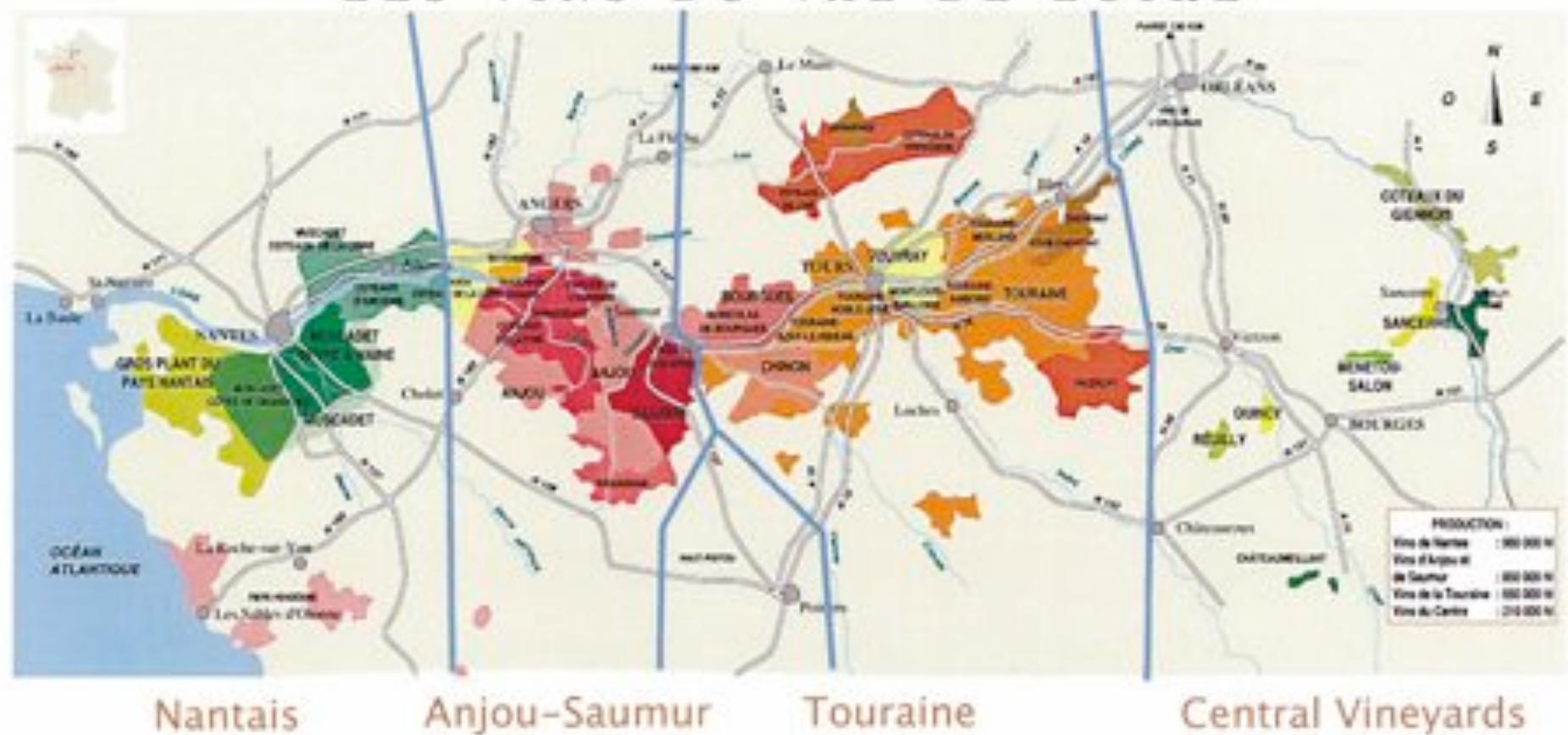


# The Loire Regions

## LES VINS DU VAL DE LOIRE



# Key Statistics

## Vineyards

- France's leading producer of white wines
- France's leading AOC region for fine sparkling wines
- France's 3rd largest region in terms of production, with 4,000,000 hectolitres, including 3,000,000 hl of quality wines PSR
- France's 4th largest vineyard in terms of surface area 70,000 hectares, including 52,000 ha of quality wines PSR, spread over 13 departments

# Appellations – Nantais

- Muscadet de Sèvre-et-Maine
  - Represents 75% of Muscadet production
  - Frequently matured sur lie
    - After fermentation, wine stays in contact with fine lees for at least the winter – up to bottling
    - Imparts flavour, body and often a small amount of CO<sub>2</sub>
    - Bottling 1<sup>st</sup> March – 30<sup>th</sup> June, or, 15<sup>th</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> November. Avoids bottling during warm summer months
    - May only be bottled in the cellar where it was made
  - Good examples from the clay soils of Vallet
  - Sandy, schist soils of St-Fiacre also produce top wines
  - Since 1980s, ambitious producers experimenting with barrel maturation and lees stirring

# Appellations – Nantais

- Muscadet
  - ▣ Bone-dry, light-bodied wines from Melon de Bourgogne
  - ▣ This basic appellation covers the whole Muscadet area, yet accounts for only 10% of production
  - ▣ At it's best, a light, tangy accompaniment for local seafood
  - ▣ The only un-fortified wine for which a maximum alcoholic strength is specified -

