

## Welcome in Beaujolais,

**Beaujolais** is a historical province and a wine-producing region in France. It is located north of Lyon, and covers parts of the north of the Rhône *département* (Rhône-Alpes) and parts of the south of the Saône-et-Loire *département* (Burgundy). The region is known internationally for its long tradition of wine-making, and more recently for the enormously popular Beaujolais nouveau.

Beaujolais is a perfect picture postcard of the French countryside, with its string of beautiful hills culminating in a forested crest. The landscape is so beautiful during the autumn with a range of color like red, orange, yellow; the Beaujolais have a hilly relief because it is a part of the foothills of Massif Central.

This territory spreads out on 23000ha. There are 3 territories the **Beaujolais Vineyards**, the **Beaujolais Pierres Dorées** (golden stones) and the **green Beaujolais**.

You can discover the 12 appellations by going to the different villages.



Source: Google Images

# The Beaujolais wines

This region is recognized throughout the world for its wines, with a long tradition of winemaking, and more recently for the popular Beaujolais nouveau, the first wine after the harvest. The Beaujolais Nouveau is especially delicious this way and is designed to be a wine of pleasure and celebration.

There are 10 crus in Beaujolais with some different aromas like the red fruits, the florals... produced by the unique vine of Gamay which gives its best expression. Beaujolais tends to be a very light-bodied red wine.

A small amount of white wine made from Chardonnay is grown in the region and is used to produce Beaujolais Blanc or Beaujolais-Villages Blanc. Beaujolais Rosé made from Gamay is permitted in the Beaujolais AOC but is not much produced.

## The 10 Beaujolais Crus

- **The Saint-Amour** : The Saint Amour AOC is the northernmost of Beaujolais ten crus and its borders brush flirtatiously against those of Burgundy. The Saint-Amour comes to be considered the official wine of Valentine's day. It is a light, fruity, wine with complex aromas.
- **The Juliéna** : In general, Juliéna wines are muscular and are made to be cellared. Its delicious aromas include strawberry, violet, peony, cinnamon and gooseberry. Subtly spiced, they are fleshy on the palate with a long finish.
- **The Chénas** : The Chénas is one of the rarest wines of Beaujolais with only 280 hectares in production. This wine gives a beautiful combination of rose and peony aromas and acquires spicy and woody notes when aged. Their gentle, supple tannins afford them good aging potential.
- **The Moulin à vent** : Strangely, no village bears the name Moulin à vent of this most prestigious wine of the ten Beaujolais crus. Iris, withered rose, spices and ripe fruit are the four primary aromas of Moulin à Vent reds, and they have a rather robust structure that ages quite well.
- **The Fleurie** : Its name has nothing to do with floral aroma, but instead was derived from the name of a Roman legionnaire. It is an elegant fruity wine with aromas of rose, violet, iris and red fruit that is full bodied with a delicate, silky texture.
- **The Chiroubles** : The vineyards of the Chiroubles cru are grown at higher elevations than any others in Beaujolais. Its dominant aromas are floral, with notes of violet, iris and peony, and with its lively, tender structure, it is seen as a feminine expression of the Gamay variety.
- **The Morgon** : The characteristic of any Morgon wine is its robust, powerful and fleshy structure. It is a masculine wine, but entices the drinker with its notes of peach, apricot and plum. It also has significant aging potential, which varies between five and ten years depending on the vintage.
- **The Régnié** : The resulting wines are aromatic, highly perfumed and round on the palate with a long finish. They offer aromas of small red and black fruit such as blackberry and blackcurrant, ending in notes of spice, with light, supple tannins.
- **The Côte de Brouilly** : Thirty hectares are cultivated for production in this AOC, which was established in 1938, yielding delicate, dynamic wines with a purple robe and some aging potential.
- **The Brouilly** : The wines themselves have an intense ruby robe, and their aromas tend to be more fruity than floral, with notes of small red fruit, strawberry and currant and an occasional hint of plum. With soft, supple tannins, Gamay de Brouilly is a wine of great finesse.

### **The Beaujolais**

This wine AOC is produced in the southern part of the Beaujolais, the vineyard is mainly on the Pierres Dorées territory. The Beaujolais gives fruity and floral aromas.

### **The Beaujolais-Village**

The Beaujolais-Villages appellation identifies 38 villages in the region. From North to South, it covers 6,000ha and stretches over 30km. Their wines are less lively and more robust with greater complexity and aging potential. Its cherry robe gives red fruity aroma where strawberry and blackcurrant dominate.

### **The Beaujolais and the Beaujolais-Village white wine**

This wine product of Chardonnay is the “white pearl” of the Beaujolais, subtle with a perfume of white flora with the sweet flavor of citrus and generous fruits.

