

## Three Castles for Three Wine Appellations: A Guide for Your Cultural Pairings

*Loire Valley Wines Pairs Unique Appellations with Region's Cultural Landmarks*

**New York, NY, July 1st, 2019** – The cradle of architecture and art during the Renaissance and home of sumptuous *châteaux*, the Loire Valley also boasts 170,000 acres of vineyards that produce fresh, friendly and fruity wines. Just in time for summer, you will find below a guide bringing together three castles that mark the region's history and their accompanying wine appellations.

### **Château des Ducs de Bretagne and Muscadet**

On the right bank of the Loire River in Nantes, the biggest city of Western France, stands the Château des Ducs de Bretagne. Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, this historical monument was fully renovated under the watchful eye of Duchesse and Queen Consort of France Anne de Bretagne, whose personal taste influenced the style of the castle. The Château des Ducs de Bretagne faces the **Muscadet wine region**, where the Melon de Bourgogne grapes grow and ultimately turn into iconic Loire Valley dry white wine. With its floral, fruit-forward nose and fresh palate, Muscadet wine is the pairing best friend of fresh oysters and seafoods.



### **Château de Saumur and Saumur**

Built in the 10<sup>th</sup> century as a fortified stronghold against invaders by Theobald I, Count of Blois, this castle was later made into a comfortable residence for Duke René d'Anjou before becoming a state prison under Napoleon Bonaparte. Today, the castle is one of the region's most famous landmarks and dominates the skyline of the village of Saumur. Nearby vineyards constitute the **Saumur appellation**, including Saumur-Champigny and Côteau de Saumur. Fruity Saumur red wines pair perfectly with soft cheeses while whites can be best enjoyed with firm and semi-firm cheeses.



### **Château de Menetou-Salon and Menetou-Salon**

Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the sumptuous gothic-revival style Château de Menetou-Salon, in the heart of the eponymous vineyard, had several owners before it eventually became a private property to the Arenberg royal family. Its corresponding appellation of **Menetou-Salon** includes white wines made from Sauvignon Blanc. Their friendly aromas range from spicy and musky to florals combined with citrus.





### **About Loire Valley Wines**

The Loire Valley referred to as the Garden of France, is known for its magnificent chateaux, rich history and runs at the heart of France with 5 distinct wine regions - Pays Nantais, Anjou, Saumur, Touraine, Centre-Loire – each with its own characteristics of grapes, appellations and styles. The wine-growing regions dotting the Loire’s banks feature no less than 6200 wineries, 57,200 acres of vineyards and 51 appellations of origin, thus making the Loire Valley the third largest French winemaking region. Producing 320 million bottles per year – be they red, rosé or white; still or sparkling; dry or semi-dry, supple or sweet – the Loire Valley is France’s leading producer of white wines and ranks second for rosés. The region as a whole export 64 million bottles every year to 157 export markets.

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