

ARGENTINE WINES

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There are three main regions where wine is produced in Argentina, located in the provinces adjacent to the Andes in the north, central and south western regions of the country, with Mendoza and San Juan in the central region having the most prolific production.

The provinces of Salta and La Rioja in the north of the country have some of the highest vineyards in the world at 2300m (7500ft). The high altitude, desert like sandy soil and the huge diurnal temperature changes make wines from this part of Argentina distinctively different from other provinces. The lack of rain and 350 days of sun per year enables consistently good vintages to be produced.

Mendoza and San Juan provinces in the central western region of Argentina have the largest number of plantings in Argentina. These two provinces have a number of smaller sub regions that produce wines that show different regional characteristics. The vines are planted in the valleys at the foot of the Andes at a height of around 900m (3000ft) above sea level. The terroir is perfect for many grape varieties with sandy gravely alluvial soil, usually over shallow clay, or stony subsoil allowing excellent drainage and creates a uniquely Argentine terroir.

The province of Patagonia in the valley of Rio Negro has the lowest altitude vineyards at 600m (1900ft) with the soil being very similar to Mendoza. Located only 1400 miles from Antarctica the region has few plantings of red suited to white grape varieties or Pinot Noir.

However the few quality reds emerging from this region have their own appeal and are distinctive from the other regions.