

The Czech Republic has a long wine history and tradition.

Wine has been made in Czech lands for more than twenty centuries and has always played an important role, not only in economy but also in culture, society and even politics. During the course of its history, the quality of Czech wine has been acknowledged in foreign countries and markets however, due to the political development after the Second World War, the Czech wine industry became physically and politically isolated for several decades from the global wine industry.

The last twenty years though have seen a dramatic change and development in the industry and Czech wines are again enjoying great attention and recognition on the market even though the customers are mostly from the Czech Republic. However, initial attempts for regaining its position within European wine countries have been made and Czech wines are now being exported again to several European countries, the USA and Asia regaining its position and status as a member of the global wine village.



Given the fact that the Czech Republic is a Central European country with no maritime influence and its wine regions are located alongside the 49th parallel, it is a wine country recognized as a “**cold growing area**” with “**a continental climate**”. These are two important facts and features that determine the local wine styles. Within the

wine categories and styles as recognized by WSET (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) most of the wines are categorized as “**light to medium-bodied white (aromatic) wines**” and a small percentage are “**medium to full-bodied white (oaked) wines**”. A typical wine from the Czech Republic would therefore be described as a light to medium bodied Riesling with expressive and attractive fruity aroma and refreshing zesty acidity. However, within the whole country, there are several wine growing regions and sub-regions that specialize in other wine styles.

In general, Czech wine growing is divided into two main regions: **Bohemia** and **Moravia**, with a total growing area of about 20 000 hectares. The majority (about 19 000 hectares) lies in **Moravia**, which is thus further divided into 4 sub-regions.

Znojmo sub-region – Riesling and Grüner Veltliner

A wine region that spreads along the border with Austria in the vicinity of an ancient wine town Znojmo that played an important role in Czech history and whose name has given the name to the whole wine region.

The Znojmo wine region lies in the rain shadow and on the foothills of the Bohemia-Moravian Highland, whose stony soils are excellent for the cultivation of **Riesling**, **Grüner Veltliner**, and in certain parts and wine villages even for red varieties such as **Blafränkisch** and **Pinot Noir**.

Total vine planted area	3153 hectares
Main varieties	Riesling, Grüner Veltliner, Blafränkisch, Pinot Noir
Main wine centres	Znojmo, Dolní Kounice, Nový Šaldorf, Šatov, Lechovice



Mikulov sub-region – where it all begun

The town and wine region where it all begun and one of the world’s oldest human settlement. This is the historical centre of viticulture and winemaking in the Czech Republic.

The Mikulov wine sub-region and its wines is characterized by the limestone soil found in the Palava Highlands. The vineyards are spread mostly along the hillsides and slopes of the Highlands producing predominantly white wines with distinctive fruit driven aroma, minerality and refreshing acidity.

