

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

**NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION**

Beaujolais

**PRODUCT CATEGORY**

Wine

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

France

**APPLICANT**

Syndicat Beaujolais et Beaujolais Villages Associés  
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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 September 12, 1937 (Published in the Official Gazette of September 16, 1937)

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION**

- **Raw Material**

Beaujolais is a wine produced from Gamay noir with white juice. This variety produces red wines (there is also a reduced area planted with Chardonnay which produces White Beaujolais)

- **Alcohol content :**

White wine = 10,5 % vol.

Rosé wine = 10,0 % vol.

Red wine = 10,0 % vol.

- **Physical Appearance**

White wine.

Rosé wine.

Red wine.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA**

Its highest point, Mount St. Rigaud, in the northwest, has an altitude of 1009 m. The mountains of Beaujolais, west, with its port of mountains form a natural barrier between 600 and 900 meters. Sheltered by these small mountain ranges, vineyards are divided into different levels ranging between 200 and 400 meters, following a south or south-east.

The Beaujolais area is defined by its three major geographical parts:

- to the east, the Saône valley

- to the west, the green and undulating Beaujolais Hills
- in the centre, the Beaujolais wine region.

Beaujolais includes 147 communes and backs onto the Massif Central. Its highest point at 1009 m altitude is the Mont St Rigaud to the northeast. To the west, the Hills of Beaujolais form a natural barrier between 600 and 900 m above sea-level. Sheltered by these small mountain chains, the vineyards are spread around at different altitudes (200-400 m) and face south or south-east.

## **LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA**

" Beaujolais " is a traditional wine region that lies about 50 kilometres from the south of Mâcon at the gates of Lyon . Although the height of the interior reaches 1000 m altitude, the vineyard does not exceed 550 meters. It is exposed on slopes facing the rising sun, and enjoys a temperate climate with regular rainfall and a bright ambiance which reminds one of the South and the Rhone Valley. The natural barrier of the " Monts du Beaujolais " in the west, gives the geographical area light conditions and rainfall which are particularly favourable to the maturation, concentration and good health of the grapes.

Although there is one geographical area there is some diversity in both geology and landscapes. This diversity is expressed in the range of wines. The wines have a rather strong and intense colour in the acidic soils of the North, and are usually light and fruity in the mainly limestone substrates in the South.

Demarcated plots for harvest are set out in the poor, well-drained soils of the granite and clay - limestone hillsides. The relief and the wide opening to the east protects the grape from morning dew, while the altitude of the slopes prevents the winter fogs that often flood the valley of the Saone .

The vines for wine production with the words " Villages " are only planted on plots of acidic soils in the northern part of the geographical area, the substrates being Palaeozoic or quaternary derivatives.

Over generations, men have learned to take advantage of the characteristics of the territory and winemaking techniques adapted to the Gamay N variety. Thanks to this particular expression of the vineyard ' Beaujolais ', there is a very clear focus on the production of young wines. These new wines reflect the rich aroma of the year and hint at qualities of strength and balance that may appear after a longer maceration, but especially after a period of naturally aging wines. So, for wines entitled to the words ' primeur ' or ' nouveau ' winemaking aims to favour fruity softness and freshness. The maceration for wines intended for aging is usually longer, in order to develop the aromatic complexity and tannic structure favorable to successful ageing .

Clay soils of the geographical area of the appellation of origin ' Beaujolais ' allow the development of a rich and soft wine color. The plots for the production marked ' Villages ', located in sandy soils of rock crystal, offer opportunities to develop balanced, harmonious wines with a long-lasting aroma.

Despite the ease and proximity of consumer market of the agglomeration of Lyon, this vineyard has managed to transport an important part of their production to Paris, long before railways. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries , the wines of ' Beaujolais ' benefited from the momentum resulting from its position in Paris and Lyon to spread throughout France and the world. Sometimes we speak of ' Beaujolais ' as ' third river of Lyon "after the Saone and the Rhone , in reference to its popularity. Since the nineteenth century , producers and traders have tended to sell their crops early . In the 1950s, local business organized and promoted the early marketing of wines.

New wineries and new wine-tasting routes can attract consumers and allow them to discover to the riches of ' Beaujolais '.

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

[...]

## **CONTROL BODY**

*For checking compliance with the specifications:*

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