

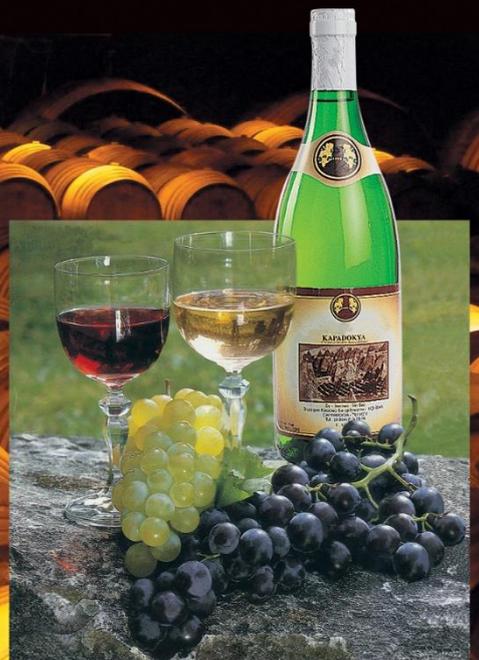


REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

# Food & Agriculture



# WINE



TURKEY  
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# WINE SECTOR IN TURKEY

## GRAPE PRODUCTION

Thanks to its favorable climatic conditions and good soil, a wide variety of grapes can be grown in Turkey. In addition to great production potential, the best quality grapes in the world are supplied from Turkey's natural resources. According to the latest Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) data, Turkey ranks the sixth in world grape production after Italy, France, the USA, Spain and China.

Viticulture has a vital position within Turkey's agricultural structure, making significant contributions to the economy. The area under cultivation is 462,000 ha. Having a share of 21% in total fruit production, grape production stood at around 4 million tons in 2016. Approximately 1/2 of grape production is used for table grapes while 1/3 is used for drying purposes and the remaining is used for making wine, treacle, pulp, fruit sausage, etc.

*Table 1: Grape Production*

Year	Tons
2008	3,918,442
2009	4,264,720
2010	4,255,000
2011	4,296,351
2012	4,234,305
2013	4,011,409
2014	4.175.356
2015	3,650,000
2016 (f)	4,000,000

**Source:** Turkish Statistical Institute

Although vineyards are spread over the country, production is mainly concentrated in the Aegean, Mediterranean, and Central Anatolian regions.

**Table 2: Wine Grape Varieties by Regions**

Regions	White	Red
Marmara and Thrace	Clairette Pinot Chardonnay Riesling Semillion Beylerce Yapıncak Vasilaki	Pinot Noir Adakarası Papazkarası Karaşeker (kuntra) Gamay Karalahana Cinsaut
Aegean	Semillion Bornova Misketi Sultaniye	Carignane Çalkarası Grenache Merlot Cabarnet Alicante Bouschet
Central Anatolian	Emir Hasandede Narince Kabarçık	Öküzgözü Boğazkere Kalecik Karası Papazkarası Dimrit Sergikarası Burdur Dimriti
Mediterranean	Kabarçık Dökülgen	Sergikarası Boğazkere
South East	Dökülgen Kabarçık Rumi	Horozkarası Öküzgözü Boğazkere Sergikarası

Possessing a rich variety of grapes, Turkey offers a potential of growing around 1,250 varieties. Although Turkey has traditionally specialized in producing table grapes and raisins, it also has 34 kinds of wine grapes, 22 of which are valuable native varieties. The most of Turkish wines are made from native wine grape varieties. Turkish wine producers also use the native grapes in combination with European varieties to create high quality new wines with a new taste for the world wine market.

***Names and characteristics of some of the native grapes are as follows:***

**Kalecik Karası:** It is the best-quality Central Anatolian grape for making red wine. It can be grown under the microclimatic conditions of the region thanks to the Kızılırmak (the Red River). The indigenous Kalecik Karası variety produces smooth, easy to drink and fruity wines that invoke the aromas and tastes of fig, rose and strawberries. Kalecik Karası grapes are famous for their unique taste, aroma and flavour. This unique quality has been honoured with many awards won in international wine competitions.

**Öküzgözü:** It is a red grape variety, mainly grown in the villages of Elazığ and Malatya. This variety has a lively, bright red colour with fruity and floral aromas. It generally produces wines which have high acidity with a strong characteristic taste and aroma.

**Narince:** Originally coming from the Tokat province, this variety is grown on the Anatolia Plateau, at the south of the mountains near the Black Sea shores. Narince produces rich and balanced wines which often have a greenish yellow tint with delicate and fruity aromas.

