate;
- Aquilon 2007 - DO Campo de Borja - Bodegas Alto Moncayo;
- Teta de Vaca 2010 - DO Calatayud - Lamarca Wines;

- Macià Batle Blanc de Blancs Únic 2007 - DO Binissalem;
- Miquel Gelabert Chardonnay 2008 - DO Pla y Llevant - Vins Miquel Gelabert ;
- Txakoli Etxebarria 2009 - DO Bizkaiko Txakolina - José Etxebarria Urrutia ;
- Txacolí Zudugarai 2008 - DO Getariako Txakolina - Txakoli Rezabal ;
- Brumas de Ayosa Malvasia - DO Valle de Güimar ;
- Humboldt 2001 - DO Tacoronte-Acentejo - Bodegas Insulares Tenerife;
- Tierra de Frontos Tinto Clásico 2008 - DO Abona - Bodega Frontos ;
- Stratvs Malvasia Naturalmente Dulce 2006 - DO Lanzarote - Bodega Stratvs;
- Carramata 2010 - DO Rueda – Carramata;
- Termanthia 2007 - DO Toro - Numanthia Termes;
- Vega Sicilia Único Especial Reserva 1991 - DO Ribera del Duero - Vega Sicilia;
- Godelia 12 Meses 2008 - DO Bierzo - Bodegas y Viñedos Godelia.

There is no doubt that enotourism will continue to grow, and the wine regions will have to deal with the increasing crowds, meaning that the initial infrastructure has to be in place or tourists will begin facing rises in tasting room fees, as it's happening in the Napa Valley in California. The potential is tremendous but the producers will need to be careful because the rise in prices could lead the tourists to fly away and turn off the interest in enotourism!

References:

1. <http://www.spanish-wines.org/enotourism.html>
2. J. Robinson The Oxford Companion to Wine / J. Robinson // Oxford University Press: third edition: 2006. – 627 p.