



OVERVIEW

Throughout Italy, IGTs (protected geographic indications) are a broad category of wine regions that generally allows more styles of wine than denominations do. They are also typically larger than denominations, thus allowing wineries to source grapes from a larger geographic area and blend them. Toscana IGT is the one-size-fits-all IGT for Tuscany, taking in the entire region. (There are five other IGTs in Tuscany, but very few producers use them.) The entire IGT category was created primarily because of the Super Tuscan wines that were among Italy's best wines and yet couldn't say anything on their labels about where they were made other than Product of Italy. They did not meet the rules for any denomination and were therefore technically Vino da Tavola, on a par with the least drinkable wines in the country. To fix this dreadful situation, IGTs were created, and Super Tuscan wines were able to identify Tuscany as their place of origin on the label. Under the loose rules of Toscana IGT, most reasonably well-made wines qualify as long as 85% of the grapes are grown in Tuscany. The list of allowable grape varieties is long but finite, and most styles of wine are acceptable, but there are minimum standards the wines must meet that keep out subpar wines. More so than most IGTs, Toscana IGT cannot be dismissed as simply a collection of average-quality wines, because there are quite a few world-class wines using that place of origin on their labels.