

Colorado Cultivar Camp: Cabernet Franc

November 28, 2017

With special expert host

Ashley Hausman Vaughters, MW



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Agenda

- All about Cabernet Franc
 - History
 - Geography
 - Biology
- Benchmark tasting – led by Ashley Hausman Vaughters, MW
 - France, California, Italy, New York
- Blind comparison tasting
 - Colorado vs. The World



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All About Cabernet Franc

- History
 - Origin
 - Related varieties
- Geography
 - France
 - Italy
 - USA
- Biology
 - Characteristics
 - Flavors



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History of Cabernet Franc

- Relatively Recent Origin
 - First appearance in literature in 1600s in Loire Valley – known as Bouchet
 - Didn't appear in Bordeaux until 1800s
- Mostly used as a blending grape
 - Few varietal wines outside of Loire
 - Bolgheri
 - USA
 - Bordeaux blend – along with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot
 - Most widely planted in St-Emilion
 - Cheval Blanc – roughly 55/45 blend



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History of Cabernet Franc

- Parent of:
 - Cabernet Sauvignon
 - Merlot
 - Carmenere
- Synonyms
 - Breton
 - Bouchet
 - Vidure (Grosse or Petite)



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Geography of Cabernet Franc

- France
 - Loire Valley
 - Bourgueil
 - Chinon
 - Saumur
 - Bordeaux
 - St.-Emilion
- United States
 - CA, WA, NY
- Italy
 - Tuscany, Umbria, Friuli



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Geography of Cabernet Franc

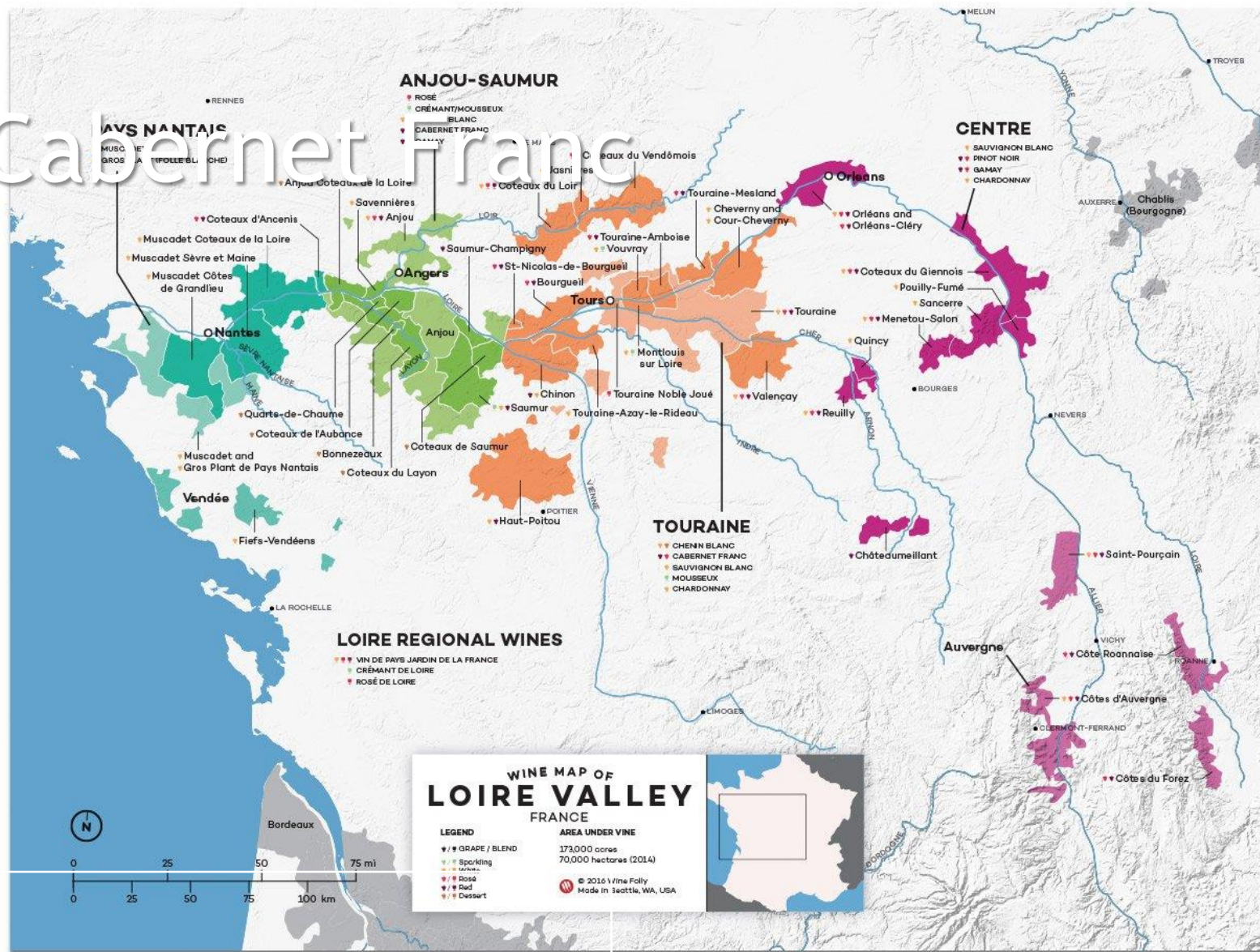
- France
 - Loire Valley
 - Primarily White Wine Region
 - Reds produced in the middle Loire
 - Vintage dependent due to marginal climate
 - Bordeaux
 - Continuous wine production since 1st Century
 - Graves principle region until 17th Century
 - Médoc swamp drained by Dutch in 17th Century
 - 1855 Classification



