



WINE TOURISM IN AZORES

Established by the peculiarity of its volcanic soils, vineyard culture in the Archipelago of Azores is rooted in the first settlements of the islands. On the one hand, the need for subsistence and on the other, the ingenuity and capability of the Azorean people to adapt to the landscape and harvest from it, led to a notorious cultural practice. Today, this practice is growing rapidly and is celebrated with the distinction of Pico island's extensive lava fields holding the title of Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In 1994, the Azores Wine Regions were created: Pico Island, Biscoitos area in Terceira Island and Graciosa Island. These exclusive regions enabled both the promotion and protection of its most significant traditional housing, in order to increase the authenticity and quality of white wines. The Biscoitos region was acknowledged for the Production of Quality Liqueur Wine Produced in a Determined Region (VLQPRD), as well as Pico. The Graciosa region was recognized for the Production of Quality Wine Produced in a Determined Region (VQPRD).



Later, in 2004, in addition to these distinguished areas, it also became possible to sell wines under the name Vinho Regional Açores (Azores Regional Wine), whose geographical area of production covers all the islands.

In the same year, UNESCO classified the Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture as a World Heritage Site: currais (vineyard patches), marroços (pyramid stone structures), vineyards and the wine cellars including its pieces of equipment became emblematic elements.



Vineyard culture is once more increasingly expanding across the islands of the Azores, particularly in areas close to the sea with less developed soils. Thus, notable projects regarding the recovery of vineyards have arisen, aiming for the rehabilitation and enrichment of the wine landscapes in Azores.

Alongside the vineyard culture, a diversified Built Heritage has been assembled over time, consisting of manors, wine cellars, warehouses, tide wells, rola-pipas (barrel ramps), harbors, convent buildings and chapels, among other structures, all of which portray the daily experiences of a population dedicated to the hard work that was winemaking.





Routes | **Wine**
AZORES | **Route**

Soon Azores will have wine routes available for all trade and visitors. Experiencing de Wine Route will be an opportunity to be immersed in the history consisting in about 5 centuries of vineyard culture, through the visitation of the remaining manors, farm houses, wine cellars, agricultural cooperatives, small harbors, rola-pipas (barrel ramps), currais (vineyard patches), relheiras (wheel markings), wells, festivities and family practices. It will also be a unique chance to taste the sophistication of modern winemaking in the company of notorious wine producers from all the 3 Islands with the Denomination of Origin seal (Pico, Graciosa and Biscoitos region in Terceira), as well as producers from more recent production territories (São Miguel, Faial and Santa Maria).

FROM JULY TO NOVEMBER, COME EXPERIENCE:

- 6 islands | 21 itineraries
- ½ a day to 2 days itineraries
- Themed tours on land
- Wine tasting
- Vineyard experience
- Festivities

More information available soon in routes.azores.gov.pt.

If you are interested in following this project, please send an email to rotasacores@azores.gov.pt.

