

TEJO

WINES

P R E S S K I T



wines of
portugal 
a world of difference

*Defined by a river.
Refined by tradition*



TEJO WINES

WELCOME TO TEJO

Tejo wines have a deep-rooted heritage in Portugal's oldest wine region. Wine estates have flourished along the Tejo River since Roman times. The influence of this ancient wine-producing culture is evident in the many historic architectural legacies adding charm to the landscape.

From deepest history to present times, one feature characterises the Tejo region and, most importantly, its wines. Freshness. The dominant feature of the whole region, the river, bestows on its surrounding geography a near-unique climate - warm and generally dry days, much cooler and more moist nights, often with quite heavy early-morning mists. This climatic combination imbues Tejo wines with enduring freshness, apparent in both the youthful white wines and the many age-worthy red wines. As a visiting Master of Wine commented after first encountering the region and its wines: "hot days, cold nights, cool wines".

The river also ensures bountiful supplies of grape-production's most valuable resource - water. Indeed, the whole region can extract and use all the water needed in vineyards and wineries, and then return good-condition water to the river to preserve water resources within the Region and downstream toward Lisbon. Nature in balance.



**“hot days,
cold nights,
cool wines”**

DEFINED BY A RIVER REFINED BY TRADITION

Located in the very heart of Portugal along the banks of the iconic Tejo River, the Tejo (pronounced “TAY-JHO”) Region is experiencing a wine renaissance from vine to bottle. Formerly known as Ribatejo, the region is now simply called Tejo, a tribute to the river that has shaped its landscape, climate, economy and communities for centuries.

What makes Tejo such a unique winemaking region in Portugal is the proximity and influence of the Tejo river which runs right through the heart of the vine growing area.

The Tejo wine region begins about 40 kilometres up-river from the centre of Lisbon, and then flanks the river on either or both banks for 45 kilometres in a northeasterly direction towards the border with Spain. The region covers a gross area of about 7,000 km² with 12,500 hectares are vineyards and embraces 21 municipal regions.

Tejo is currently producing just over 30 million litres of certified wine per year, and is the 5th largest of Portugal’s fourteen wine regions. The wine community of Tejo is more than 80 wineries and 4 co-operatives. Many of the wineries have been family-owned for generations.

THREE DISTINCT TERROIRS

Further extending the Tejo metaphor of “defined by the river”, the wine region includes three distinct geographies grape-growing areas:

BAIRRO, with clay-limestone soils and some schist soils.

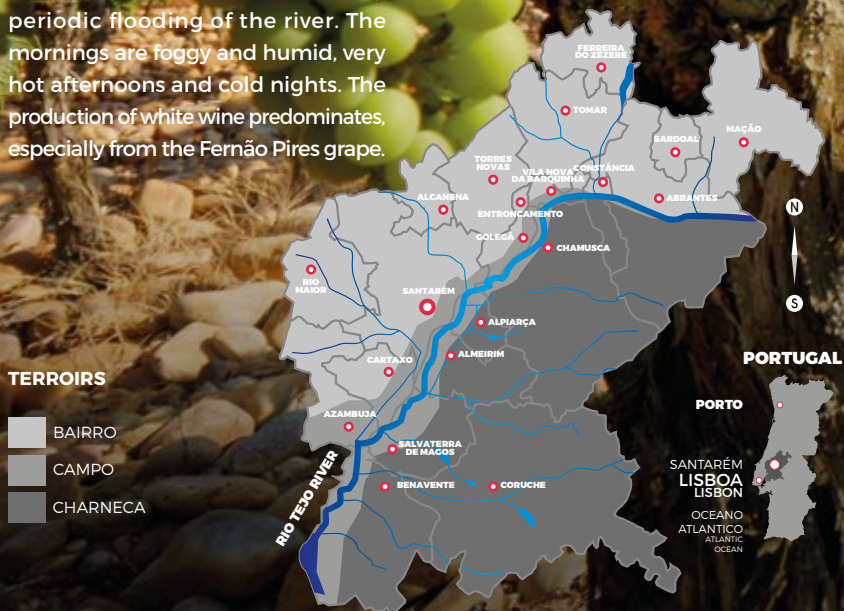
Located to the north and east of the Tejo River right bank, with the Serra de Montejunto to the east and the foothills of the Serra de Aires and Candeeiros mountain ranges to the north. Clay-limestone soils prevail, with some schist soils near the city of Tomar. Naturally ideal conditions for great red wines.

CAMPO, with more fertile land located in alluvial areas.

The Campo area was affected by periodic flooding of the river. The mornings are foggy and humid, very hot afternoons and cold nights. The production of white wine predominates, especially from the Fernão Pires grape.

