

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

## NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Haut-Médoc

## PRODUCT CATEGORY

Wine

## COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

France

## APPLICANT

Organisme de Défense et de Gestion des AOC Médoc, Haut-Médoc, Listrac-Médoc  
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33250 PAUILLAC  
France

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## PROTECTION IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

*Date of Protection in the European Union:* 18.9.1973

*Date of Protection in the Member State:* Decree of November 14, 1936 (published in the Official Gazette on November 15, 1936)

## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

- **Raw Material**

Grape varieties: Cabernet franc N, Cabernet-sauvignon N, Carmenère N, Cot N (or Malbec), Merlot N, Petit Verdot N.

- **Alcohol content :**

11% vol.

- **Physical Appearance**

Red wine

## DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

The Haut-Médoc AOC boundaries date from 1936. The Haut-Médoc appellation stretches from current Saint-Seurin de Blanquefort Cadourne in a wide band of land 60 km and crosses more than 29 municipalities. Mainly composed of layers of Garone gravel, the land is mostly known for the extraordinary diversity of its soils, and areas of limestone, clay and sandy areas.

## LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Generations of winemakers have enhanced the specificity of the world-renowned Médoc wine area. Throughout history, the expert knowledge of soils by the growers, seeking to optimize the quality of their wines by controlling drainage techniques, have allowed the development of

farming practices which best suited for the production of red wines. Progress in plant health and vineyard mechanization have not softened the willingness of growers to maintain their goal of producing red wines for aging according to specifically recognized viticultural practices.

Historically, " Haut- Médoc " was geared towards different varieties chosen for their ability to produce wines in a successful blend. So the growers in Médoc grow certain varieties in specific types of soils : Merlot N in colluvium , Carmenère N in poor soils and dry gravel, Cabernet Franc N in calcareous outcrops or dry sandy soils , and Cot N, Petit Verdot and N in impoverished soils. Cabernet Sauvignon N grows well in the deep gravelly soils.

This diversity calls for selective vineyard management through a limited separation between rows and a maximum planting per parcel and controlled vines. The reputation of the wines of the "Haut- Médoc" have been classified differently in history, with the concepts of quality ranking of " cru " of " château ". In 1647 , when " Jurade de Bordeaux " issued the first classification of the wines of Guyenne history, wine parishes under " Médoc " enjoyed popularity. Under Louis XV, this classification was refined by region, with a division by parishes and then by ' crus '. In the nineteenth century, the logic of " crus " in Bordelais stems back to the famous classification of the wines of Bordeaux of 1855, on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition.

The reputation of "Haut- Médoc" rests, among other factors, on the basis of five ' crus ' which are ranked with the geographical area of the designation of origin.

In the twentieth century , the classification of ' crus bourgeois " in the Médoc in 1932 includes 444 " crus " , of which 153 belong to the denomination of origin' Haut- Médoc."

This wine territory, heir to a long history of exploitation and tour of the Wine Road is dotted with famous ' châteaux ' wines, vast properties that express a varied architectural heritage and whose names are known all over the world.

## **SPECIF RULES FOR LABELLING, IN CASE THESE EXIST**

[...]

## **CONTROL BODY**

*For checking compliance with the specifications:*

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*To prevent fraud (quality, description tags and documents, trade):*

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*For fiscal affairs, accompanying documents and customs matters:*

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