



Road Trip  
through  
Galicia

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Introduction  
to Galicia

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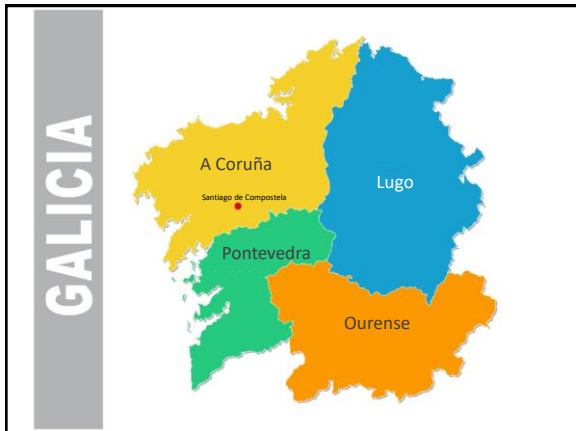
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# GALICIA

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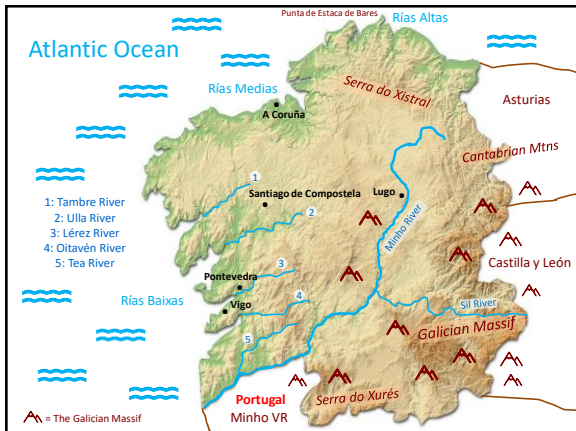
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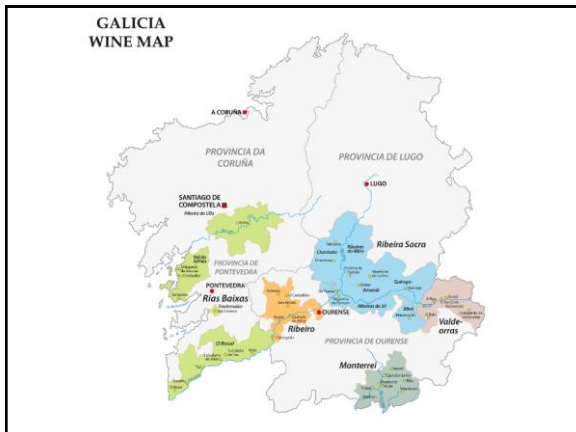
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## GALICIA WINE MAP

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# GALICIA

Mild climate, marine influence; part of *Green Spain*

Well-known for white wines (Albariño, Treixadura, Godello), some Mencia-based red (and rosado)

Five DOs:

Rías Baixas, Ribeiro, Ribeira Sacra, Valdeorras, Monterrei

Known for:

- Celtic culture
- Oceans-rivers-estuaries-bays
- Textiles, fishing, canning, livestock, forestry, automobiles
- *The Way*: the Camino de Santiago

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### Queimada

*The Fire Drink of Galicia*  
1 liter orujo  
2/3 cup granulated sugar  
Zest of 1 medium lemon (cut in strips)  
4 T. coffee beans

Photo credit: Jose A. Bernat Bacete / Getty Images

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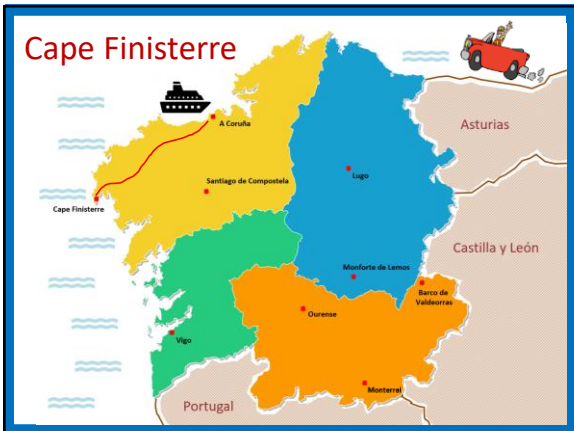
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### Cape Finisterre

