

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE  
REGISTRATION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION**

**NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION**

Côtes du Rhône

**PRODUCT CATEGORY**

Wine

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

France

**APPLICANT**

Syndicat Général des vignerons réunis des Côtes du Rhône  
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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 19, 1937 (published in the official newspaper of November 20, 1937)

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**

- **Raw Material**

- Red wine and rosé wine:

Main grape varieties: Grenache noir (minimum 40%), Syrah, Mourvèdre, Carignan and other varieties such as Cinsaut (maximum 30%).

- White wine:

Main grape varieties: Grenache blanc, Clairette, Marsanne, Roussanne, Bourboulenc, Viognier, and other varieties such as Ugni Blanc and Picpoul blanc.

- **Alcohol content:**

Min. 11% vol

- **Physical Appearance**

Red, white and rosé wine

**DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA**

Area between Vienne and Avignon. It covers 171 municipalities within 6 administrative districts (Ardèche, Drôme, Gard, Loire, Rhône and Vaucluse). The denomination is produced mainly in the southern sector of the area.

The geographic area is characterized by a Mediterranean climate in the southern mainland and a moderate one in the northern sector. Its most prominent feature is the Mistral, the strong wind

caused by the difference in air pressure between the north and south, and which is very beneficial to the vines. The climate of the region is characterized by seasons, with high temperatures and abundant sunshine and heavy rain

The soils are of granitic origin and in terraces; soils on terraces north of Valence are crumbly sandy soils (particularly kind to the environment); in the south, rocky soils on calcareous substrates. Soil is the result of a combination of vegetation and climate over thousands of years. The Rhône river carved a deep mark in the sedimentary basin, and bringing silt from Vienne down to Avignon and the Cevennes, against the foothills of the Alps, has created a rich variety of soils.

## **LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA**

"Côtes du Rhône" vineyard diversity results from the combination of a shared history and collective expertise, formed by a community of producers eager to maintain the unity provided by the river that forms the "valley" and at the same time preserve the identity of the multiple micro-regions that comprise or skirt the area.

Thus, the wines produced are a result of this "unique diversity" created by the producers, who have known how to:

- Adapt the varieties and choose the planting sites;
- Take advantage of favourable weather conditions;
- And highlight the presence of the Rhone.

Historically, the Grenache N variety is located in the southern part of the geographical area, while Syrah N is in the northern part, less demanding in terms of total sum of temperatures. The range of varieties available to the winemaker lets you optimize your site depending on the nature of the soil and exposure of each plot.

The climate of the Rhône favours good growing conditions, thanks to the "health" effects of the Mistral, the strong, cold, dry wind which protects the vineyards from cryptogamic attacks, and good concentrated fruit ripening thanks to the significant sunshine, adequate rainfall, and the constancy of the Mistral.

The Rhône river, an important navigable waterway and later the rail and road, allowed trade in wine from the Greek colonizations and therefore helped to maintain a winemaking tradition for over 2000 years.

The combination of the expertise of producers, acquired over generations, and the land available with a choice of bounded pitches, created the identity and family wine "Côtes du Rhône". Within this family, one can distinguish the denomination of origin "Côtes du Rhône Villages" either alone or followed by the name of a complementary geographic name as well as designations of origin 'Crus des Côtes du Rhône', in the southern and the northern part of the geographical area.

## **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):*

Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances et de l'Emploi et Ministère du Budget, des Comptes Publics et de la Fonction Publique  
Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation

et de la répression des fraudes  
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*For fiscal affairs, accompanying documents and customs matters:*

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