

Region : The Loire Valley

Location within Country : From Western to West Central France

Department(s): Loire Atlantique, Vendee, Maine et Loire, Deux Sevres, Vienne, Sarthe, Indre et Loire, Indre, Loire et Cher, Allier, Puy de Drome, Loire

Major Climatic Factors : Maritime influence from the west

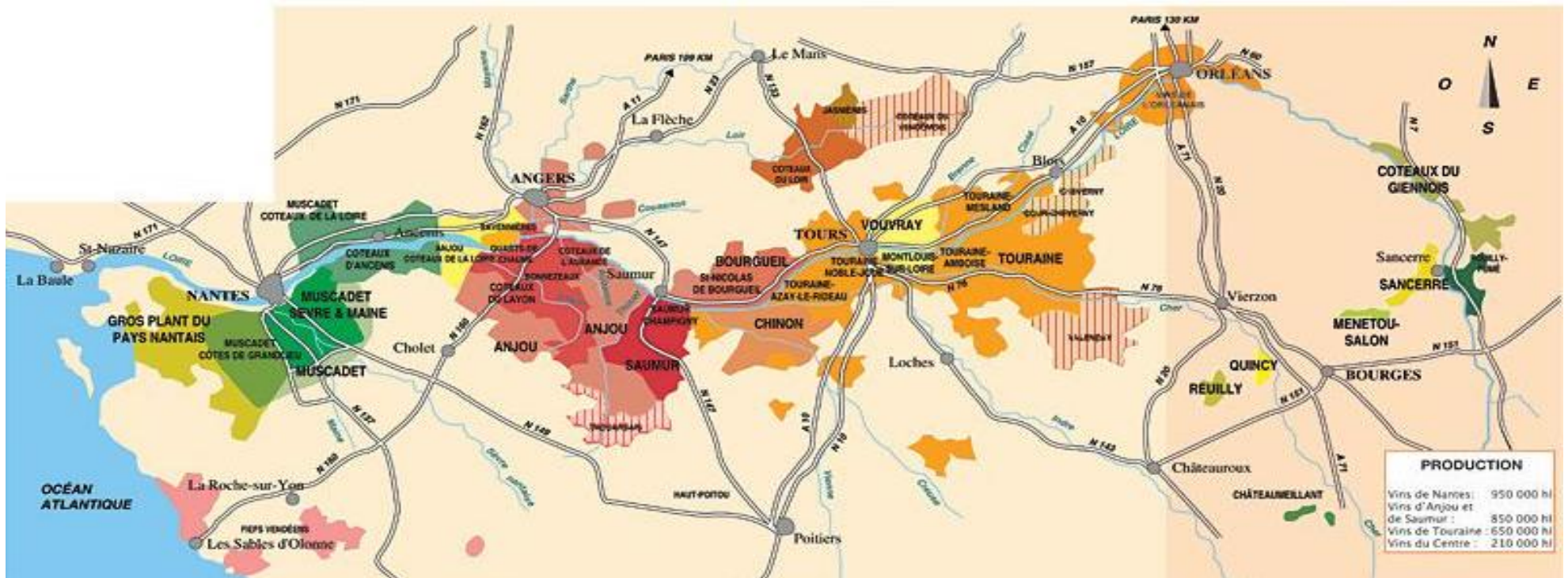
Mountains, Rivers, etc. : The Loire River

Soil Types : Varied, Schist, Tufa, Sandy-Clay, Gravelly-Clay

Major Cities : Nantes, Angers, Tours, Orleans, Sancerre

Important Varietals : Melon, Gamay, Cabernet Franc, Chenin, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir

Secondary Varietals : Cabernet Sauvignon, Gamay de Chaudanay, Grolleau, Malbec, Pineau d'Aunis, Romorantin, Chasselas, Chardonnay, Arbois



The Pays Nantais

Climate: Warm and damp

Major River: The Loire

Soil Type(s): Stony with some Schist, good drainage a must

Major City(s): Nantes

Major Varietals: Melon

Secondary Varietals: Folle Blanche

Anjou and Saumur

Climate: Warm summers w/ low rainfall. Mild winters.

Major River: The Loire

Soil Type(s): Schist in the west. Tufa in Saumur and Shale-Gravel in Saumur-Champigny.

Major City(s): Angers and Saumur

Major Varietals: Cabernet Franc, Gamay and Chenin Blanc

Touraine

Major Climatic Factors: Warm summer with low rainfall.

Major River: The Loire

Soil Type(s): Varying amounts of Tufa around Vouvray. Sandy-gravel gives light reds, sandy-clay big wines.

Major City(s): Tours, Orleans

Major Varietals: Chenin, Cab Franc
Secondary Varietals: Pineau D'Aunis

Centre

Major Climatic Factors:

Major River: The Loire

Soil Type(s): Silex, Caillots, Kimmeridgin

Major City(s): Sancerre, Bourges

Major Varietals: Sauv Blanc, Pinot Noir

Minor Varietals: Chasselas