### **The Beaujolais Nouveau**

This tradition was born on 1951. Since then, every third Thursday of November, people taste the new production of the year. It is the most popular nouveau wine and it's the occasion of celebrations in a lot's of country around the world especially in North America, Asia and Australia.

## **The Beaujolais wines in numbers**

**Global surface area of the vineyard** : 22 000 ha

**Grape variety:** Gamay with black juice (98% of the production) and the Chardonnay (2%)

**Production:** 1 100 000 hl

**Number of appellations:** 12 AOC (Brouilly, Chénas, Chiroubles, Côte-de-Brouilly, Fleurie, Juliéas, Morgon, Moulin-à-Vent, Régnié, Saint-Amour, Beaujolais Villages, Beaujolais)

**Number of wine-making estates** : around 3 000.

**Average surface area of wine-making estates** : 6,5 ha.

Authorized productivity per PDO wine : 52 hl/ha PDO Brouilly, Chiroubles, côte-de-Brouilly, Fleurie, Juliéas, Morgon, Moulin-à-Vent, Saint-Amour, Chénas, Régnié, Beaujolais-Village and 50hl/ha PDO Beaujolais.

**46% of the production are exported in more than 150 countries around the world.**

# Chénas

With 250 hectares, Chenas is the smallest vineyard in Beaujolais, but it is one of the most famous. According to ancient custom, Chenas produces rare and precious wine. Chénas, or “oak-as”, took its name from the original oak plantation that covered these hills. In 1316, the King ordered the trees to be uprooted and replaced with vines. The woodmen became wine growers, and named the wine after the oaks.

On the border of the Burgundy and Beaujolais regions, the domain includes the villages of Chénas and la Chapelle de Guinchay.

## The birth of Chénas

The grape variety is exclusively Gamay which best suits the granite soil of the region. The grapes are red and produce a sweet and fruity white juice. A little delicate but productive, the Gamay is not easy to cultivate. One must control strength and yield with meticulous care. The vines are planted at a high density and are pruned low. You will find the hills mostly covered with low vine, requiring culture.

## The harvest

The grapes are picked exclusively by hand not only because of the steep vineyards, but to ensure good vinification.



Source: Google Images

## The vinification

The vinification process is original and unique.

The whole grapes are poured with great care into vats, where fermentation takes place both in the liquid and in the flesh. The maceration usually lasts between 7 and 12 days, after which the grapes are pressed.

Then the liquid from the fermentation vats and the pressed grapes are mixed together. The original technique is common to all Beaujolais wines.

## The village

Situated on the “Crest Route of the Beaujolais”, this village gives an exceptional panoramic site: with a 360° view on the Beaujolais, the Saône Valley and the Mâconnais. Chénas produces 2 appellations: Chénas which is the rarest cru and Moulin à Vent considered as the most precious and oldest cru. You can go on a lot of footpaths, where you can discover the vineyard, the forest and picturesque sites like the old center of Chénas, the Cabane des Chasseurs, the Pic Rémont...



Source: Google Images

## Hiking in the Beaujolais

Hiking is a very important activity in the region, numbers of footpaths are available to discover the region.

The *Sentiers de Victor* is available at the reception as well as the *Sentiers d'Estelle* which have been published by the Beaujeu tourism office. You can also find at the reception a map guide of the Beaujolais region, a hiking guide which includes the GR 76.

Around Chénas, the *Gargantua footpath* offers panoramic views like the “Cabane des Chasseurs” (the Hunters’ Hut) (more information available at the reception).

In Leynes, you can stroll around in the Bois de Fays (alt 420m) and discover a orientation table along with panoramic views on the region of Mâcon, the Bresse and the Saône sides.

On the *Sentier forestier* of Avenas, you will discover, through a marked path the fauna and flora as well as the « fayettes » (forest fairies) and History’s storms.

From the Terrace of Chiroubles, you will walk on a marked path for about one hour. It overlooks the different vineyards and will discover the secrets of the « 10 crus of the Beaujolais ».



Source: Google Images



# Museums of vine and wine's history

## **The Hameau du Vin**

La Gare à Romanèche-Thorins

03 85 35 22 22

You can discover the scent garden, the wine history, the touristic small train, the shop and the vathouse.

Prices : adults : 18€, children : 6€. Open all year long from 10h to 18h.

## **L'Espace Pierres Folles**

Lieu-dit « Pierres Folles » à Saint-Jean-Des-Vignes

04 78 43 69 20

A museum of how the Beaujolais region came to be what it is today physically: geology, fossils, natural resources and industrial applications as well as temporary exhibition. Free access to the geological trail and botanical garden.

## **The Sources du Beaujolais**

Place de l'hôtel de ville à Beaujeu

04 74 69 20 56

You can discover Beaujeu, the historic capital of the Beaujolais and its history with the wine.

