

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR
REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS**

NAME OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

Cotnari

PRODUCT CATEGORY

Wine

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Romania

APPLICANT

Asociatia de Producatori "Domeniile Cotnari"
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PROTECTION IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Date of protection in the European Union: 10/05/2007

Date of protection in Member State: 1993, Government Ordinance no.16/1993

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

- **Raw material**

Varieties:

White wine grape varieties: Grasă de Cotnari, Frâncușă, Fetească albă, Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Pinot gris, Traminer roz, Tămâioasă românească, Muscat Ottonel.

Red/rosé wine grape varieties: Fetească neagră, Busuioacă de Bohotin.

- **Alcohol content:**

a) Wines bearing the traditional expression C.M.D.:

WHITE/ROSÉ: min 11 % vol.

RED: min 12 % vol.

b) Wines bearing the traditional expression C.T.:

WHITE/ROSÉ: min 12 % vol.

RED: min 12.5 % vol.

c) Wines bearing the traditional expression C.I.B.:

WHITE/ROSÉ: min 12 % vol.

- **Physical Appearance**

White, Rosé, Red wine.

DESCRIPTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

1. The area defined for the production of wines with the COTNARI controlled designation of origin includes the following places located in the administrative departments of Iași and Botoșani: Department of Iași
 - municipality of Cotnari – the villages of: Cotnari, Hodora, Cârjoaia, Bahluiu, Iosupeni, Lupăria;
 - municipality of Ceplenița – the villages of: Ceplenița, Buhalnița, Zlodica;
 - municipality of Scobinți – the villages of: Scobinți, Bădeni, Zagavia, Fetești;
 - the town of Hârlău – Hârlău town
 - municipality of Deleni – the villages of: Deleni, Maxut, Feredeni, Slobozia, Poiana;
 - municipality of Cucuteni – the villages of: Cucuteni, Băiceni, Săcărești;
 - municipality of Todirești – the villages of: Todirești, Băiceni;
 - municipality of Balș – the villages of: Balș, Boureni, Coasta Măgurii;Department of Botoșani
 - municipality of Frumușica – the villages of: Frumușica, Rădeni.
2. The Cotnari controlled designation of origin may be supplemented by the designation of one of the following vine-growing areas, should the producers so wish: Dealul Castel, Dealul Episcopului, Dealul Paraclis, Dealul Mândrului, Zlodica, Țiglăi, Dealul Cătălina, Cârjoaia, Lupăria, Ceplenița, Dealul lui Vodă, Buhalnița, Scobinți, Dealul Furcilor, Dealul Stânca, Hodora, Zagavia, Dealul Naslău, Hârlău, Deleni, Cucuteni, Boureni, Balș, Coasta Măgurii.

LINK WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

The climate and the soil in the region are the main factors which guarantee the quality of the wines bearing the Cotnari controlled designation of origin. The natural conditions in the region are particularly suited to growing vines since the entire area is located in a CI zone.

The geological deposits which make up the landscape of the municipality of Cotnari and stud the surface of the soil on the plateau, slopes, terraces and the valleys in Lower Samartia (Volhynia), Mid-Samartia (Bessarabia) and Quaternary include marl, sand and clay mixed with fine sandstone.

In terms of climate, the Cotnari vineyards lie where the east-European air mass characteristic of the Moldavian Plain meets the Baltic air mass specific of the Suceava Plateau. The climate of the area occupied by the municipality of Cotnari is characterised by annual average temperatures of 9°C, average annual rainfall of 474.6 mm and mainly north-easterly, south-easterly and southerly winds.

In hydrographical terms, the Cotnari vineyards are part of the mid-Bahlui Basin. It should also be noted that chernozem can be found on the Cotnari vineyards, in particular on the high plateaus. This is particularly suited to growing vines and has given these vineyards their historic reputation.

The landscape of the Cotnari vineyards is characterised in particular by the Mare-Hârlău hillside (between the upper stretches of the Bahluiet and Miletin streams) which separates the two large geomorphological sub-units of the northern Moldavian Plateau, namely the Suceava Plateau and the Moldavian Plain.