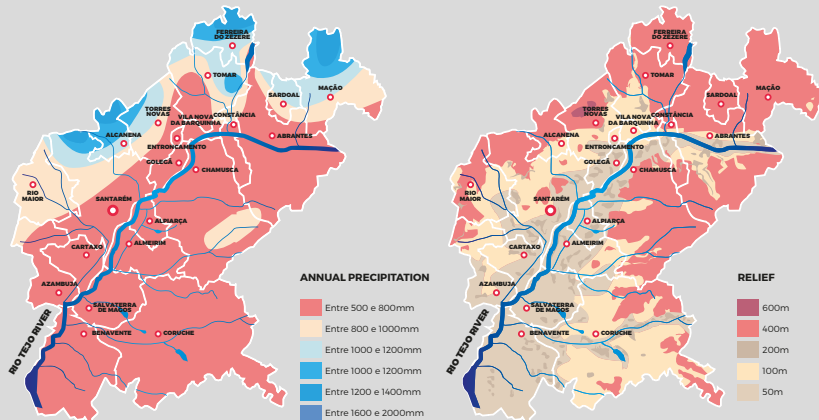
CHARNECA, with poorer sandy soils and gravel.

Located south and southeast of the Tejo River left bank, sandy and less fertile soils with gravel predominate. This countryside tends towards slightly higher temperatures and a generally warmer and drier climate, accelerating maturation of the grapes and producing more concentrated wines. The harvest here generally starts in early-August.



DISTINCTIVE WINE CHARACTERISTICS

With a focus on quality and balance, Tejo produces some of the freshest, most vibrant and affordable wines in Portugal today. The region offers a diverse range of styles appealing to all tastes and budgets. Tejo's native red grapes include Castelão, Trincadeira, Touriga Nacional, and Aragonês. The aromatic Fernão Pires and the lively Arinto produce some of the region's most refreshing white wines. These indigenous grapes thrive in the Tejo region's warm climate and complex soils, while retaining high natural acidity, to produce balanced wines with bright fruit characteristics.



VINES, OLIVE GROVES AND CORK FORESTS

A SHARED LAND

Vineyards and wineries in Tejo share the land with ancient villages, olive groves and cork forests. Many Tejo wine families proudly produce their own brands of olive oil alongside their wine operations. The region's 30,000 acres of cork trees provide plentiful supplies of native, natural and sustainable cork closures, and one of Portugal's largest cork production facilities is in the region. Not many leading wine regions can boast of wines and corks being nurtured side by side in the same countryside.

WINE TOURISM IN TEJO

FAMILY VINEYARDS + HISTORIC CULTURE

There are many historic Portuguese family estates in Tejo, including some of the oldest, continuously operating wine estates in Europe. Everyone welcomes visitors and several estates have wine centres, restaurants, and hotel facilities within the Quinta.

Most visitors will also want to enjoy some of the historic cities and villages in the region, each expressing the cultural traditions and the vibrant communities of today.



SANTARÉM

A picturesque medieval city boasting Gothic art and architecture, and a bustling old quarter.



TOMAR

A beautiful riverside city, full of historical landmarks and busy trading and hospitality districts. Don't miss the Convento de Cristo, a Knights Templar fortress and UNESCO World Heritage site.



LUSITANO HORSES

These graceful "dancing horses" are one of the oldest horse breeds in the world, renowned for their bull-fighting heritage.



THE TEJO CULTURE

AUTHENTICITY FROM VINE TO BOTTLE

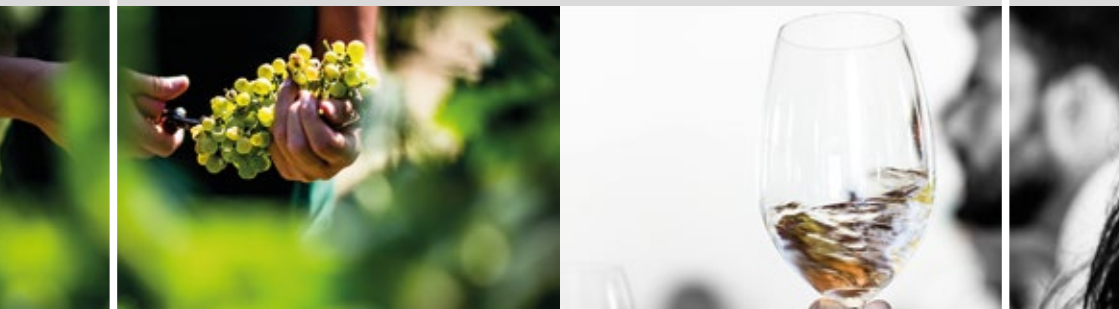
Tejo is championing a renaissance throughout the region, from vine to bottle. Visiting the region and talking with the wine communities, you will sense producers' passion for harnessing local grape varieties and expressing quality and balance in their wines. The current movement in many wine regions in the Old World to combine artisanal traditions, modern methods and equipment, and end-to-end focus on sustainability is very pronounced in Tejo. You will repeatedly hear about commitment to lowering yields and focus on terroir-specific indigenous grapes, but also the active pursuit of fresh, forward-thinking approaches to grape growing and wine production. There is a united belief that wines must be relevant to tastes, preferences and occasions of the 2020's and beyond, and vineyards must be sustainably farmed to flourish well beyond the 2020's.

