

# The Winegrowing Region of Alto Adige

## Where the Alps Greet the Mediterranean



### Alto Adige Wine: Facts and Figures



Südtirol Wein  
Vini Alto Adige

Additional information on the website [altoadigewines.com](http://altoadigewines.com)

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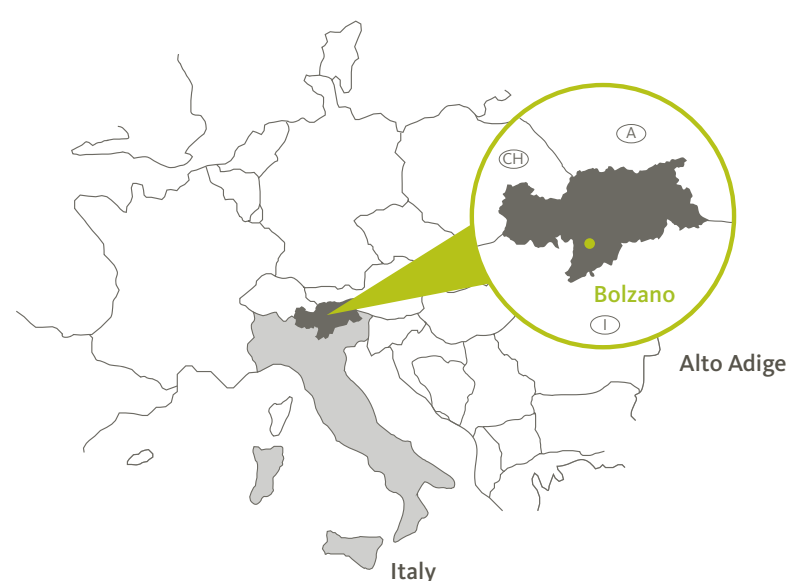
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### A Land of Many Faces

Alto Adige is one of the smallest wine-producing regions in Italy, but thanks to its geographical location, it is also one of the most multifaceted. Nearly 4,800 winegrowers tend around 5,860 hectares (14,480 acres) of vineyards in varied climate zones with diverse soils at elevations ranging from 200 to 1,000 m. (600 to 3,300 ft.) above sea level. These exceptional conditions produce an extraordinary range and concentration of top-quality wines.

#### Where North and South Meet



### Alpine-Mediterranean Diversity

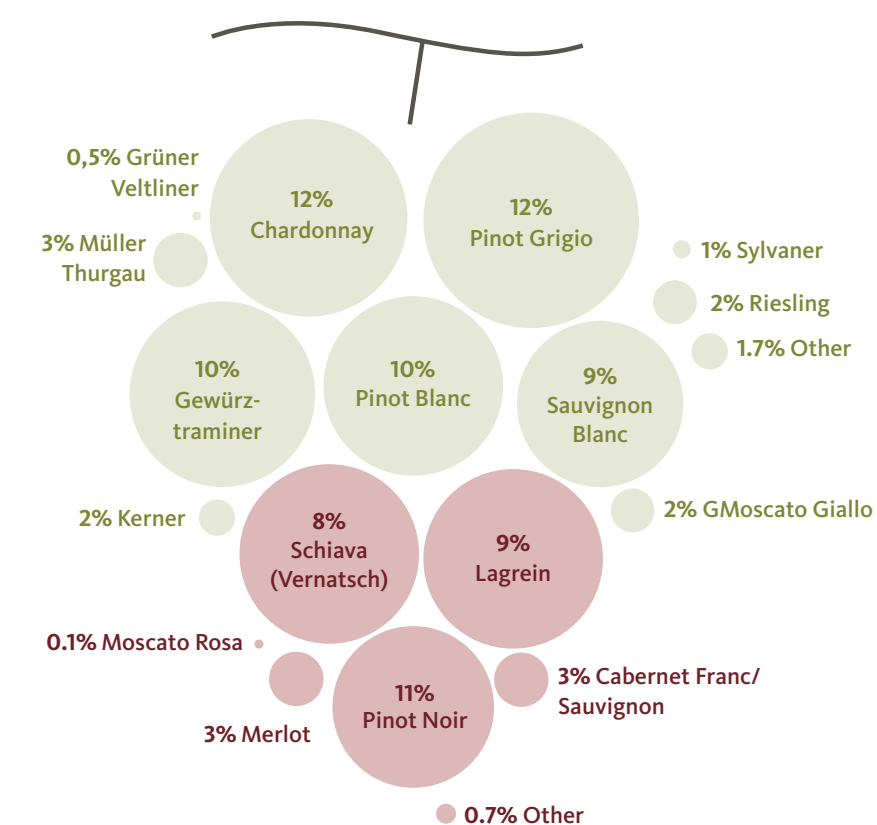
The mild Alpine-continental climate with wide diurnal shifts creates ideal conditions for growing grapes in Alto Adige. The towering peaks of the Alps protect the northern part of the region from cold, damp winds, while the southern areas benefit from Mediterranean influences. Alto Adige's topography is a complex mosaic characterized by valleys and mountains which create different microclimates.