## **Clochemerle**

Vaux-en-Beaujolais

04 74 03 20 07

Dive back in the atmosphere of Gabriel Chevalier's novel by visiting the village with a interactive commentaries.



Source: Google Images

## Castles to visit

**The Château de Vinzelles**, in Vinzelles *Tel : 06 07 11 43 88*

An architectural site dated from the 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Guided tour. Opened all year by appointments.

**The Château de Corcelles-en-Beaujolais**, in Corcelles *Tel : 04 74 66 00 24*

Castle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, audio-guided tour Monday to Saturday of April to October, from 10h till 12h and from 14h30 till 17h30.

**The Château de Pravins**, Lieu-dit Pravins à Blacé, *Tel : 06 14 44 12 97*

Renaissance manor in an wine-making estate, the tour ends with a wine-tasting of Beaujolais-Village.

Only by appointments, July through September.

**The Château de Lhestrange**, la Paragard à Blacé, *Tel : 04 74 67 59 17*

Guided tour of the director's house (19<sup>th</sup> century), the cellar and wine-tasting. By appointment.

**The Château de Jarnioux**, in Jarnioux *Tel : 04 74 03 80 85*

Castle with a beautiful part of the Renaissance period.

Opened every Saturday afternoons, guided tours at 15h.

**The Château de Vaurenard**, in Gleizé, *Tel : 04 74 68 21 60*

A place where the Sires of Beaujolais used to meet to go hunting. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was refurbished and you can now visit vines, cellar, the chapel of the castle and the garden. Guided tours by appointment.

**The Château des Tours**, Place du 8 mai 1945 à Anse, *Tel : 04 74 60 26 16*

Medieval castle, you can discover Gallo-Roman mosaics, an archaeological museum, and a prison. More information at Pierre Dorées tourism office.

**The Château de Saint-Point**, in Saint Point *Tel : 03 85 50 50 30*

Property of the poet Alphonse Lamartine's family. By visiting the castle, you will walk through the poet's life.

Visit on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from the April 1<sup>st</sup> until October 31<sup>st</sup>, every hour from 10h to 11h and from 14h to 18h. Opened every day in July and August.

**The Château de Berzé-le-Châtel**, in Berzé *Tel : 03 85 36 60 83*

This is the most important and the oldest fortress of South of Burgundy, you can visit the castle and the chapel from the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

Visit every afternoon from June to September from 14h to 18h.

**The Château de Cormatin**, in Cormatin (71), *Tel : 03 85 50 16 55*

Guided tour of the castle and the big garden.

Opened all year from 10h to 12h and from 14h to 17h30. From July 14<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 18h30.



# Religious heritage

## **La Chapelle de la Madone in Fleurie**

Dedicated to the Vierge and built in 1870, it stays up on the 800 hectares of the vineyards and overlooks the region of Beaujolais and the Sône Valley.

## **L'église aux deux clochers in Régnié-Durette**

Built by Bossan like the Fourviere basilica in Lyon, it is dated from 1867 with a wonderful panoramic view.

## **Saint Nicolas church in Beaujeu**

Roman style influenced by the Clunisien Roman art.

## **Hôtel-Dieu in Belleville**

Heritage of the hospital history from the 18<sup>th</sup> century until today...

## **The Chapel from the Brouilly Mount**

At the top of the mount, this chapel is dedicated to the Vierge, the vine protector, dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a panoramic view.

## **The Chapitre of the canoss-contesses in Salles-Arbuissonnas**

This remarkable group of 18<sup>th</sup> century houses set around a garden was created for the secular canoss-contesses from noble families by Desarmod. They were no longer shut away and played hostess to "nieces" who were either destined for convent life or society.

## **The Church and the cloister of Salles-Arbuissonnas**

12<sup>th</sup> century cloister of which only gallery lined with alternating thin single and double columns remains. The church dates from 11<sup>th</sup> (chevet) and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two-storied bell-tower. Flamboyant gothic door. Open all year, group visits by appointments (Mme Allies : 04 74 67 51 50).

## **The Collégiale Notre Dame des Marais in Villefranche**

Begun during the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, its construction continued until the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



Source: Google Images

## Leisures

Ideal for families and couples...

**Discover Touro parc** with its attraction park and its zoo with more than 700 animals from 140 species. A wide variety of attractions including an old fashioned merry-go-round, roller coasters and water features. 3 waters slides and a paddling pool open in July and August.

Located near the train station of Romanèche Thorins (71), tel : 03 85 35 51 53.

Prices in high season : adults 20,50 €, kids (3 to 12 years old) : 16,90€.



