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## Grenache Wine Region: Maury, France ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/> )

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 ( [HTTPS://WWW.SIPPITYSUP.COM/GRANACHE-WINE-REGION-MAURY-FRANCE/](https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/) ) / BY [KEN ESKENAZI \(HTTPS://WWW.SIPPITYSUP.COM/AUTHOR/KEN-ESKENAZI/\)](https://www.sippitysup.com/author/ken-eskenazi/)

Happy International Grenache Day! Didn't realize that today's the day? Don't really know what Grenache is? It's the grape varietal represented by the "G" in GSM (Grenache Syrah Mourvèdre) a popular (and wonderfully balanced, delicious) Rhône blend. It is also a primary ingredient (out of a possible 13) in Châteauneuf du Pape. This warm weather grape produces a bright, red-fruity, easy drinking to elegantly complex wine. Grenache speaks with a different accent in different parts of the globe. You may love Garnacha from Spain for instance – same grape. I had a particularly striking [Lomita, Pagano Garnacha in Baja, Mexico](https://www.bajabound.com/destinations/bajawinecountry/haciendalalomita.php) ( <https://www.bajabound.com/destinations/bajawinecountry/haciendalalomita.php> ) recently. Being a Californian I'm partial to expressions from our very own Rhône Rangers ([Tablas Creek \(https://tablascreek.com/\)](https://tablascreek.com/)), [Bonny Doon \(https://www.bonnydoonvineyard.com/\)](https://www.bonnydoonvineyard.com/), [Dashe \(https://www.dashecellars.com/\)](https://www.dashecellars.com/), [Donkey & Goat \(https://www.donkeyandgoat.com/\)](https://www.donkeyandgoat.com/) ).

### Maury, France

But I'm here to tell you about wine from a growing region that might not immediately jump to mind: the Côtes Catalanes, a sub-appellation of the Roussillon in France. We're talking Spain-adjacent, a bit west and south of the

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Rhône. Steep windy hillsides, black schist soils, plenty of sunshine and a cooling maritime influence allow the old vines planted there to offer up a ripe, savory bouquet to the nose and palate. Winemaker [Dave Phinney, of The Prisoner and Locations](#) ( <http://www.locationswine.com/> ) fame, fell in love with the area and set up shop in Maury, France some ten years ago. France has Departments, the way America has States – so Dave named his winery [Department 66](#) ( <https://www.department66.com/> ) after Maury’s location.

( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/department66/> )

Don’t worry if you neglected to get me a gift for International Grenache Day. Dave’s team generously sent me a trio of his Grenache based gems to try.

- **Department 66 “Fragile” Rosé 2017 SRP \$18**

Nose: floral, rhubarb

Palate: crisp white peach and nectarine, juicy (but not overly sweet) strawberry and perhaps a touch of kiwi flow over a stony river bed. Refreshing and invigorating, a lovely complement to cold poached salmon both aesthetically and culinarily.

- **Department 66 “Others” Red Wine 2015 SRP \$25**

Nose: herbs! garrigue (typical for Southern France), earth, plum

Palate: both savory and sweet, damson, cherry cola, raspberry mid-palate, mushroomy earthiness, somewhat rustic with a lingering mineral finish.

Grenache gets the masculine treatment here, smooth yet firm tannins and good acidity that would pair nicely with a bacon cheeseburger.

- **Department 66 “D66” Grenache 2014 SRP \$38**

Nose: savory, bright, red fruit, spicy

Palate: round, medium-plus body, pomegranate, currant, anise, lovely balance, powerful with a watermelon Jolly Rancher finish.

Serious punch from ample alcohol, feisty fruit expressive of warm climate. To sip and savor with or without food. Yum.

At the risk of sounding hackneyed, I submit that Grenache Is The New Pinot. If you love an elegant, balanced dare I say “feminine” wine (as opposed to a big brawny manly fruit bomb), give Grenache a try. As one of the world’s most widely planted red wine grapes it’s easy to find –you can even order Department 66 wines online. **KEN**

( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/maury/> )

( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/mauryvineyard/> )

## 8 Responses to Grenache Wine Region: Maury, France



[Gerlinde](#) ( <https://www.sunnycovechef.com> ) says:

September 27, 2018 at 10:01 pm ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39961> )

I enjoy a nice ganache, thanks for the info.

[REPLY](#) ( [#COMMENT-39961](#) )



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**KR** *kitchenriffs* says:

September 26, 2018 at 6:50 am ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39953> )

Grenache is so good – one of my favorite wine varieties. But I like simple and unassuming. 😊

Really fun read – thanks.

[REPLY \( #COMMENT-39953 \)](#)

**Jean | DelightfulRepast.com ( <http://www.delightfulrepast.com> )** says:

September 25, 2018 at 5:43 am ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39948> )

Ken, it so happens I had a Grenache on International Grenache Day, without knowing what day it was! I always enjoy your wine reviews, I can almost taste the wines you describe. The Department 66 “Fragile” Rosé 2017 is one I definitely want to audition for my next summer sipper.

[REPLY \( #COMMENT-39948 \)](#)

**Ken Eskenazi ( <http://www.sippitysup.com> )** says:

September 25, 2018 at 2:26 pm ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39950> )

Awesome!

[REPLY \( #COMMENT-39950 \)](#)

**Abbe Odenwalder ( <https://thisishowicook.com> )** says:

September 23, 2018 at 8:35 pm ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39945> )

I dare say this sounds delightful. I am a pinot lover but I am always open to change!

[REPLY \( #COMMENT-39945 \)](#)



**Jeff the Chef ( <http://MakeltLikeAMan.com> )** says:

September 23, 2018 at 7:49 am ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39943> )

I’ve almost been there! I spend a week in Toulouse.

[REPLY \( #COMMENT-39943 \)](#)



**David ( <https://cocoaandlavender.blogspot.com> )** says:

September 22, 2018 at 4:23 pm ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39941> )

Thanks, Ken – glad to know about their rosé.

[REPLY \( #COMMENT-39941 \)](#)



**chef mimi ( <http://chefmimiblog.wordpress.com> )** says:

September 21, 2018 at 2:37 pm ( <https://www.sippitysup.com/granache-wine-region-maury-france/#comment-39938> )

Thanks for this info! What a beautiful area. I wish I could have wine shipped to me but Oklahoma is still in the dark ages. However, on October 1st, we will be able to buy wine at grocery stores!!!

[REPLY \( #COMMENT-39938 \)](#)

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