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Geography of Cabernet Franc

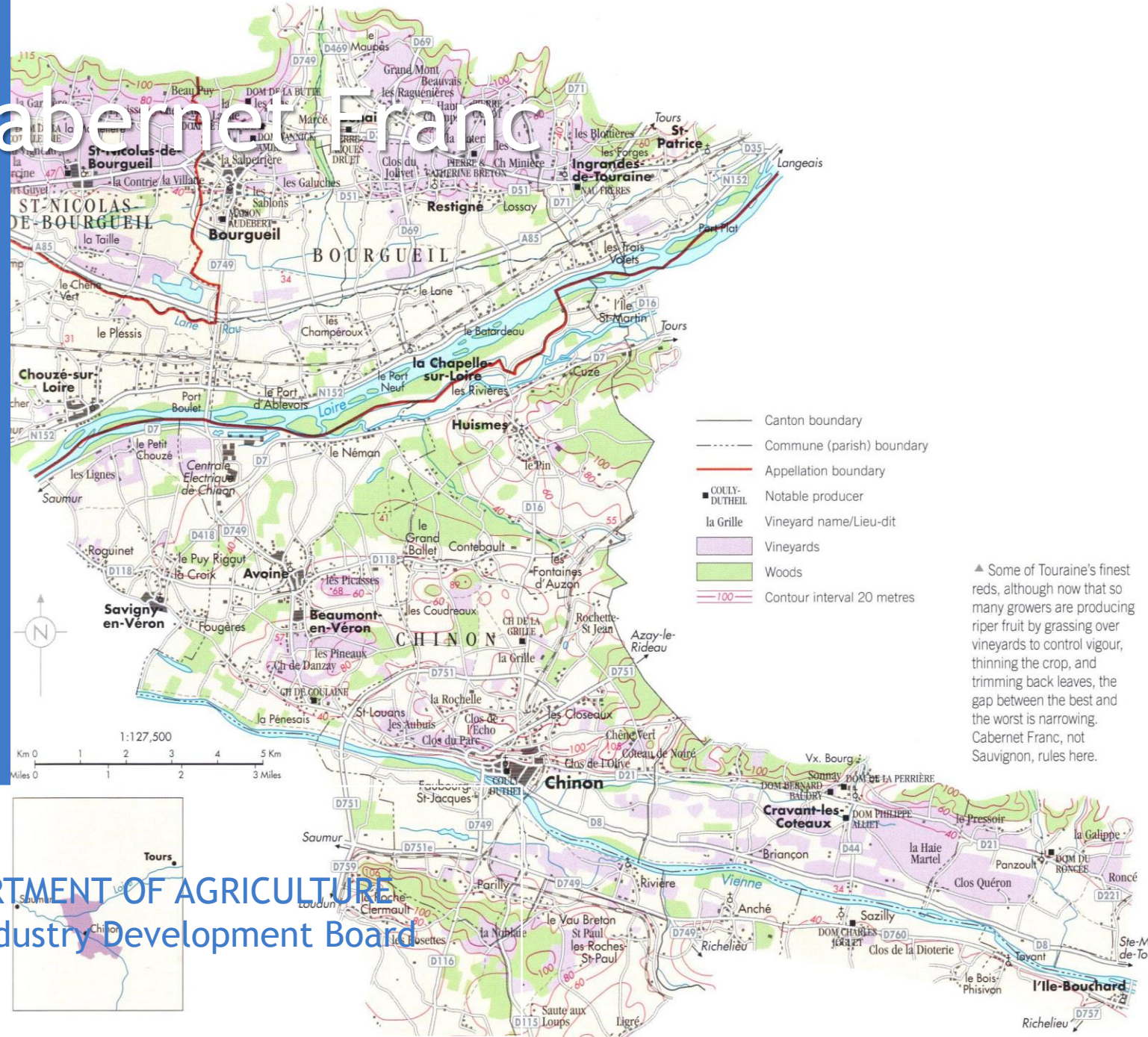
- France
 - Loire Valley
 - Primarily white wine country
 - Muscadet
 - Chenin blanc
 - Sauvignon blanc
 - Middle Loire
 - Cabernet franc
 - Gamay, Malbec, CS and PN



