Slovenia/Croatia

Rais
Primorski district. Several teran producers. Inc. Čotar, Lišjak Boris, Šiš. Remarkable improvements with whites, especially malvasia, also vitovska.

Kupljen Jože
Dry wine pioneer near orto. Pinot N labelled Modri Burgundec in better years poza trgatev. Premium red and white Star of Stiria.

Lasči Rizling
Welschriesling. Slovenia's most planted variety, but now in decline.

Leino vino
Icy wine. Only in exceptional years and can be sublime.

Ljutomer
Traditionally top wine district with neighbouring orto. Co-op called Ljutomer can will see better times: vineyards among Slovenia's best.

Malvasia
Slightly bitter yet generous flavour, which goes very well with seafood. M by vinakoper is incredible value. Also very good from Pucar, Rojac. In recent years successfully grown in goriska brda and kras.

Mlčnik
Disciple of Italy's Joško Gravner from vijava. The closest anyone in Slovenia comes to organics.

Modra Frankinja
Austria's Blaufränkisch. Fruity reds mostly in posavska, best as metliška ėrnik by the metlika co-op in the bela krajina district.

Movia
Best known Slovenian winery. Releases only mature vintages, its top wines: Veliko Rdeče (red) after 6 years and belo (white) after 4. Varietals usually very good. New lunar (rebula) from 05 and sparkling prlo.

Ormož
Top wine district with surrounding ljutomer. Co-op named Jeruzalem Ormož. Premium brand Holermuos.

Podravski
Traditionally most respected Slovenian region in the northeast. Recent comeback with aromatic whites and increasingly fine reds, mostly modri pinot.

Posavska
Conservative wine region in the southeast, best known for cviček. Quality producers starting to emerge: look for stenič, pirs, šekoranja.

Poza trgatev
Late harvest. See predikat.

Predikat
Wines made of botrytis-affected grapes with high sugar content. Term is taken from the German tradition and is used mostly in the posavska region as poza trgatev, izbor, jadovnica izbor, suhi jadovnica izbor, leino vino.

Primorski
Region in the southwest from the adriatic to goriska brda. The most forward-thinking Slovenian wine region for both reds and whites.

Prus
Recent star from the bela krajina district in posavska. Best known for predikats, also very good reds.

Ptujka klet
Winery in Ptuj with a collection of vintages from 1917. Recent vintages less notable, but the 90s were fantastic (and still great value).

Radgonske Gorece
District near Austrian border, and co-op home to radgonska penina, Slovenia's best-known sparkling. Vintage zlate (golden) is drier and fuller, also ages well; NV sibrova (silver) often off-dry. Also very popular sweet tramnec and white blend janževc by kapela.

Rebula
Traditional white variety of goriska brda. Can be exceptional.

Refosco
Italy's Refosco. Dark, acidic red; oaked and unoaked. Best: santomas.

Reč
Outstanding producer of teran (tiny quantities); also good whites.

Renski Rizling
Ries. Podravski only. Best: janovec, kozlovi, kugli, kristal, krapkova.

Santomas
Koper. Good mature refoško and international-style cab sauv.

Sauvignonasse
White grape in goriska brda until 03 known as tokaj. Some believe it may become the most popular grape in goriska brda.

Šcurek
Very reliable goriska brda producer (Chard, Rebula, Tokaj, Sauv Bl, Cab Fr). Very particular red (02) and white blends (04) stars braida and classy white dugo. Since 02 excellent premium red blend up.

Simčič Edi
Highly reputed goriska brda producer. In particular look for Chard, Rebula, sivi pinot. Outstanding red blend duet lex 02 (lex replacing outlawed term "rezerva").

Simčič Marjan
Excellent goriska brda producer (Chard, sivi pinot). Rebula-

Based blend Teodor is outstanding. A particular gem is sauv bl. Exceptional Modri Pinot. In selected years heavenly sweet leonardo from dried grapes.

Sivi Pinot
Italy's Pinot Gr. Increasingly fine, fruity, yet full-bodied wine.

Steyer
Top name from radgonske gorece. Best known for tramnec, recently also very good Chard, renski rizling, sivi pinot.

Šturm
Long-established, yet lone star of the bela krajina district in posavska. In recent years not as outstanding.

Suhajagodni izbor
Trockenbeerenauslese (see p.135).

Teren
Refošk from kras. Locally the most popular Slovenian wine after cviček.

Tokaj
Italy's tocai frulano grape in goriska brda. In 04 and 05 widely rebranded as tocac, re-rebranded as sauvignonasse (aka Chile's sauvignon vert) since 06.

Tramnec
Gewurz, only in podravski. Generally sweet - also as predikat.

Valdhuber
Dry wine pioneers in podravski. Top wine is (dry) tramnec.

Vinag
One of largest co-ops in Slovenia, with HQ and immense cellars in Maribor. Many older vintage predikats. Recently shary.

Vinakoper
Large company with own vineyards in koper. Many very good varietals: Chard, Malvasia, muscat (dry and sweet), Cab sauv, refošk.

Vipava
Primorski district. Many fine producers: barči, lisjak rāddivoj, melčnik, suto, tilla. Co-op of same name with premium brand lanthieri.

Croatia

Few Croatian wines are exported, though the country seems to be doing well with all styles of wine, from dry and sweet whites, to reds and sparkling.

Agrolaguna
Co-op at Poreč, Istria. Cab Sauv can be very good.

Babič
Dark, long-lived, native red from Primošten (north Dalmatia). Can be of high quality. Best by vinooplod. Unique vineyard site.

Badel 1862
Biggest wine producer in the country with wineries from all over. Usually best: Ivan Dolac, (PZ sviriče), Dingeč (PZ i Vinarja Dingeč).

Coronica, Moreno
Top malvasia (DYA) and gran malvasia 02 03 04 05 Gran Teran 03 from istria. Also Cab Sauv 03 Grabar Classic.

Dalmacija-vino
Giant co-op at Split: very good Faros.

Dalmatia
Dalmacija. The coast of Croatia is a grower's paradise. Traditionally high in alcohol. Whites struggling, reds improving fast.

Dingeč

Enjinge, Ivan
Producer of excellent sweet botrytized and dry whites from Poozega. Graševina, sivi pinot, and superb white blend Venje.

Graševina

Grgić, Miljenko
"Paris tasting" winner (see Grgić Hills, California) produces plavac and rosé back home at pelesac peninsula.

Grk
Rare white of Korčula. Oldest Croatian native. Try: Cebalo Branimir.

Hvar
Beautiful island in mid-Dalmatia. Good reds from plavac mali from steep southern slopes. Interest native wines from plateau. Look for: zlatan plavac, Ivan Dolac, Carli Faros, Tomić, PZ Svirče, plancne.

Istria

Ivan Dolac
Area on south slopes of hvar. "Grand cru" for plavac mali.