



OVERVIEW

Alto Adige DOC or Südtirol DOC is the general denomination for wine produced in the northern province of the Trentino Alto Adige region. It includes most of the plantable land in Alto Adige, which in practice means the valleys of the Adige and Isarco rivers. The denomination is long and narrow, widening only slightly in the center of the province. On either side of the river valleys are high peaks of the Alps, some of which are snow-covered year-round. The denomination is general, too, in the styles of wine it allows. White, red, pink, sparkling, dessert wines all are welcome under Alto Adige DOC's banner. Most wines are varietals. There are 11 different white grape varieties and another half dozen red ones that can appear on an Alto Adige wine label. If you run across a non-varietal, it will be a blend of primarily Chardonnay, Pinot Bianco, and/or Pinot Grigio. To add even more complexity to the denomination's offerings, there are no less than six subzones that define smaller segments of the area. The most commonly seen ones are Santa Maddalena (St. Magdalener) for red wines made from Schiava and Terlano (Terlaner) and Valle Isarco (Eisacktal) for white wines. These could theoretically become denominations of their own in the future, but for now they are subzones of Alto Adige DOC.