



## France, Burgundy: Irancy

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Located in Auxerrois, southwest of the town of Chablis, Irancy is one of those small wine regions that you have heard about, but probably not tasted. You go to a restaurant in Beaune and scan the list of wines from the Côte d'Or. How often do you forego Gevrey or Chambolle and plump for a Pinot Noir from Irancy, one of the most northernmost appellations? The thing is, when I do muster the courage to venture off-piste, I find myself rewarded with a well-priced red Burgundy and give myself a metaphorical pat on the back for thinking outside the box.

Though viticulture has existed in Irancy for 12 centuries, it was decimated by phylloxera and took decades to recover. Between the wars, vines had withered to a stump of just 20 hectares. Recovery has been gradual. Today, there are only about 160 hectares under vine in Irancy, roughly one-and-a-half "Lafites." Some wines are made by growers based in Irancy, which I have included here, though there are many more winemakers and Burgundy merchants that either own vines or purchase fruit. Most vines are south or southwest facing and located on Kimmeridgian limestone just like Chablis.

When I was in Chablis tasting in the offices of the BIVB, I made sure there was a window to taste three or four growers who presented their wines. Apart from a welcome change from Chardonnay, I wanted to see how the wines stack up against their better-know counterparts. I was impressed by the small handful of wines that I tasted.