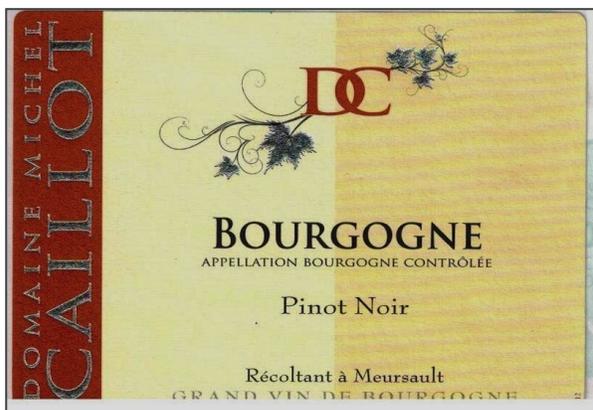


## What's in the bottle?



France, to many, is often an enigma, especially when it comes to wine and its many regions, like Burgundy (aka Bourgogne) and those in the South of France. Unless you love French wines, read French or have been there and know the regions, it can be a challenge to understand what's inside a bottle. But knowing just a few pieces of key information can make your experience **"très magnifique!"**



When you see Burgundy or Bourgogne on the label, it's really none other than Pinot Noir or Chardonnay. If you can't find the grape on the label (most of the time you won't) the wine is made from those two grapes. (There is another white grape Aligote, Al - i - Go - Tay, grown in Burgundy.) In addition to the words Bourgogne or Burgundy on the label, there are other words that denote the sub-region from where the grapes

are grown — i.e. Pommard, Volnay, Meursault. Don't let more words scare you. It's simply a place within a place. The region of Pommard is within Burgundy. It's sort of like saying North Kingstown is in South County. The wine is still Pinot Noir or Chardonnay but might be grown and aged differently than one that just does the word Bourgogne (like the one above). So does Pommard on the label mean it's better than just a Bourgogne? That's up for discussion.

**Moving On Down.** When we move to the south of France, farther down than Burgundy, the grapes grown there are different. But like Burgundy, if the grape isn't on the label then you really need to know the region and what grapes are grown there. Hard? Well we will tell you how to make it easier. The south of France is laden with the red grapes Grenache, Syrah, Carignan and Mourvedre. They are used alone or in some combination. So like the label here ↑ from Zazou, this red is from the region Minervois. This is a blend of Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre. Other regions also include Corbieres, Tautavel and Fitou and may include these red grapes. Then there is the elegant, pretty, fresh white, Picpoul de Pinet that too is from the south. These wines in the south are more hearty and rich than the wines of Burgundy, rightfully so; the climate there is warmer which makes for riper, richer grapes, than in the north...usually!