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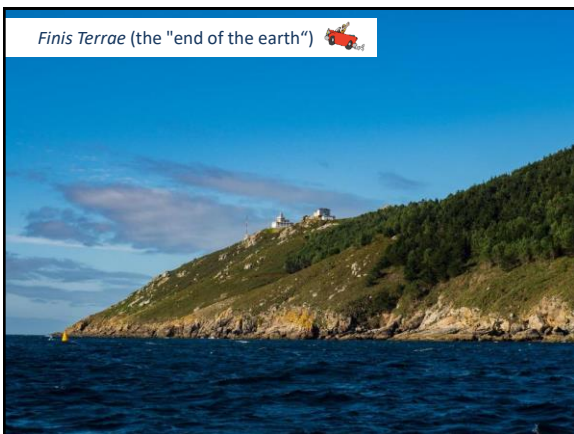
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### Finis Terrae (the "end of the earth")

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Parque Nacional Marítimo-Terrestre das Illas Atlánticas de Galicia/Cies Islands



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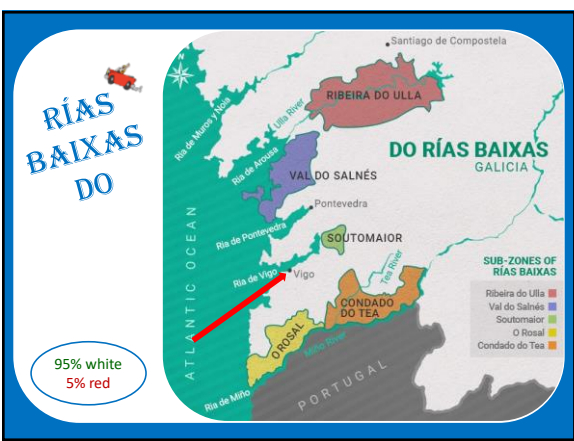
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Rías Baixas DO

Located along the “lower estuaries” of Galicia’s southwest coastline (just north of Portugal)

Authorized for: Varietal Albariño (100%), Blanco, Blanco Barrica, Tinto, and Espumoso

Best known for Albariño-based dry white wines with intense aromatics, crisp acidity, and floral notes

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**Albariño in Rías Baixas**

- Native to the area (aka *Alvarinho*)
- Vigorous, thick-skinned, thrives in marine climates
- Good acidity, aromas of fruit (lemon, grapefruit, orange peel, nectarine), flowers (honeysuckle, white flowers), herbs (bergamot, basil), and salinity/wet stones/minerality
- Other white grapes (accessory varieties) allowed include Godello, Loureira, and Treixadura

Red grapes are rare, but include Mencía, Brancellao, & Pedral

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# LET'S TASTE!

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*Here are my tasting notes for Bodegas Fillaboa Albariño Rías Baixas 2020:*

- 13% abv
- 100% Albariño
- Temperature-controlled, stainless steel ferment
- 6 months lees aging
- Aromas:
  - Fruit: Apple, mango, pineapple, citrus
  - Other: Floral, wet gravel, lees
- On the palate:
  - Fresh acidity, well-balanced, nice structure
  - Persistent finish (hint of lemon peel bitterness)

