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Introduction to Italy Italy is home to a large number of grape varieties, many of which are rarely seen outside of the country. The diversity of these varieties and the styles of wine they produce mean that it is simpler to cover Italy over a number of short chapters. In this brief introduction we cover the wine laws that apply throughout Italy and show how the different wine regions relate to each other on the map.



KEY

1500 m+	1000–1500 m	500–1000 m
200–500 m	0–200 m	

ITALIAN WINE LAWS

The geographical indications below are common to all Italian wine regions.

PDO Wines

The Italian for PDO is **Denominazione di Origine Protetta (DOP)** but the following traditional terms are more widely seen on labels:

Denominazione di Origine Controllata (DOC) – The wines in this category are subject to geographical boundaries as well as limitations on grape varieties and production methods.

Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita (DOCG) – In addition to meeting all DOC requirements these wines must be bottled in the area of production and are subject to a Ministry of Agriculture tasting.

PGI Wines

The Italian for PGI is **Indicazione Geografica Protetta (IGP)** but the traditional term **Indicazione Geografica Tipica (IGT)** is commonly used.

Other Labelling Terms

Classico – Over time, the boundaries of a number of appellations have expanded to allow new plantings outside the original zone. The term *Classico* acknowledges wines that have been made solely from the original classified land and includes many of the best wines from the area.

Riserva – This term acknowledges wines with both higher alcohol levels and longer ageing than the minimums stipulated by the appellation laws.