Source: Google Images

## Treetop adventures...

**Parcours d'aventures du Haut-Beaujolais** in Avenas

From 3 years old. Treetop adventures and paintball.

Open all year long. Tel: 06 62 36 28 22

**Au fils des arbres** in Blacé

Col de Saint Bonnet

From 4 years old. Information at 06 73 38 13 82

## Water spare-time...

**Base de Loisirs du Port d'Arciat** in Crêche-sur-Saône

Route du port d'Arciat, Tel : 03 85 37 11 83

You will relax on the sandy beach, while your children enjoy the water and the play area.

Wakeboard and tele ski activities available.

Lifeguard on duty every day on July and August from 11h to 19h.

**Le lac des Sapins** in Cublize

The ideal place for a day out with your children: swimming, play area and water activities amid the pines.

## The Beaujolais region by bike...

### **La Maison du Terroir Beaujolais** in Beaujeu

Explore the Voie Verte of the Beaujolais by bike.

Rent bikes at Place de l'Hôtel de Ville in Beaujeu (69430).

Opened every day from March 1st through December 31st.

Information at 04 74 69 20 56

## On the river...

Guided cruise on the Saône from Belleville to Pont-de-Vaux, departure at 10h30, restaurant on board and visit of the Museum of the popular traditions in Pont-à-Vaux.

Additional information at the **tourism office of Belleville sur Saône**: 04 74 66 44 67, only by appointment.

### **Nautiboat**

It offers you different types of cruises between Belleville sur Saône and Lyon, restaurant on board, guided tours, only by appointment at 04 74 66 97 70.

## In the sky...

**Ulm and hot-air balloon discovery** in the airfield of Pizay in Saint-Jean-d'Ardières,

Tel : 04 74 66 27 44.

**Héliclub du Beaujolais** in the airfield of Villefranche-Tarare in Frontenas, learn to fly an helicopter.

Information at 04 74 71 80 88.



Source: Google Images

## Main touristic sites

**Lyon** (45 minutes from Chénas) is located at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône. France's second city has always been a crossroads between North and South. Registered as a World Heritage by the Unesco, you will head in the Roman times to today. Visit the amphitheater of three Gauls and around the aqueducts of Lugdunum in Roman times, the district of Old Lyon, largest urban renaissance of Europe dominated by Fourvière Basilica. On the peninsula, the Place des Terreaux, where you can admire the paintings in the Museum of Fine arts, a smaller Louvres, is connected to the Rue de la Republique to the Place Bellecour where lies an equestrian statue of Louis XIV. Visit the popular district of La Croix Rousse area of skilled workers in the silk weaving industry at the time (visit : the house of Canuts), discover the gastronomic specialties in the « Bouchons » of Lyon and many other curiosities ..



**TIP:** to enjoy your time in Lyon **car-free**, we suggest to park your car at the train station of Belleville sur Saône and catch a train to either Part Dieu or Perrache, Lyon's train stations. It is only a 35min train ride and the trains run every hour.



Source: Google Images

**Cluny**, (35 minutes from Chénas) political and spiritual capital of the Middle Ages now major tourist attraction and cultural. **The abbey of Cluny** traces over 1,100 years of history founded in 910, it was long the largest sanctuary of Christianity. You can also discover the medieval town and its tower of cheese, the Hotel Dieu, the National Stud...



Source: Google Images



La **Roche de Solutr **, (20 minutes from Ch nas) it stands impressively above the vineyards Pouilly-Fuisse, discoveries reveal the presence of man in the Stone Age.



Source: Google Images

A **Villard-les-Dombes**, (located at 40 minutes from Ch nas) the bird park is home to over 400 bird species from the 5 continents.

**P rouges**, (located at 1 hour from Ch nas) medieval fortified city, located on a rocky plateau of Dombes, the intense craftsmanship of this small city of weavers suggests its cobbled streets, its shops and medieval houses.



Source: Google Images

**Oingt** (located at 1h from Chénas) is a veritable treasure labelled « *Most Beautiful Village in France* ». This medieval, fortified village perched on a hilltop is timeless. Its tiny streets from the Middle Ages, its classified and restored historical monuments make up its charm. Do not miss the Tower of Oingt and its unique panoramic view of the region.



Source: Google Images

Light up your stay in the Tuscany of the Beaujolais (Beaujolais Pierres Dorées tourism office located in Anse at 40min from Chénas).

The Beaujolais has a heart of gold: **the Golden Stones region (Pierres Dorées)**, a bright, lively area which is remarkable for its villages entirely built in yellow, ochre stones which play with the sun's light. The stone gives this part of the Beaujolais its originality and charm. Around forty villages surrounded by vineyards, sometimes perched on hilltops, invite you to discover this unique and well-preserved heritage.



Source: Google Images