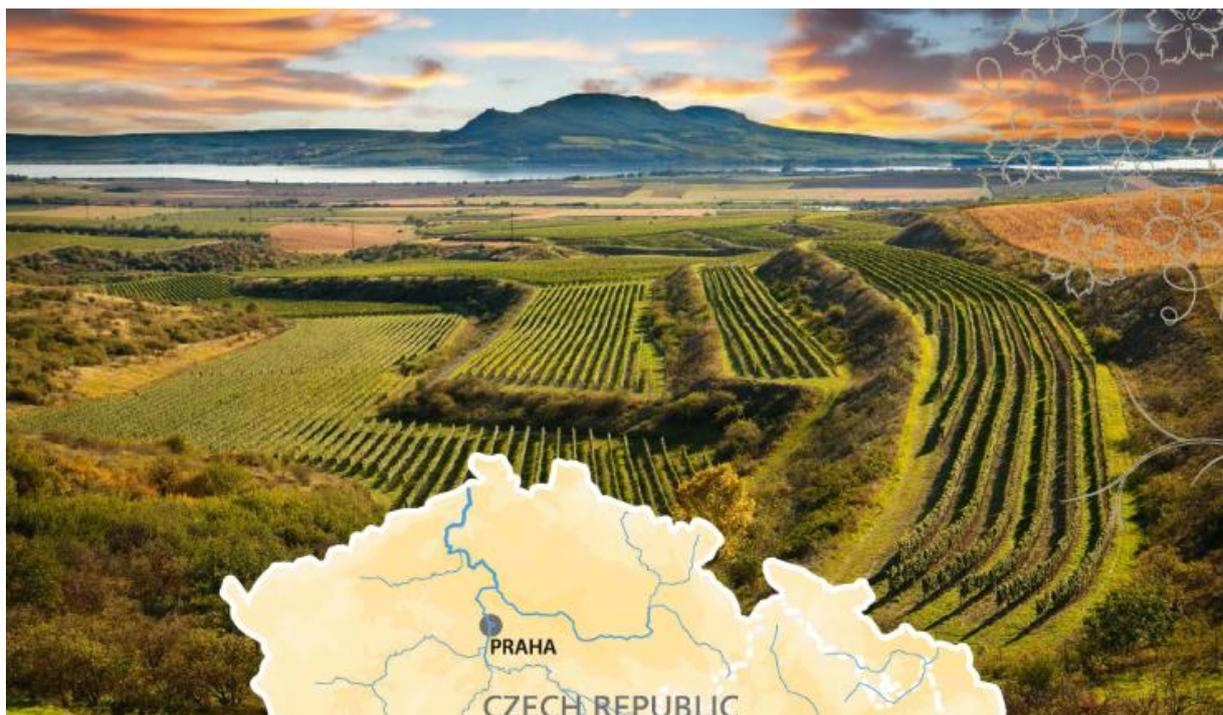
Total vine planted area	4 432 hectares
Main varieties	Welschriesling, Riesling, Grüner Veltliner, Pinot Noir
Main wine centres	Mikulov, Valtice, Perna, Pavlov, Dolni Dunajovice



Velke Pavlovice sub-region – the land of red wine

The largest wine region with a deep history, wine traditions and customs that are still alive even nowadays. The central part of the region features a mosaic of soils (limestone loam, marl, sandstone etc.) and holds a high content of magnesium and is therefore a great area for growing red varieties and therefore producing red wines. So this is where red wine rules! Thanks to its relatively high diurnal temperature range, the area also produces attractive aromatic white wines.

Total vine planted area	4 741 hectares
Main varieties	Blafränkisch, Pinot Noir, St. Laurent, Blauer Portugieser, Gewürztraminer, Moravian Muscat
Main wine centres	Velke Pavlovice, Velke Bilovice, Hustopeče, Čejkovice



WINE-GROWING SUB-REGION

THE WINE-GROWING REGION MORAVA (MORAVIA)

Slovacko sub-region – Wine and Folklore

The Slovacko wine region lies in the south-east corner of the Czech Republic, bordering Slovakia and Austria. The name of the wine region is derived from “Slovakia” as it lies on its borders and shares similar customs and accent. This is the region where folklore, festivities, traditions and even local folk costumes are still alive and cherished.

The region has very heterogeneous natural vine growing conditions. In the south, the majority of the wine communes are situated in the valley of the river Morava, cooled by north-east winds. The most advantageous vineyard positions are on the hillside breaches over the Kyjovka stream or on the more elevated plains with their light soil. The altitude and lightness of the soil will dictate the intensity of summer temperature, thus giving wines that burst forth with varietal character.

Total vine planted area	4 188 hectares
Main varieties	Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Moravian Muscat, Muller Thurgau, Blaufränkisch, Zweigelt
Main wine centres	Bzenec, Mutěnice, Hovorany, Čejč



4 SLOVÁCKA
WINE-GROWING SUB-REGION

THE WINE-GROWING REGION MORAVA (MORAVIA)

In an international “wine context”, the wines of the Czech Republic closely, in fact very closely, **resemble the wines of Lower Austria**. In fact, the majority of all Czech wine regions border with Austrian wine regions and share similar wine customs, traditions and history, as well as common vine and wine practises. So it is quite possible to say that when one knows the wines of Lower Austria, then he/she knows the wines of the Czech Republic. This is not only because of the same growing conditions, but also thanks to a similar history, alongside with shared customs and traditions.

