



Alsace Learning Objectives

Understand how key historical, political, geographical, geological, topographical, and climatic factors have influenced the viti/vini practices of Alsace and its wine styles

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to...

Locate Alsace on a map of France

List examples of Germanic culture in Alsace

Describe Alsace's climate and the topographical features that impact it

Define "rain shadow effect"; "graben"

Name the two uplifts of the Rhine Graben

Identify the general soil types of Alsace; identify the soil type common to the majority of Alsace's Grands Crus

Identify where the grapes are grown and their preferred aspects

Identify the focal grapes of Alsace and the four that are considered "noble"

List the distinctive uses for the noble grapes vs. the focal grapes

Identify the link between Savagnin Blanc and its aromatic and non-aromatic rose clones, Klevener de Heiligenstein and Gewurztraminer

List the reasons why Alsace's harvest runs from September to November

List the ways in which global warming is impacting the viti/vini practices of Alsace

Outline how Pinot d'Alsace and Pinot Blanc represent exceptions to Alsace's 100% varietal rule

Recognize which Alsatian wines are typically blended products

Outline the difference between Gentil and Edelzwicker

Explain the difference between *Vendanges Tardives (VT)* and *Sélection de Grains Nobles (SGN)*

Name the two grapes most often used for VT and SGN and be able to explain why

Identify the primary reasons why some of the wines of Alsace, traditionally fermented to dryness, are now carrying residual sugar



Identify the sole grape with regulations stipulating a residual sugar maximum

Detail the AOCs of Alsace, their production standards and wine styles

Know how production standards and production zones differ between the regional Alsace AOC and the communal and *lieu-dit* sub-categories; define *lieu-dit*

Understand the hierarchy with Alsace's AOC structure

Understand the significance of changing one single Alsace Grand Cru into 51 Grands Crus

Explain why a Grand Cru label does not guarantee quality

List the reasons Alsace's *vignerons* produce dozens of different wines each vintage