### Small Region, Vast Selection

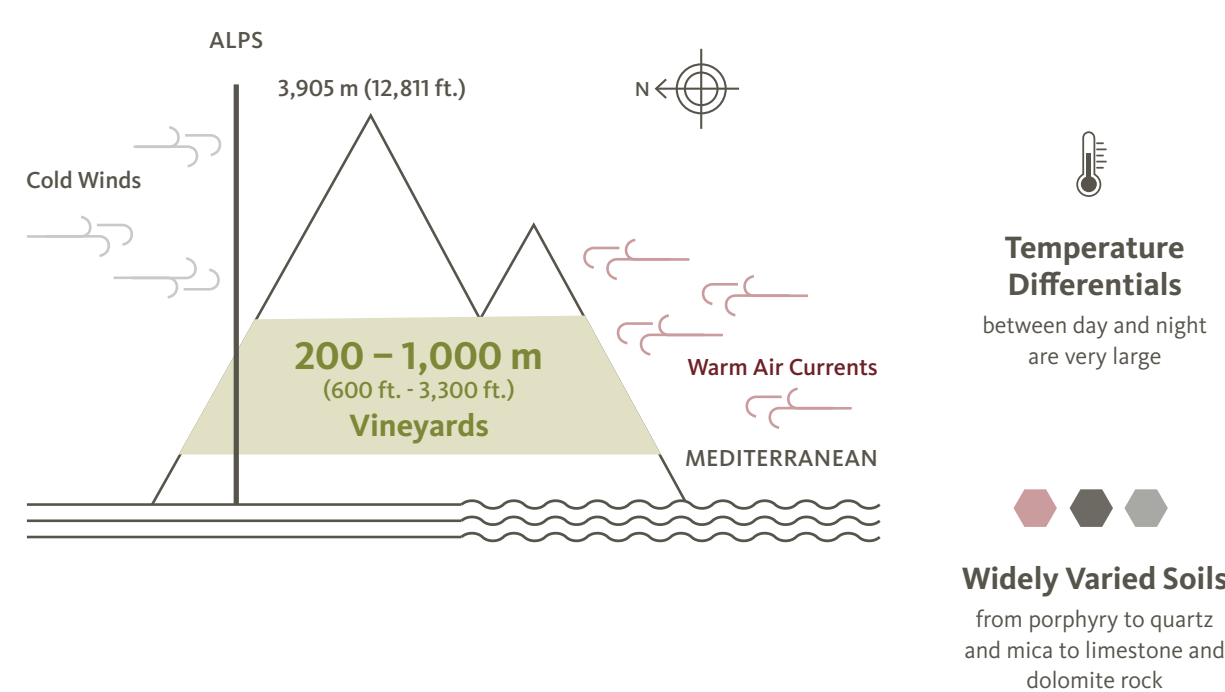
In Alto Adige, more than 20 different grape varieties find their ideal growing conditions. From this multifaceted area, winemakers produce a multitude of high-quality wines, remarkable for such a small winegrowing region.

White varieties set the tone with a 65 percent share of the vineyard area. Along with the two indigenous varieties of Schiava (Vernatsch) and Lagrein, all other red grapes have found a home in Alto Adige for well over a hundred years. Thanks to the increased cultivation of white grapes in recent decades, Alto Adige has established its reputation as a producer of elegant white wines.