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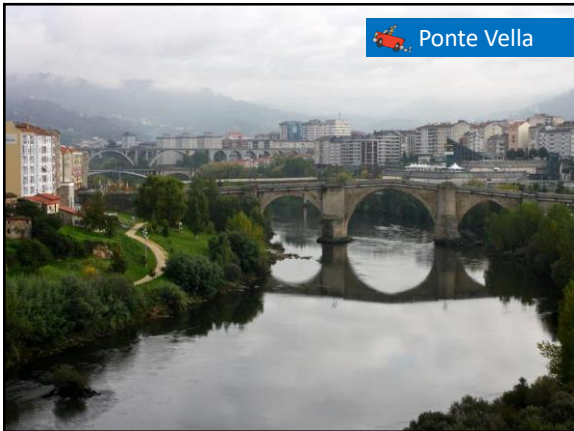
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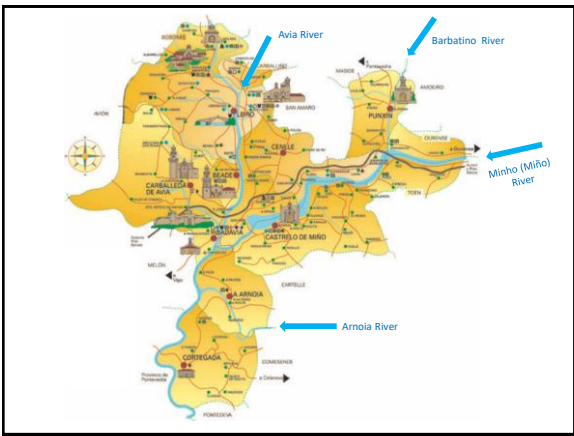
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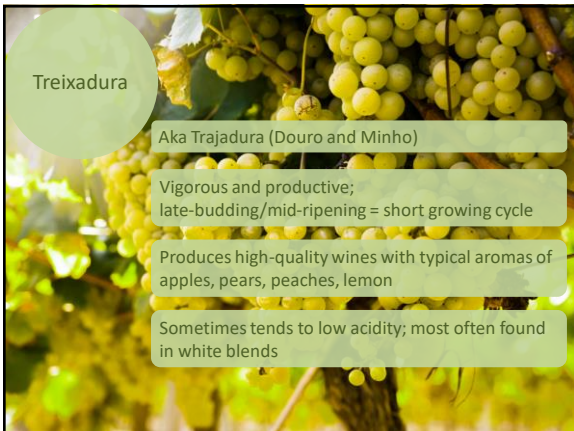
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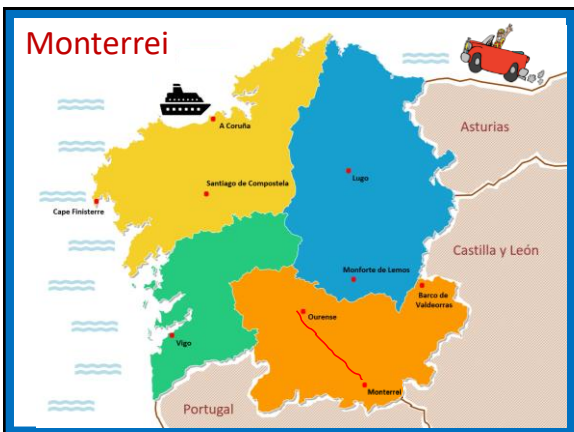
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Castelo de Monterrei