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Thanks to its balanced acidity, this wine is suitable for aging and acquires a sophisticated bouquet over time.

**Boğazkere:** It is a dark, tannic and strong grape variety mainly grown in Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Malatya and Gaziantep provinces. It is grown on red and graveled soil, which contains limestone and sometimes clay. It has dark and small grains with a thick skin and much tannin. Boğazkere grapes grown in Denizli province are fruity and contain relatively less tannic compared to those grown in the other provinces.

**Sultaniye:** Grown in Western Anatolia, this variety is a seedless and fleshy white grape with low acidity and a fruity aroma. Sultaniye grapes are planted in very fertile sandy soil with a high-wire training system at 200 meters altitude under the influence of the Mediterranean climate. They are also planted on gobble vineyards on fertile claylike soil at 1,200 meters in the continental climate which is under the influence of the Mediterranean. Subtly light, smooth and aromatic wines are made from Sultaniye grapes.

**Emir:** It is a juicy white grape grown in the Central Anatolian Region. It produces dry wine with a unique character, possessing distinctively delicate aromas and a refreshing flavour. Wine produced from Emir grapes is greenish yellow or light yellow in colour. This grape is also suitable for producing sparkling wine.

**Çalkarası:** It is grown mainly in the Denizli region in the gobble formed vineyards with sandy and less fertile soil on the plateaus at an altitude of 1,200 meters. The region is also influenced by the Mediterranean climate. Used in producing rose wine, Çalkarası is pulpy and juicy, giving less colour. It produces wines that are pleasant on the palate, with a fruity aroma.

## **WINE PRODUCTION**

Turkey has a very long history of vineyard cultivation and wine production. It is an established fact that Anatolia, the Asian part of Turkey, is the motherland of vineyards and wine. Evidence indicates that grapes were processed into wine and named “vino” by the Pre-Hittites who lived in Anatolia between 3000-4000 B.C.

Turkey has diverse types of soils and climates that allow wine producers to cultivate several types of grapes for producing different types and tastes of wine. The producers in the sector continually increase their wine production capacity and invest in modern technologies. Besides the large wine producing companies, there are also almost 300 small producers located in Central Anatolia, Marmara-Thrace and the Aegean region. Total wine capacity of the sector is about 120 million liters.

Wine producing companies are mostly located in the Marmara-Thrace regions, the Aegean and Central Anatolian regions, especially in Tekirdağ, Nevşehir, İzmir and Denizli provinces, although vineyards are spread over the whole country.

Wine varieties are widely diversified and improved in quality. The market for wine expands in Turkey as more varieties and better quality wines become available. As a consequence of the increase in the quality of wine, many Turkish brands have been awarded gold medals in international competitions.

## EXPORTS

The export value of wine exceeded 10 million dollars in 2016, while the quantity of wine exported was almost 2.9 million liters.

*Table 3: Exports of Wine by Years*

2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
1000 L	\$1000	1000 L	\$1000	1000 L	\$1000	1000 L	\$1000	1000 L	\$1000
2,703	9,271	3,018	11,663	3,091	11,161	3,037	10,543	2,869	10,125

**Source:** Turkish Statistical Institute

Despite winning gold medals and many other prizes in international competitions, the current export quantity of the Turkish wine sector is not at the level it deserves, considering the volume of grape production. Nevertheless, increasing production capacity and raising quality of Turkish wine will be the tools for competing in the international markets in the near future.

*Table 4: Exports of Wine by Destination (2016)*

Countries	Value (\$)
Belgium	2,266,181
T. R. of Northern Cyprus	1,678,942
United Kingdom	1,159,431
Germany	1,060,123
USA	928,698
China	290,178
Italy	149,129
Japan	121,293
France	105,303
<b>Total (including others)</b>	<b>10,125,410</b>

**Source:** Turkish Statistical Institute

Wine exports are highly concentrated in four markets which are; Belgium, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, United Kingdom and Germany. Belgium is the most important market receiving almost 22.4% of the total wine exports, followed by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus with 16.6%, the United Kingdom with 11.4%, and Germany with 10.5%.

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## TRADE FAIRS

<http://www.fairguide.org.tr/>

## USEFUL LINKS

- Aegean Exporters Union  
[www.eib.org.tr](http://www.eib.org.tr)
- Istanbul Exporters Union  
[www.iib.org.tr](http://www.iib.org.tr)



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