### A Wealth of Varieties Creates Opportunity



### A Complex Puzzle of Microclimates and Soils



### Work by Hand and Sustainability

The quality of wine is rooted in the vineyard. For this reason, Alto Adige's winegrowers have been drastically limiting yields for many years. With their often extremely steep slopes, tending the vines and picking by hand remains a given in Alto Adige's vineyards. Not only does this rigorous care of the vines increase grape quality, but it is also kinder to the existing ecosystem and supports biodiversity in the vineyard.

### Wine Culture Dating Back Thousands of Years

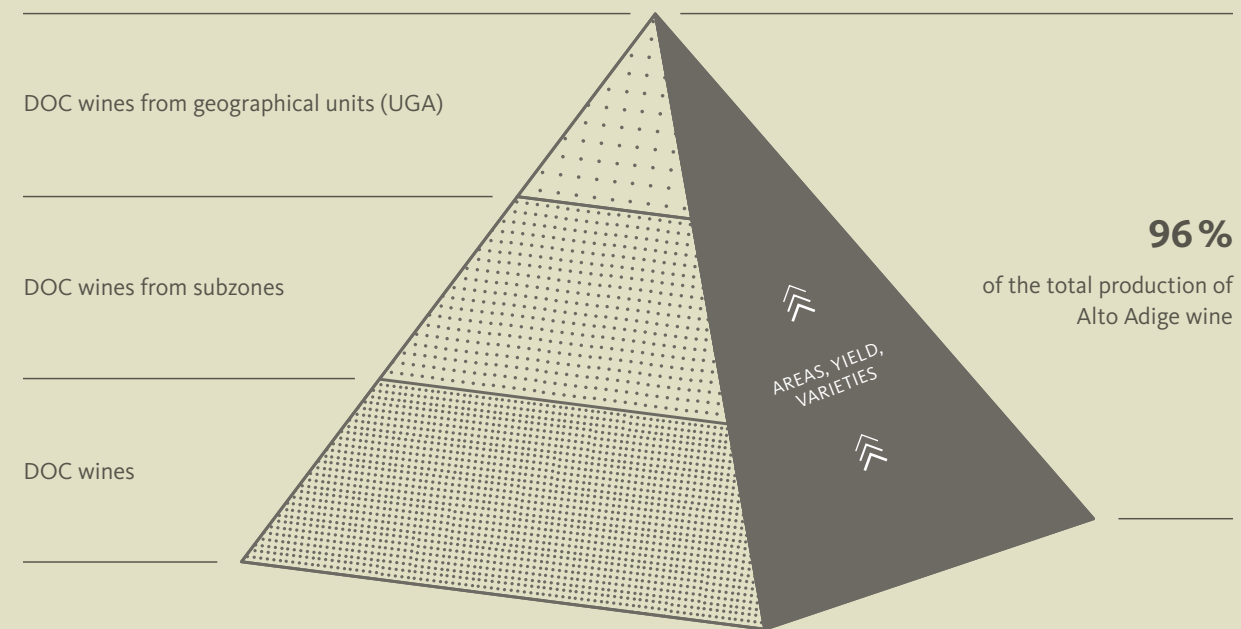
Alto Adige's wine culture is among the oldest in Europe. In 15 BC, when the Romans came to what is now Alto Adige/Südtirol, they further expanded a wine culture that had already been developed by the local Rhaetian inhabitants. Beginning in the 8th century AD, Bavarian and Swabian monasteries acquired a number of wineries in Alto Adige. Winemaking in the region was especially supported under the Hapsburg Empire where Archduke Johann provided the impetus to grow Burgundy and Bordeaux varieties here for the first time. Riesling also started to be locally grown in Alto Adige thanks to him. Starting around 1980, Alto Adige wine-growing began to experience a sustained upswing which resulted in a lasting increase in quality. Today, 96 percent of the vineyard area in Alto Adige is under DOC protection.

# The Origin Makes the Difference

## The Alto Adige Origin Pyramid

Alto Adige winegrowers produce their wines according to strict quality regulations with regard to maximum yields and the grape varieties that are allowed. That is why the wines from 96 percent of Alto Adige's cultivated area are recognized with the DOC designation of origin. And with the introduction of the concept of UGA

classification, the corresponding pyramid of origin has been even further refined. Today, eighty-six clearly defined geographical sites form the peak of this origin pyramid, followed by DOC wines from subzones. These include Valle Isarco, Terlano, Merano, Santa Maddalena, Colli di Bolzano, and Val Venosta.



