

OVERVIEW



Producers who are not located inside one of Puglia's denominations or who choose not to follow the recipe and rules for a denomination generally have the option to label their wine as coming from an IGT (protected geographic indication). There are still rules to be followed, but they are usually not overly restrictive, so winemakers can make the style of wine they want. Puglia has six IGTs, including the umbrella Puglia IGT that covers the whole region. In principle, a wine made from grapes grown anywhere in Puglia can take advantage of the Puglia IGT designation as long as it reaches a certain level of quality. For this reason, and given the large vineyard acreage in the region, Puglia IGT is among the half dozen or so largest-production wine areas in Italy. Another major IGT of the region is Salento IGT. While having only half the volume of Puglia IGT, Salento IGT nevertheless ranks among the top 10 IGTs in wine production. It covers the three provinces of the Salento peninsula (Brindisi, Lecce, and Taranto). Valle d'Itria IGT is an example of a more specific area with IGT status. This IGT comprises eight communes in a shallow bowl or depression at the northern end of the Salento peninsula. The characteristics of this valley give it a cohesiveness of terroir that many IGTs lack. Independent of wine, the fame of the area comes from the high concentration of trulli, conical stone houses that dot the cities and countryside. Of uncertain origin but dating back at least a few hundred years, the trulli are one of the major tourist attractions of southern Italy. All three of these IGTs are broad in viticultural scope, allowing the production of white, rosato, red, sparkling, and dessert wines from just about any grape varieties grown in Puglia.