



les climats du vignoble
de Bourgogne

The "climats" of the Burgundy vineyard aim for the UNESCO World Heritage List

Applying to include the "climats" of the Burgundy vineyard in the UNESCO World Heritage List is an international project put together by the whole wine-growing region and the towns of Dijon and Beaune.

At a time when there are already many world heritage applications and the selection process is increasingly rigorous, any project put forward to the international community for recognition must relate to a unique, exceptional site, the existence and transmission of which are valuable for humanity.

In Burgundy, this unique, exceptional character resides in the notion of "climats". Specific to Burgundy, the term "climats" designates each plot or group of plots of vines, which have been known under the same name for several centuries. The precise location, soil, sub-soil, exposure, micro-climate and, in particular, the history of these "climats" within the vineyard form the specific nature and unique personality of a *terroir*, of a wine, and of their natural and cultural identity. The spirit of the place and the human work carried out are created on a durable basis.

The Burgundy Côte is the only vineyard in the world to have constantly upheld the identity of its "climats", over some two thousand years.

It is these "climats" which have shaped the landscapes and village and urban communities. They have generated a remarkable economy, which they continue to stimulate today more than ever. And the towns of Dijon and Beaune, historical seats of the political, economic and cultural power of the "climats" of the Burgundy vineyard, bear traces of their eternal links to the vineyard.

The exceptional, universal value of all this is evident. It will be presented to UNESCO as a "cultural site", a work created together by man and nature and a worldwide model of *terroir*.

This is what the national committee of French sites for world heritage recognized in April 2009, on confirming the "Burgundy project" in the list of sites that France intends to present to UNESCO over the coming years. The citizens of Burgundy are happy and proud to enter the leading pack of applications after the work carried out by the association and the teams that it set up.

This is a real regional project, which unites and mobilises. The Burgundy regional council, the Côte-d'Or general council, the towns of Dijon, Beaune, Nuits-Saint-Georges and Gevrey-Chambertin, all of the communes and, of course, the Burgundy Wine Board (BIVB), as well as all those for whom Burgundy wine and its broad culture hold a special place, are involved.

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"We believe in it. We regularly review the progress of our application, which has now successfully passed the initial stages. It is our firm intention to present to France, in 2011, this unique cultural site, where the living forces of our region work," says Aubert de Villaine, President of the association in charge of the project.

Confirmed earlier this year on the Tentative List for France, the Burgundy project will now be open to the general public, through a large-scale photo exhibition and other events throughout the area. Prior to this, a scientific committee will have precisely determined what makes up the exceptional and unique nature of this application.



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zoom

The "climats"

The term "climat", specific to Burgundy to designate the term *terroir*, has a sense that is different and broader than the term used to define "climate".

The "climats" are precisely-defined plots of land which benefit from specific geological and climatic conditions and which, combined with the work of men and "translated" by the two main grape varieties (Pinot Noir for red wines and Chardonnay for white wines), have given rise to an exceptional hierarchy of "crus", with an international reputation.

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