## DOC Winegrowing Areas with Subzones Enjoying Wine with a Guarantee of Origin

The two DOC designations "Alto Adige" and "Lago di Caldaro" indicate Alto Adige wines by their origin. For the DOC designation Alto Adige, there are six subzones. With "Alto Adige Valle Isarco", "Alto Adige Val Venosta", and "Alto Adige Terlano", it is the white wine varieties that come to the forefront. On the other

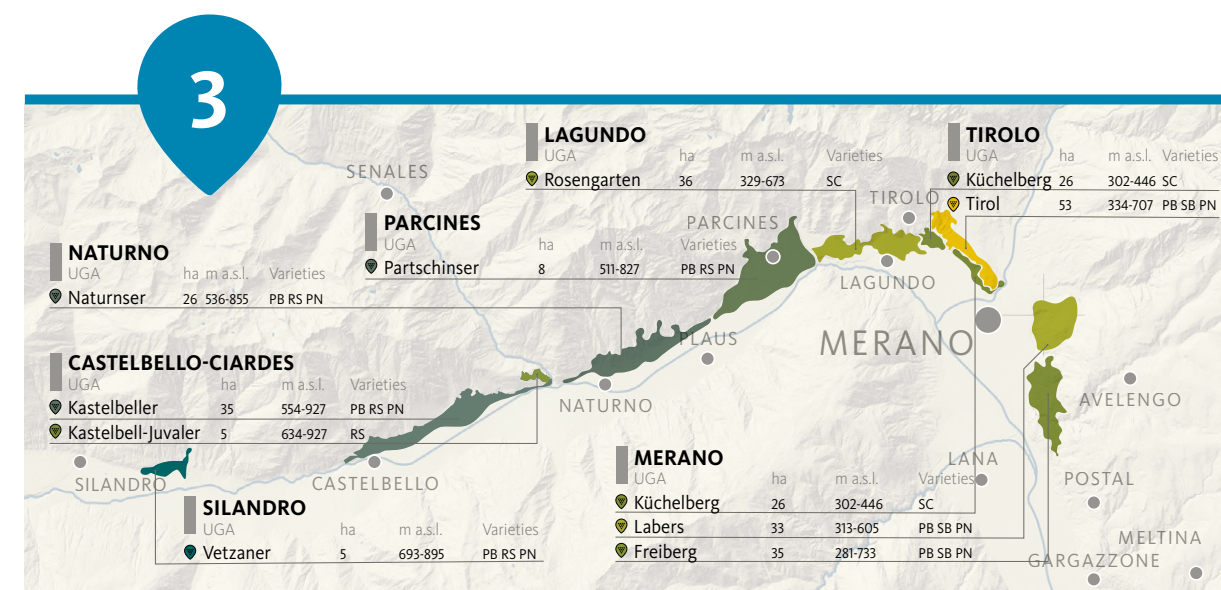
hand, the designations "Alto Adige Merano" and "Alto Adige Colli di Bolzano" are reserved first and foremost for the red wine grape Schiava [Vernatsch]. That grape also sets the tone for "Alto Adige Santa Maddalena".