# Appellations – Anjou

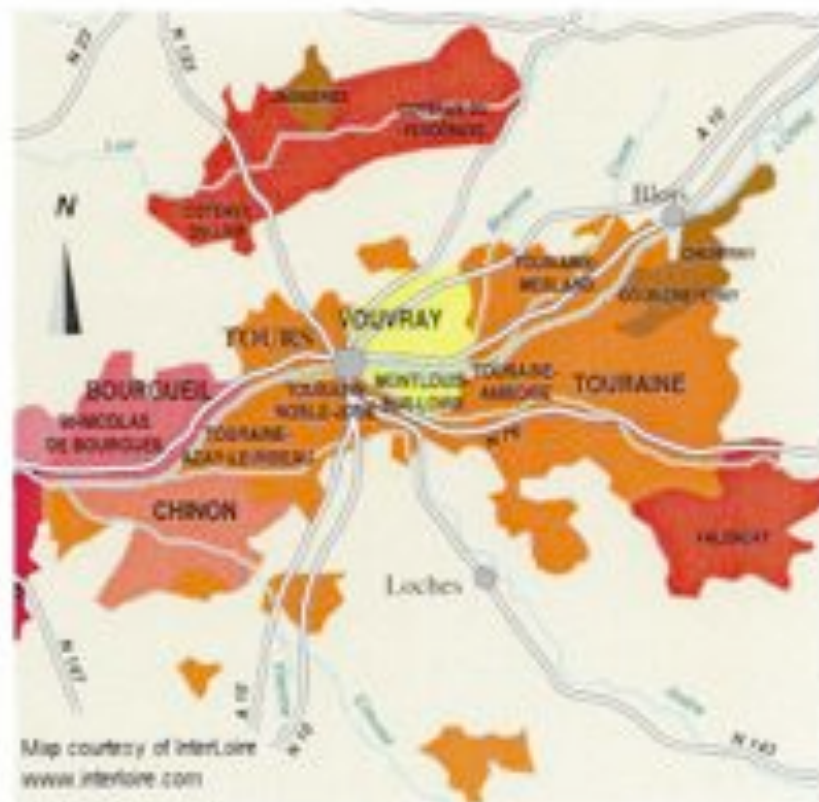
- Saumur-Champigny
- Anjou-Villages
- Coteaux du Layon
- Bonnezeaux & Quarts de Chaume
- Coteaux de l'Aubance
- Savennières

# Regions – Anjou-Saumur

- Grape Varieties
  - Primary
    - Chenin Blanc
    - Cabernet Franc
    - Gamay
    - Grolleau
  - Secondary
    - Chardonnay
    - Sauvignon Blanc
    - Cabernet Sauvignon
    - Malbec
    - Pineau d'Aunis

# Appellations – Touraine

- Chinon
- Bourgueil and Saint Nicolas de Bourgueil
- Vouvray
- Mountlouis



# Touraine – Basic

- Touraine Rouge
  - Any or all of the following;
    - Cab Franc
    - Cab Sauv.
    - Cot (Malbec)
    - Pinot Noir
    - Meunier
    - Pinot Gris
    - Gamay
    - Pineau d'Aunis
    - Grolleau
  - Red Touraine usually similar to Beaujolais ( can be leaner) and semi-carbonic maceration may be used to improve quality



# Touraine – Basic

- Touraine Blanc
  - Any combination of the following (Chardonnay max. 20%)
    - Chenin Blanc
    - Arbois
    - Sauvignon Blanc
    - Chardonnay
- From a good producer, white Touraine can be a less expensive alternative to Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé

# Appellations – Central Vineyards

## □ Sancerre

- Most well-known Loire appellation – world standard for Sauvignon Blanc
- 100% Sauvignon Blanc
- Three distinct soils types
  - 'white' western vineyards – clay and limestone – powerful wines
  - Area between western vineyards and town of Sancerre – gravel and limestone – delicate wines
  - Area close to Sancerre itself rich in flint (Silex) – long-lived, aromatic wines
- Winemaking emphasizes fruit and aromas – temperature control – stainless steel. Recent experimentation with new oak has produced mixed results
- Also light red and rosé from Pinot Noir

## □ Pouilly-Fumé

- Aromatic wines from Sauvignon Blanc (Blanc Fumé) –purported to have 'smoky' or struck flint aromas
- Limestone soils with some silex
- Best wines may be denser and more long-lived than Sancerre. Ambitious producers using new oak for fermentation and maturation



# Appellations – Central Vineyards

- **Menetou-Salon**
  - White, red and rosé from Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir
  - Limestone soils
  - Capable of producing wines of equal quality to Sancerre
  - Can offer better value
- **Quincy**
  - Historic region—proximity to river transport
  - Planted on plateaus of sand and silty soils on left bank of Cher
  - Fresh, ripe citrus aromas— less delicate than Sancerre or Menetou
- **Reuilly**
  - White from Sauvignon Blanc on chalky limestone soils
  - Light-bodied reds from Pinot Noir
  - Rosé from Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris

