

FRANCE - CORSICA

SPECIFICATIONS (What you have to know)	KEY FACTORS Grape varieties: Carignan, Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Muscat, Tibouren, Rolle, Nielluccio (sangiovese), Sciacarello Climate & Weather: Mediterranean, drought, wind Viticulture: Bush vines, irrigation		
HISTORY	565BC: Phocaeans began growing vines -> one of the eldest wine-making regions in the world. 13-16 th : Genoans ruled, developed & strictly controlled the wine industry and made it main industry on the island 1768: Island sold to France due to revolts. 1850: 20,000ha of vines and ¾ of population living from wine-growing 1970-90s: new generation of quality winemakers + EU vine pull scheme > output down + AOP up.		
CLIMATE & WEATHER	Generally drier & sunnier vs. France Métropolitaine (mainland) w avg temperature higher in North Multiple mesoclimates given altitude, latitude & wind variations Minimal rain at harvest; low diurnal change		
SOILS & TOPOGRAPHY	• Most vineyards are towards the coast – inland too mountainous • 4 main areas/soil types: - o Cap Corse: Schist - o Patrimonio (just west of Cap Corse): chalk & clay - o West side: granite - o East coast: Marl-sand		
GRAPE VARIETIES	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Reds</u> 1. Nielluccio 26 % DNA identical to Sangiovese Deep-coloured, full bodied reds + rosés Well suited for chalky clay Patrimonio soils 2. Sciacarello 18 % Unique to Corsica Well suited for granite soils (Ajaccio & Sartene) Crisp, peppery reds, light colour, hi acidity Often blended with Grenache or Nielluccio 4. Grenache 11 % Also : Syrah, Carignan, Cinsault, Merlot, Alicante, Grenache </td><td style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Whites</u> 3. Rolle / Vermentino 15 % Most closely associated with Bellet Increasingly grown in region esp. Roussillon where it is often blended with Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne & Grenache Blanc Aromatic & crisp (unusual for warm region) Grown everywhere, best in Cap Corse 2. Ugni blanc / Clairette Ronde Imported from Italy in 14th (Trebbiano) High yields & hi acidity Most planted in S. Rhone & Provence 5. Muscat blanc à petits grains 6. Chardonnay </td></tr> </table>	<u>Reds</u> 1. Nielluccio 26 % DNA identical to Sangiovese Deep-coloured, full bodied reds + rosés Well suited for chalky clay Patrimonio soils 2. Sciacarello 18 % Unique to Corsica Well suited for granite soils (Ajaccio & Sartene) Crisp, peppery reds, light colour, hi acidity Often blended with Grenache or Nielluccio 4. Grenache 11 % Also : Syrah, Carignan, Cinsault, Merlot, Alicante, Grenache	<u>Whites</u> 3. Rolle / Vermentino 15 % Most closely associated with Bellet Increasingly grown in region esp. Roussillon where it is often blended with Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne & Grenache Blanc Aromatic & crisp (unusual for warm region) Grown everywhere, best in Cap Corse 2. Ugni blanc / Clairette Ronde Imported from Italy in 14 th (Trebbiano) High yields & hi acidity Most planted in S. Rhone & Provence 5. Muscat blanc à petits grains 6. Chardonnay
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VITICULTURE	Irrigation & chaptalisation banned.		
WINEMAKING	Whites: Some barrel fermenting & lees stirring (Vermentino) Reds & rosés mostly made with traditional southern varieties (Grenache, Carignan, Cinsault)		
WINE APPELLATIONS & STYLES	Rosé 64% Red 23% White 14% AOP 32% IGP 64% SIG 4% 1. IGP Vin de Pays de l'île de beauté (●●●) o Varietal wines made from international varieties (Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot). 2. AOP Vin de Corse (●●●) o Mainly from the east coast around Aléria o Nielluccio must take min 33% of vineyard space o Nielluccio + Sciacarello + Grenache = minimum 50% for rosé/red blends o Vermentino min 75% of whites blend with Ugni blanc for remainder. o 5 sub-region ACs: a. Vin de Corse – Côteaux du Cap Corse: huge now small with good, round Vermentinos b. Vin de Corse Calvi c. Vin de Corse Sartene: red berry flavoured reds; fine & aromatic whites d. Vin de Corse Figari: one of the oldest regions of cultivation; granite soils for strong rustic wines e. Vin de Corse Porto-Vecchio: ageworthy reds, robust whites & agreeable rosés 3. AOP Patrimonio - 440ha (●●●) o AOP since 68 located west of Bastia in the North; rare argillocitic soils o Rich powerful reds o Whites needs to be 100% Vermentino		
PRODUCTION & BUSINESS	• Key producers: - o Patrimonio - Domaine Leccia – 22ha Top red Nielluccio Petra Bianca combines body, roundness & finish of high quality		

Corsica wine
