

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Graves

PRODUCT CATEGORY

Wine

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

France

APPLICANT

Syndicat viticole des Graves et Graves supérieures
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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 4 March 1937 (published in the official gazette on March 8, 1937)

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

- **Raw Material**

For red wines: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc - minor varieties: Petit Verdot, Cot (or Malbec) and Carmenère.

For white wines:

Sauvignon, Sémillon, Muscadelle, Sauvignon gray.

- **Alcohol content :**

Red wine	11.0% vol.
White wine	10.5% vol.

- **Physical Appearance**

Red and white wine

DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

The denomination of GRAVES covers over 3,600 hectares. The area established with varieties of red grapes represents almost two thirds of the area's designation GRAVES. The geographic area extends over 43 municipalities of the Gironde area.

The denomination of GRAVES occurs in a clay composed of sand, " alios " (blackened sand stones and hardened ferruginous cement), chalk and "Falun" (chalk containing seashells)

underground. The nature of the soil in the vineyards of GRAVES depends on the variety of stones and pebbles. These include quartzite, ochre, white, red and pink quartz, jasper, agate, flint and Lydian stone.

The area is protected from severe weather by the pine forests of the Landes girondines, its neighbour to the west. The climate is representative of the Gironde in general: warm, mild, with regular rain, all characteristics favorable to vines, and due to the proximity of the ocean.

LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Graves is the traditional land of great white wines and great red wines of Bordeaux, and the area is still home to the current wine-making practices. The different grape varieties, grown in a maritime climate, required as from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries support posts, propping up and then rigorous pruning to ensure a good distribution of the harvest and sufficient leaf surface for correct chlorophyll synthesis and optimal maturation.

According to the uses already covered by the Decree of 4 March 1937 on the designation of origin "Graves", the defined plot surface for harvest classifies parcels which have a naturally good sanitation drainage quality, on hills or slopes. Geographical and topographical locations are excluded if they are exposed to spring frosts, either because of their distance from the river Garonne (loss of thermal power regulation by the river) or being surrounded by forests (which slows the circulation of cold air masses).

The plots are precisely defined which allows an optimal expression of local varieties. These are selected over time because of their suitability for conservation and ageing, which are features needed to transport the wine for great distances.

The red wines of the appellation of origin 'Graves' must have sufficient structure, obtained through optimal ripening of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot N varieties, especially in stony, poor and hot soils, which are factors which naturally limit production. These wines are selected and developed especially to refine their character and improve their nuances before being marketed.

Dry white wines of the appellation of origin 'Graves' and white wines with residual sugar of the denomination of origin ' Supérieures Graves', mainly from the Sémillon and Sauvignon B, get their delicately floral, fruity and fresh nuances from more sandy soils with a clay matrix.

In order to achieve a sufficient harvest without overloading the vines, and to guarantee maturity and optimum concentration of fruit, planting density is high.

The proximity of the port of Bordeaux, from where historically there were large exports of wines which were marketed worldwide, and the original geological situation have enabled the designation of origin ' Graves ' to enjoy an international reputation.

That reputation continues today and people in the region continue to strive to improve collective rules in order to promote the names of the wines of Graves, and its heritage, personality and names in their original detail.

SPECIF RULES FOR LABELLING, IN CASE THESE EXIST

[...]

CONTROL BODY

For checking compliance with the specifications:

Institut National de l'Origine et de la Qualité (INAO)
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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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