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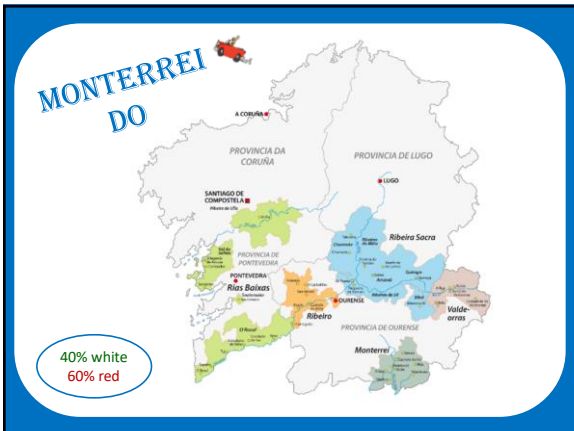
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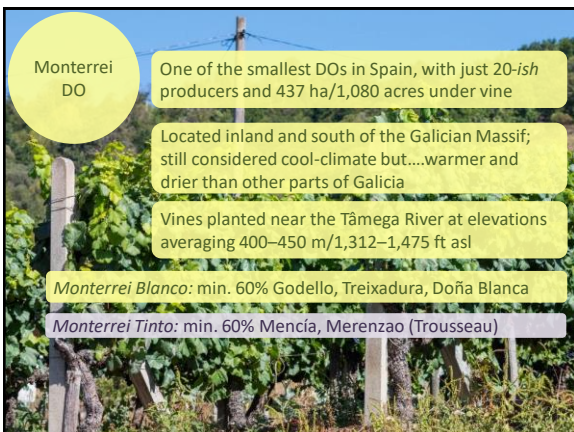
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Monterrei DO

One of the smallest DOs in Spain, with just 20-ish producers and 437 ha/1,080 acres under vine

Located inland and south of the Galician Massif; still considered cool-climate but...warmer and drier than other parts of Galicia

Vines planted near the Tâmega River at elevations averaging 400–450 m/1,312–1,475 ft asl

Monterrei Blanco: min. 60% Godello, Treixadura, Doña Blanca

Monterrei Tinto: min. 60% Mencía, Merenzao (Trousseau)

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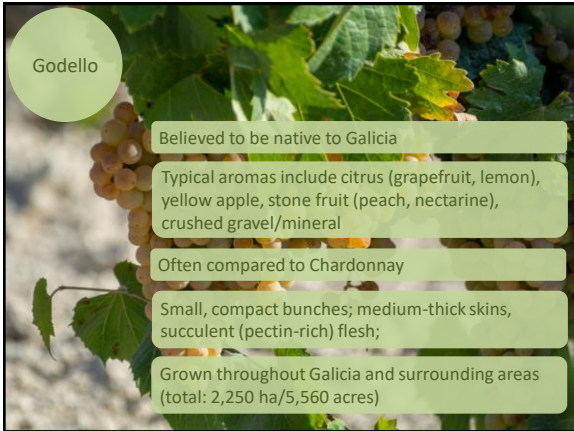
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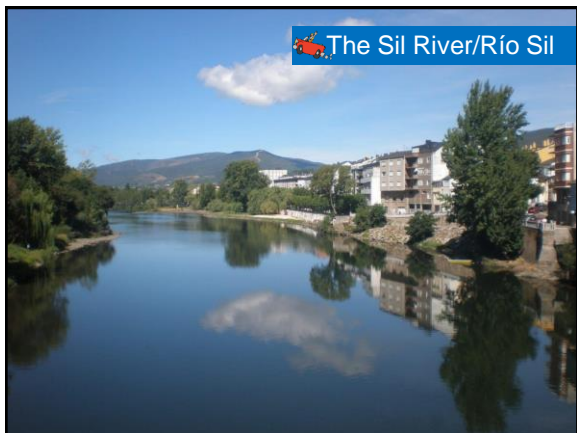
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The Sil River/Río Sil

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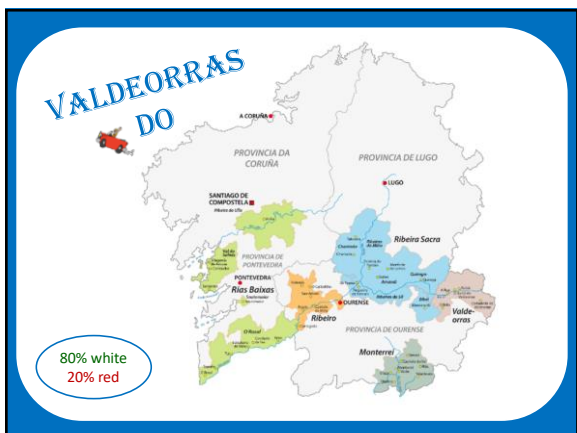
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Valdeorras  
DO