## Alto Adige The Official Map of the Additional Geographical Units (UGA)

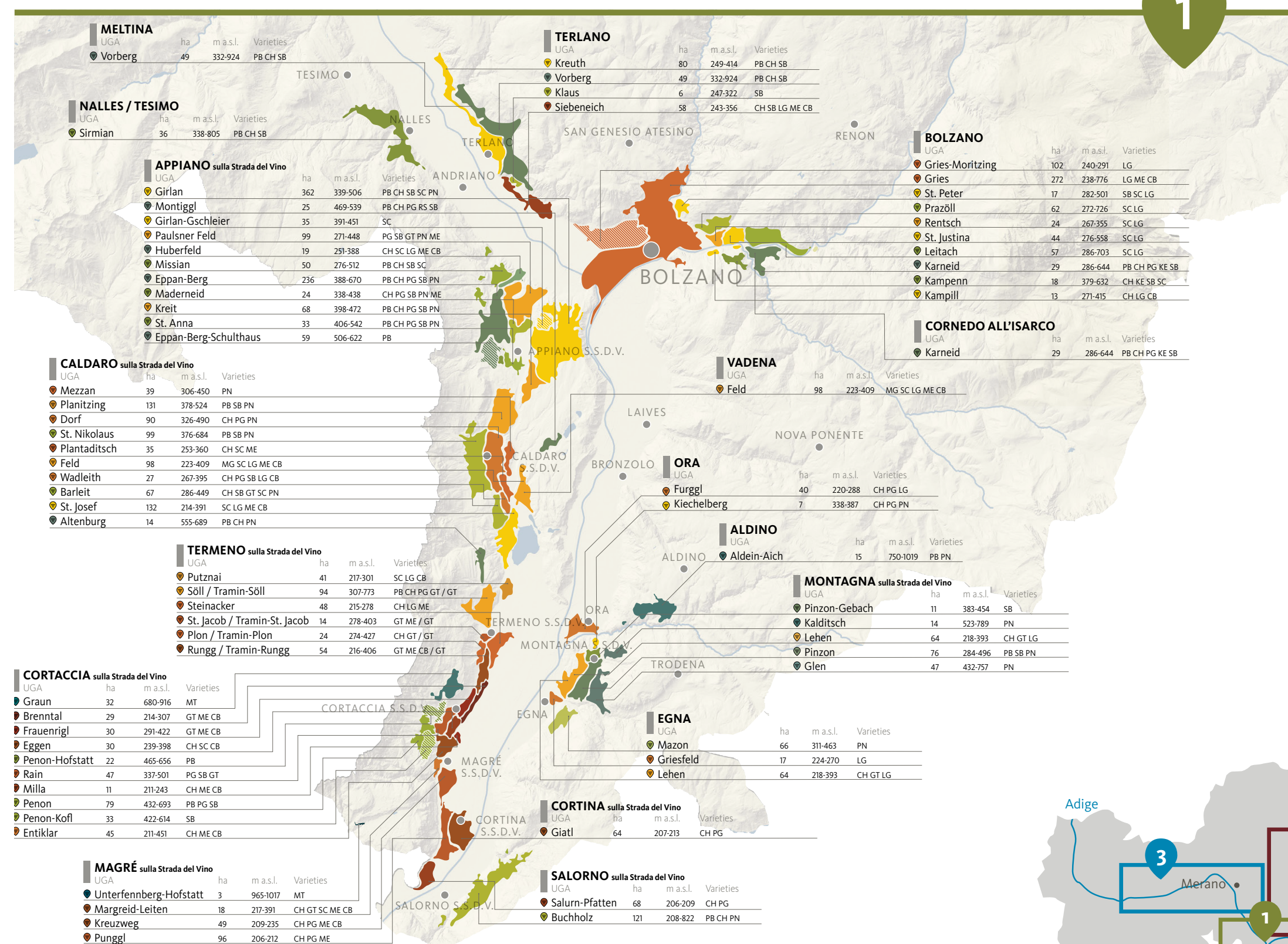
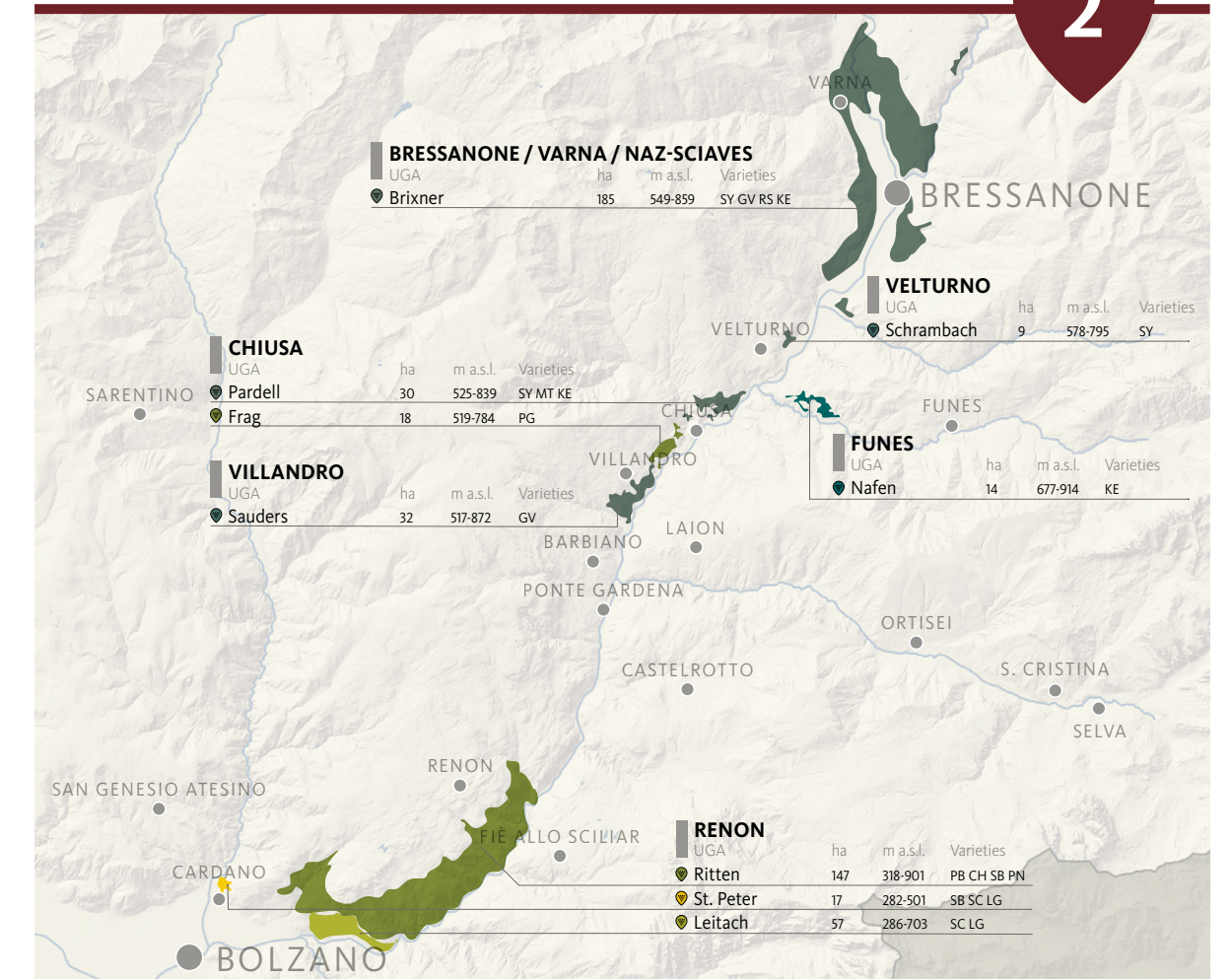
What stands behind the Alto Adige concept of UGA classification, which identifies eighty-six clearly defined vineyard areas, is the knowledge that wine quality is first and foremost influenced by the soil and micro-climate, but also by elevation above sea level, the steepness of the slope, solar radiation, air circulation, and precipitation. Since vineyard sites also reflect a region's distinctive winegrowing culture, historical records were a key factor in defining the eighty-six additional geographical units (in Italian Unità Geografiche Aggiuntive). For example, historical maps

and documents from various archives were evaluated. The demarcation of the vineyards is also linked to a series of clear quality specifications that wines that qualify for a UGA designation must meet. The most important requirements are, on one hand, the combination of the varieties and the location and, on the other, a further reduction in the DOC harvest quantity of up to twenty-five percent.



## The Guarantee for Wines from Geographical Units

The UGA symbol guarantees the origin of an Alto Adige DOC wine from a distinctly defined and legally protected geographical unit. Both the UGA symbol and the exact name of the additional geographical unit are clearly indicated on every label of a designated wine from a geographical unit.



## Varieties

Pinot Blanc	PB
Chardonnay	CH
Sauvignon	SB
Pinot Trigno	PG
Müller Thurgau	MT
Gewürztraminer	GT
Sylvaner	SY
Grüner Veltliner	GV
Kerner	KE
Riesling	RS
Moscato Giallo	MG
Pinot Noir	PN
Cabernet	CB
Merlot	ME
Lagrein	LG
Schiava (Vernatsch)	SC

Area (hectares) = Total viticulture area within the designated geographical unit [hectares], as of 2024

