L'chaim!
Kosher Wine – A Quick Guide

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Kosher wine has come of age. No longer is it something "so good you could almost cut it with a knife" as claimed in a 1940 billboard. For Shapiros wine.

Premium ***kosher*** wines, from all over the world are regularly distinguished in international competition with the best of the best. The variety and quality has never been better. Drip irrigation has allowed vineyards to thrive in new places especially suited for spectacular wine grapes and wine production. The following guide is designed to offer a very brief introduction with insights into common wine terms and available choices.

Kosher **– Ingredients and process must conform with strict adherence to specific and detailed laws set forth in the Torah with Rabbinical supervision and certification. It does not mean; blessed by a rabbi.**

Mevushal – Wine in which the juice is cooked (pasteurized) after the grapes have been crushed. According to Jewish law, *mevushal* wines can be served by non-Sabbath observing Jewish individuals and other people not of the Jewish faith.

Brandy – Liquor which is distilled from wine or other fermented juice

Sherry: - Wine that is fortified with the addition of brandy after fermentation. It can be dry, semi-dry, or sweet. It can be a delightful aperitif and great with chips, olives, or other snacks.

For more information including a searchable database with Maurie's ratings of over 2,500 *kosher* wines

www.guidetokosherwine.com

Countries Producing Kosher Wine

Argentina	**Israel**
Austria	**Italy**
Australia	**New Zealand**
Chile	**Portugal**
France	**South Africa**
Georgia	**Spain**
Hungary	**United States**

Old World Growing Regions

With wines from Italy and France, the growing region rather than the grape names (varietals) most often appear on the labels. The following are some of the major growing regions. You will often see a wine described as a **Chablis, Chianti, or Beaujolais,** which refers to the region or district it was produced and is likely a blend of grapes from that region.

Bordeaux, France (bor-DOE) - This is the largest wine-growing region in the world. **Cabernet Sauvignon** and **Cabernet Franc** are the main varieties of the famous districts like **Médoc** (may-DAWK), **Graves** (GRAHV), and **St. Julien** (Saint JUH-lee-an). **Merlot** dominates in **Pomerol** (paw-muh-RAWL) and **St. Emilion**. There are many fine Chateaus producing wines of superb quality and value. **Claret** is a 500 year old English term.

Burgundy, France – It is a fragmented area that includes the famous district of **Chablis** (shah-Blee). The approved grape for **Chablis** appellations is **Chardonnay**. Some of the best **Chardonnay** and **Pinot Noir** come from this region, and also some of the best wine from the **Gamay** grape from **Beaujolais** (boh-zhuh-LAY) district.

Alsace, France (ahl-SASS) - Is worth mentioning as the only region of France where the wines are better known by the varietal names (of the primary grape).

Champagne, France – A region in France where sparkling wine is produced largely from **Pinot Noir** or **Chardonnay** grapes.

Tuscany, Italy - Located in central Italy, this area has been producing **Chianti** and **Montepulchiano** (MON-teh-puhl-chi-ano) for centuries. They are made mostly from the **Sangiovese** grape.

Asti, Italy (AH-stee) - This is the home of **Moscato D'Asti** / **Asti -Spumante** (spoo-MAHN-Tay) There are many *kosher* varieties of these light, sweet, effervescent, refreshing party wines available from the Asti region of Italy. They are usually made from the **Muscat** grape. **Spumante** is Italian for foamy.

Maurie's Ratings

8 good
8+ very good
9 excellent
9+ outstanding

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Maurie's Best Values

The following is my top 10 list at this time for premium wines that present an unusually high quality to cost ratio.

Argentina

Layla Vineyards Gran Malbec 2007
Dry Red - 14.5% $$ 9 BV OU

Flechas de los Andes Gran Malbec 2007
Dry Red - 14.5% $$ 9+ BV OU

Australia

Teal Lake Chardonnay 2007
Dry White מ 13.5% $ 9 BV OU

Chile

Alfasi Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2007
Dry Red מ 12.0% $ 9 BV OK

Israel

Castel, Domaine du Castel. Petit Castel Haute Judee 2007
Dry Red - 14.0% $$$ 9+ BV OK

Galil Mountain Winery Yiron 2005
Dry Red - 14.5% $$ 9+ BV OK

Galil Mountain Winery Pinot Noir 2005
Dry Red - 14.5% $$ 9+ BV OK

Golan Heights Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon 2006
Dry Red - - 14.5% $$ 9+ BV OK

Golan Heights Yarden Chardonnay Odem Organic 2007
Dry White - 14.0% $$ 9+ BV OK

Yatir Shiraz 2006
Dry Red - 13.0% $$ 9+ BV OU

United States

Hagafen Chardonnay Oak Knoll 2006
Dry White מ 13.5% $$ 9+ BV OU

Maurie Rosenberg
"L'chaim– Complete Guide to Kosher Wine"

Grape varietals– are listed by sugar content (sweetness) with details on characteristics and use.
The wineries listed below are limited to popular labels by example and may only represent brands.