Most of the vines in these vineyards are located on this hillside, in particular the eastern slopes of the Mare-Hârlău hill. The hillside has a difference in height of some 300 m between the lowest point of the dip at the foot of the hill (100-200 m) and the summit of the structural plateaus (around 400 m) and an average gradient of 7°, but this varies between 1°

and 3° on the sloping bank at the foot of the hill, 3° and 15° in the large section in the middle (where the vines are mainly located) and more than 15°-20° on the upper reaches of the structural plateaus.

The entire length of the hillside slope in question (between the Bahluiet and the Miletin streams) is very uneven, so that these general figures are purely indicative. In reality, the huge variety in the landscape means hydrographical features have had a major impact on and often severely fragmented it, thus further complicating the landscape's detailed morphological configuration. The largest transverse valleys (Bahluet, Cârjoaia, Buhalnița, Bahlui, Miletin) have gradually extended in a regressive manner far to the west, and mark the boundary between several areas along the hillside (Cucuteni, Cotnari, Hârlău, Frumușica), while smaller valleys with a stream (Cucuteni, Băiceni, Storoști, Horodiștea, Mitoc, Graur, Zlodica, Zagavia, Deleni, Feredeni, Rădeni, Flămânzi) have sculpted within these areas a series of small basins with deposits (perfect for growing vines) which maximise the diversity of the hillside's topography as well as its aspect and incline.

The micro and medium landscape features of the hillside are subject to the potential and actual effects of heavy rainfall or the washing away of colluvial soil, which vary in intensity depending on a range of natural and anthropological factors including the gradient of the slope, which cannot be considered negligible. Thus, on the gentlest slopes (1° to 5°), erosion of the colluvial soil is relatively balanced, harder to spot and easier to take steps to prevent, while the effect of gravity and the hills' special lithological features make the moderately and very steep slopes (5° to 15°), which make up most of the wine-producing area of the region, highly unstable due to erosion and landslides, which is of particular concern when using them to grow vines. It goes without saying that empirical measures have been taken in the past at a local level, as well as current scientific and generalised initiatives on the ground, aimed at staving off these harmful processes, and indeed the vineyards and orchards (in particular in terraces) themselves act as a brake. The slopes with a gradient of more than 15° to 20° which lie in particular along the structural "cuestas" facing N, NW and NE, the most impressive of which are the hills of Cătălinei, Dealului Baltă, Zlodici, Buhalniței and the hill of Bahluiului (Zagavia-Polovraci), are the ones which have the greatest morphodynamic instability (in particular, heavy landslides). Since growing vines there is risky, transforming these hillsides into forest has proven to be the soundest economic anti-erosion investment.

The Vodă hillside ("Dealul lui Vodă" (317 m)) situated to the east of Scobinți is a special case. Due to its almost conical shape it forms a sort of miniature Tokaj. However, in terms of how it came into being, it has been eroded in a completely different way to the big hillside to the west of which it is still part due to its structural aspect and altitude. Its form and isolation and the fact that it has large radial ridges as a result of heavy rainfall and landslides are the reasons why it is only partially covered in vineyards planted to prevent erosion. Equally picturesque is the peak of the "Țiglaiele lui Baltă" located on the eastern border of Cotnari, which is in fact three peaks ("țiglaie") with an altitude of between 212 and 232 m, protected by the sandstone slabs of the Samartia area. This peak, which is partially separated from the Cotnari hillside by the Zlodici dip and the Valea Ungurilor, is asymmetrical: its eastern flank falls less steeply and is covered by tightly growing vines, while the western flank (front de cuesta) slopes steeply and is covered by pasture and forest plantations.

The wines produced by these vineyards vary greatly in terms of the special features of the varieties used because they are influenced by the characteristics of the slope on which

they were produced.

The wines are usually full-bodied, very often with residual sugar, but when the autumn is long and dry, with the effect of noble rot, it is possible to produce the very high quality wines which have given the vineyards their reputation, namely the natural sweet wines designated as "sélection de grains nobles".

These wines, which often have an alcohol content of more than 12 % vol and which contain residual sugar, are suitable for ageing.

SPECIFIC LABELLING RULES (IF ANY)

Without additional provisions.

CONTROL BODY

Oficiul Național al Viei și Produselor Vitivinicole,
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