A wine region deep in the heart of Portugal, but alert and alive to the current priorities of today's wine trade and consumers globally.

Indigenous grape varieties predominate, along with selected international grape varieties suited to the region. The main white varieties are Fernão Pires, Arinto, Verdelho, Alvarinho and also Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. Red varieties are Castelão, Trincadeira, Touriga Nacional, Alicante Bouschet and Aragonez, and also Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon among others.

Fernão Pires is the most planted grape variety on the Tejo wine region, widely used in the production of white wines, mono-varietal or blended. Fernão Pires is very versatile, delivering distinctively aromatic and fresh still and sparkling wines, and also dessert wines and liqueurs.

The region's indigenous grapes thrive in Tejo's warm climate and complex soils, while retaining their high natural acidity, producing balanced wines with bright fruit characteristics.





VISIT TEJO WINE ROUTE




WHITE GRAPES


TEJO'S WHITE GRAPES PRODUCE SUCCULENT WINES, DISTINCTIVELY FRESH AND BALANCED ACIDITY.




FERNÃO PIRES: A versatile varietal that is found more widely in southern Portugal, Fernão Pires (also known as Maria Gomes in northern Portugal) can be picked at various ripeness levels to achieve different flavour profiles—from bright citrus, to luscious peach, to fragrant tropical fruits. This varietal flourishes in the warmer climate in Tejo, and exhibits moderate acidity and body.



VERDELHO: This varietal is highly regarded for its ability to retain a high natural acidity when grown in warm climates. Extremely fragrant, this grape showcases notes of mango, papaya and citrus, as well as fresh herbs and stony minerality.




ALVARINHO: One of Portugal's most widely planted and better-known white varietals. The wines are full of character, deep in body and with zesty acidity. The best examples are highly aromatic with notes of peach, passion fruit, orange blossom, and lychee.




ARINTO: Crown throughout Portugal, this grape produces vibrant wines with flavours of orchard fruits and citrus, best enjoyed young. In warmer regions like Tejo, the grape retains its high natural acidity and excels as both a single-varietal wine and in a blend.

RED GRAPES


TEJO'S RED GRAPES PRODUCE WINES WHICH ARE RICH AND FLAVOURFUL, HIGHLY APPROACHABLE AND, FOR MUCH OF THE PRODUCTION, VERY AGE WORTHY.




CASTELÃO: This varietal is found predominantly in southern Portugal, and prospers in the poor, sandy-clay soils found throughout the Tejo region. The grape has the ability to produce well-structured wines with vibrant acidity and an endearing rustic quality with notes of plum, red currants and meaty aromas.



TRINCADEIRA: This hot weather-loving varietal flourishes in the Tejo region where the growing season is longer, allowing the grape to achieve full ripeness. Although difficult to grow, Trincadeira produces wines with bright raspberry flavours, herbal and spicy tones, while retaining its acidity.



TOURIGA NACIONAL: As Portugal's best-known varietal, this native grape is comfortable in the Tejo region. Produces wines with high tannins, full body and flavours of dark berries, plums and purple flowers. Another grape which enjoys Tejo's warm climate.



ARAGONÊS: The local name for Tempranillo, also Tinta Roriz in northern Portugal. This varietal produces rich robust wines, more often blended rather than single-varietal. It thrives in both sandy and clay soils, Aragonês produces smooth, fruit-forward wines with undertones of spice.

TEJO TESTIMONIALS



CHARLES METCALFE

WINE WRITER, WINE JUDGE AND SPEAKER

" I have been visiting the Tejo region every year for the last six. Each year there are more really successful wines. Wines range from the simple and immensely drinkable to complex, age-worthy blends, both red and white."



DIRCEU VIANNA JUNIOR

MASTER OF WINE, JOURNALIST, SPEAKER AND CONSULTANT

" The uniqueness of the Tejo region includes an abundance of sunshine, diverse soils and cooling influence from the Tejo River and Atlantic breezes. There has been a drive towards quality in recent years and ambitious producers are making world class wines capable of satisfying even the most discerning palates."