Situated in the mountainous, eastern edge of Galicia, focused along the banks of the Sil River

Climate is predominantly continental; somewhat moderated by the Atlantic Ocean

Average elevation: 2,300 ft/700 m—980 ft/300 m

Leading grape: Godello

Also approved for red wines (tinto)—blends & varietals (castes)—sparkling wines (espumoso) and dried-grape wines (tostado)

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**Vinos Tostados**

Two of Galicia's DOs—Valdeorras and Ribeiro—are approved for this style of dried-grape wine

Typically white, but red grapes are also allowed

Grapes are hand-harvested at a high degree of ripeness, and then left to air-dry for a min. of 90 days

The super-sweet must is allowed to undergo natural (typically partial) fermentation. Oak aging is often used.

The resulting wine—rich, flavorful, expensive, and sweet—is traditionally used in ceremonies and celebrations

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Ponte Vella over the Cabe River 🚗

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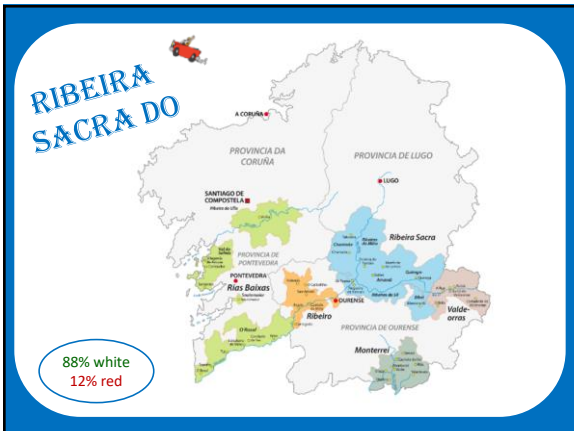
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**RIBEIRA SACRA DO**

88% white  
12% red

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**Ribeira Sacra DO**

Located inland of Ribeiro; follows the Minho River (Río Miño) and the Sil River (Río Sil)

Specializes in the production of Mencía-based red wines; an estimated 70% of the grapes are Mencía

Other preferred red grapes include Brancellao (Alvarelhao) and Merenzao (Trousseau)

Leading white grapes include Godello, Treixadura, and Albarino

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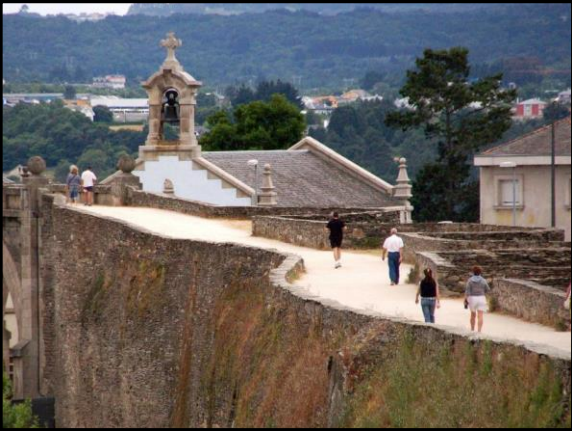
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What Galician DO is located closest to the town of Vigo?



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What DO is best-known for white wine blends based on the Treixadura grape?



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What DO is most heavily planted to red grapes (at close to 88% of production dedicated to red wine)?



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What is the main grape of  
Ribeira Sacra (also the main red  
grape of Monterrei Tinto)?



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What is the orujo-based  
*Fire Drink* of Galicia?



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What two Galician DOs are  
approved for the production of  
*Vinos Tostados*?



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What river flows through the Valdeorras and Ribeira Sacra DOs?



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Name one of the five sub-regions of the Rías Baixas DO:



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Of all the places we “visited” today, where would you most like to go?



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