Sweet – Greater than 50 gram/liter residual sugar

Concord -
Taste and Flavor: grapy, foxy,
sweet, sweeter and sweetest (sugar added)
Grown: New York, Israel
Wineries: Manischewitz, Kedem, Rashi
Serve with: *Kiddush* (serve cold)

Muscat- Moscato
Taste and Flavor: sweet, smooth, grapy, high acidity
Grown: Italy, Israel, France, California
Wineries: Bartenura, Carmel, Golan Heights, Victor
Serve with: fruit, desert (serve chilled)

Semi Sweet - 15.1 – 50 grams/liter residual sugar
to
Semi Dry – 4 – 15.1 grams/liter residual sugar

Zinfandel (white or blush version)
Taste and Flavor: Light, refreshing,
Grown: California, Israel
Wineries: Herzog, Carmel,
Serve with: desert, salads, light foods, (serve chilled)

Gewürztraminer
Taste and Flavor: Spicy, fruity, smooth, low acidity
Grown: France, Israel
Wineries: Golan Heights, Carmel, Baron Herzog,
Serve with: turkey, veal, gefilte fish, ripe cheese

Riesling
Taste and Flavor: apple, citrus, light, high acidity
Grown: France, Israel, United States
Wineries: Golan Heights, Baron Herzog
Serve with: fish, smoked fish, duck

Dry - less than 4 gram/liter residual sugar

Cabernet Sauvignon -
Taste and Flavor: berries, black current, plum, complex, rich, full body high acidity, high tannin.
Grown: Australia, California, Chile, France, Israel, Spain
Wineries: Baron Herzog, Teal Lake, Carmel, Alfasi, Golan Heights
Serve with: beef, lamb, fragrant cheeses

Chenin Blanc
Taste and Flavor: melon, peach, lime, apricot, crisp, high acidity
Grown: France, Israel, California
Wineries: Baron Herzog, Tishbi, Efrat
Serve with: fish, chicken

Chardonnay
Taste and Flavor: Apple, oak, buttery, smooth, full bodied
Grown: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Israel, United States
Wineries: Baron Herzog, Golan Heights, Carmel, many others
Serve with: turkey, chicken, cheese, salads

Malbec –
Taste and Flavor: blackberry, rich, spicy, fruity, herbal, high tannin.
Grown: Argentina, Chile, Spain
Wineries: Flechas de los Andes, Layla. Tierra Salvaje
Serve with: red meat, poultry

Merlot –
Taste and Flavor: Plum, cherry, blackberry, soft, plump, full body.
Grown: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Israel, United States
Wineries: Baron Herzog, Teal Lake, Carmel, Alfasi, Golan Heights
Serve with: beef, fragrant cheeses

Dry ……..

Pinot Noir –
Taste and Flavor: berry, cherries, plum, silky, soft , light tannin
Grown: Chile, France, Israel, New Zealand, United States
Wineries: Goose Bay, Hagafen, Golan Heights, Barkan, Galil Mountain
Serve with: Almost anything, very food friendly

Sauvignon Blanc
Taste and Flavor: green fruit, herbs, crisp, high acidity
Grown: France, Israel, United States
Wineries: Baron Herzog, Golan Heights, Dalton, Binyamina, Barkan
Serve with: fish, smoked fish

Syrah – (Shiraz)
Taste and Flavor: black pepper, blackberry, smooth, round,
Grown: Argentina, Australia, France, Israel, United States
Wineries: Baron Herzog, Hagafen, Teal Lake, Barkan, Golan Heights Recanati, Dalton
Serve with: red meat, poultry, fragrant cheeses

Zinfandel
Taste and Flavor: Smooth, blackberry, plum
Grown: California,
Wineries: Herzog, Hagafen, Weinstock
Serve with: red meat, poultry, fragrant cheeses

Blends
There are many fascinating blends as winemakers expand their efforts to produce distinctive and appealing wines.

Discovery is part of the adventure.
Good Wine is wine you like!