GRAHAM HOLTER

THE WINE MERCHANTS MAGAZINE

" We've organised two buyers' trips to the Tejo region and we're looking forward to taking another group there this year. The merchants have always received a warm welcome and been impressed by the balance and purity of the wines they encounter, which they've described as perfectly attuned to the independent market in the UK. Tejo's blends are often what stand out most, but single-varietal wines have been well received too. Indies naturally gravitate to native grapes such as Fernão Pires and Castelão, but they have also been surprised at the quality and value of the international varieties grown in the region."



NICK OAKLEY

OAKLEY WINE AGENCY UK WINE IMPORTER

" Oakley Wine Agencies has been specialised in Portuguese wines for the last 30 years, and Tejo wines have formed the backbone of our selection since the beginning. The value, the quality and the fruit-driven style has proved to be a success with all our UK clients. It is the region's ability to produce both value for money wines and more serious estate grown wines that appeal to the connoisseur, that is the secret to its success. They are universally enjoyable at all price levels."



RODOLFO TRISTÃO

PORTUGUESE RESPECTED SOMMELIER

" Tejo Wine Region is rich in diversity and flexibility of its grape varieties. The Region embraces three different terroirs, each exhibiting distinctive qualities and characteristics. Widely-planted local grape varieties such as the white Fernão Pires and red Castelão produce characterful wines at several price levels, including wines of the quality highest levels, for which Tejo Region is becoming increasingly recognised. Do explore the several other fascinating local indigenous grape varieties - Trincadeira Preta and Alicante Bouchet for reds and Trincadeira das Pratas for whites, from all of which Tejo's winemakers are creating distinctive and good-value wines. Most strikingly, Tejo is a region of passionate winemakers, dedicated to producing desirable wines which express fully their distinctive grape varieties and vineyard attributes. Tejo is a wine region with a unique identity."



BRIAN HOWARD

WINE INTELLIGENCE

" Having worked with the Tejo wine region for several years, I am still amazed by their winemaking ingenuity, working with both indigenous and international grape types, and often cleverly blending both. Recent discoveries include an accomplished Fernão Pires/Arinto blend and an impressive Old Vines Grenache. The producer community are endearing - mainly younger, dedicated to preserving and enhancing their often-ancient vineyards, continually embracing new ideas and sustainability goals and committed to delivering excellent quality at many price points."

CAMPO DO TEJO

Wines that are born from a project to unite producers on both banks of the Tagus River and the valorization of the Fernão Pires grape variety.



TEJO

A VIBRANT WINE REGION SUPPORTED BY A PRO-ACTIVE COMMISSION AND A 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Comissão Vitivinícola Regional de Tejo (CVR Tejo) oversees the viticultural and vinification practices for all Tejo-certified wines produced in the region. Led by a president and representative board, the Commission operates laboratory and tasting facilities to ensure all wines conform with quality standards and correct labeling, and leads an annually-refreshed promotional and support programmes in all key markets.

There are regular workshops for producers to ensure the most current awareness of market preferences and global wine trends, along with the hosting of inbound winery visits or trade professionals, media, wine writers and judges.

Most significantly for the future of everyone engaged in and working with the Tejo wine community, the Commission led the development in 2021 of a 5-year strategy - the "Tejo Region 7 Pillars Strategy". This sets out development roadmaps for all the region's activities:

- Increasing quality wine production
- Transforming vineyards and wineries to preserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Promoting Tejo region as a source of distinctive wines in all key markets
- Enhancing understanding within the Region of trade and consumers trends and priorities in key markets
- Developing mutually beneficial partnerships in all key export markets
- Adopting best practice digital marketing operations
- Establishing and promoting wine tourism within the Region.

Producers and other stakeholders across the Tejo wine community have positively embraced this commitment to the future, and beneficial new initiatives will follow regularly during the next few years.

Wine industry visitors frequently comment on the genuinely warm welcome at wineries and the "open for business" attitude of the Commission team.



“We’re Team Tejo, the only winemaking community based around the great Portuguese river, the Tejo, inland from Lisbon.

This river valley setting endows us with ideal natural conditions for vineyards and wineries, enabling us to create diverse styles for all wine moments. These ideal conditions ensure that our wines are always high quality, consistently appealing, and reliable at a range of price points and occasions.

As quality Portuguese winemakers, we’re masters of blending the several indigenous and international varietals we’re fortunate to have at our disposal, creating wines that are distinctive and always enjoyable.”



WINE in MODERATION

CHOOSE | SHARE | CARE

TEJO
WINES

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