

ALPHABET BOOK

APPELLATION

The Chablis appellation area extends over 20 villages and today the appellation vineyards cover some 4,700 hectares (11,750 acres). Delimiting the Chablis terroir was the work of the Institut National des Appellations Contrôlées (INAO), the French national appellations organisation, work which, over the years, has resulted in the establishment of four different appellations:

- Petit Chablis, on 729 hectares (1,750 acres) : the crop comes mainly from the plateau areas;
- Chablis, covering 3,156 hectares (7,574 acres) on hillside vineyards;
- Chablis Premier Cru, on 767 hectares (1,840 acres), growing on slopes exposed for the most part south-east and south-west;
- Chablis Grand Cru, on 106 hectares (254 acres), harvested from the renowned Grands Crus hillside on the right bank of the River Serein, facing the village of Chablis. The slopes face south-west in the main, though there is a wide range in their steepness and aspect.

BOURGOGNE (BURGUNDY)

Chablis is situated in the north of Burgundy, one of the world's foremost wine regions. As early as the 14th century, the Dukes of Burgundy claimed that the white wines of Auxerre, Chablis and Beaune were «the best, most precious and most suitable wines of the kingdom, enjoyed by the pope, the king and numbers of noblemen». It is a reputation that has never stopped growing.

CHABLIS

The founding of the village of Chablis dates back to Roman times, as do Chablis's wines. The name Chablis itself would appear to stem from Celtic words meaning «the rope over the ford». In 510 King Sigismond, a Christian, founded a small monastery dedicated to Saint Loup and during the Middle Ages Chablis grew around it. In the 9th century, Benedictine monks from Saint Martin's Abbey at Tours, fleeing from the Viking invasion, settled at Chablis. Later, at the beginning of the 12th century, the founding of the Cistercian abbey at nearby Pontigny appears clearly as a major factor in the expansion and renown of the vineyards. Donations and bequests received by the two religious orders over the years included vineyards and, thus, the monasteries eventually became large-scale owners. In just a few decades, the reputation of the wine from Chablis spread well beyond the Yonne River and the Auxerre region. A legend was in the making.

The following on www.chablisienne.com...