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Geography of Cabernet Franc

- Loire
 - Chinon
 - Gravel over Limestone
 - Lighter
 - Floral
 - Bright and accessible
 - Bourgueil
 - Warmer/drier
 - Sand over Limestone
 - Depth and complexity
 - St-Nicolas de Bourgueil
 - Saumur-Champigny
 - Supple and fruity

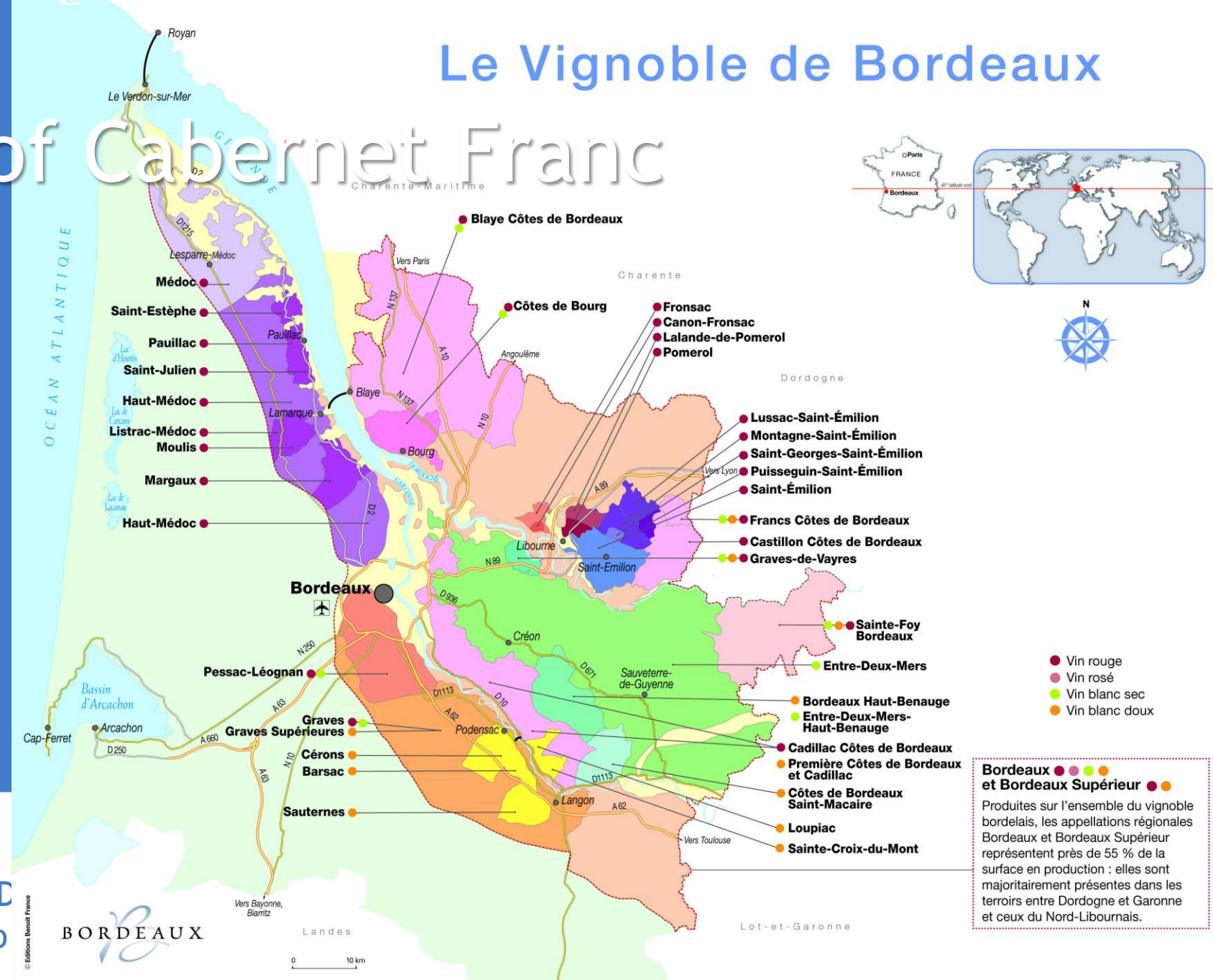


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Geography of Cabernet Franc

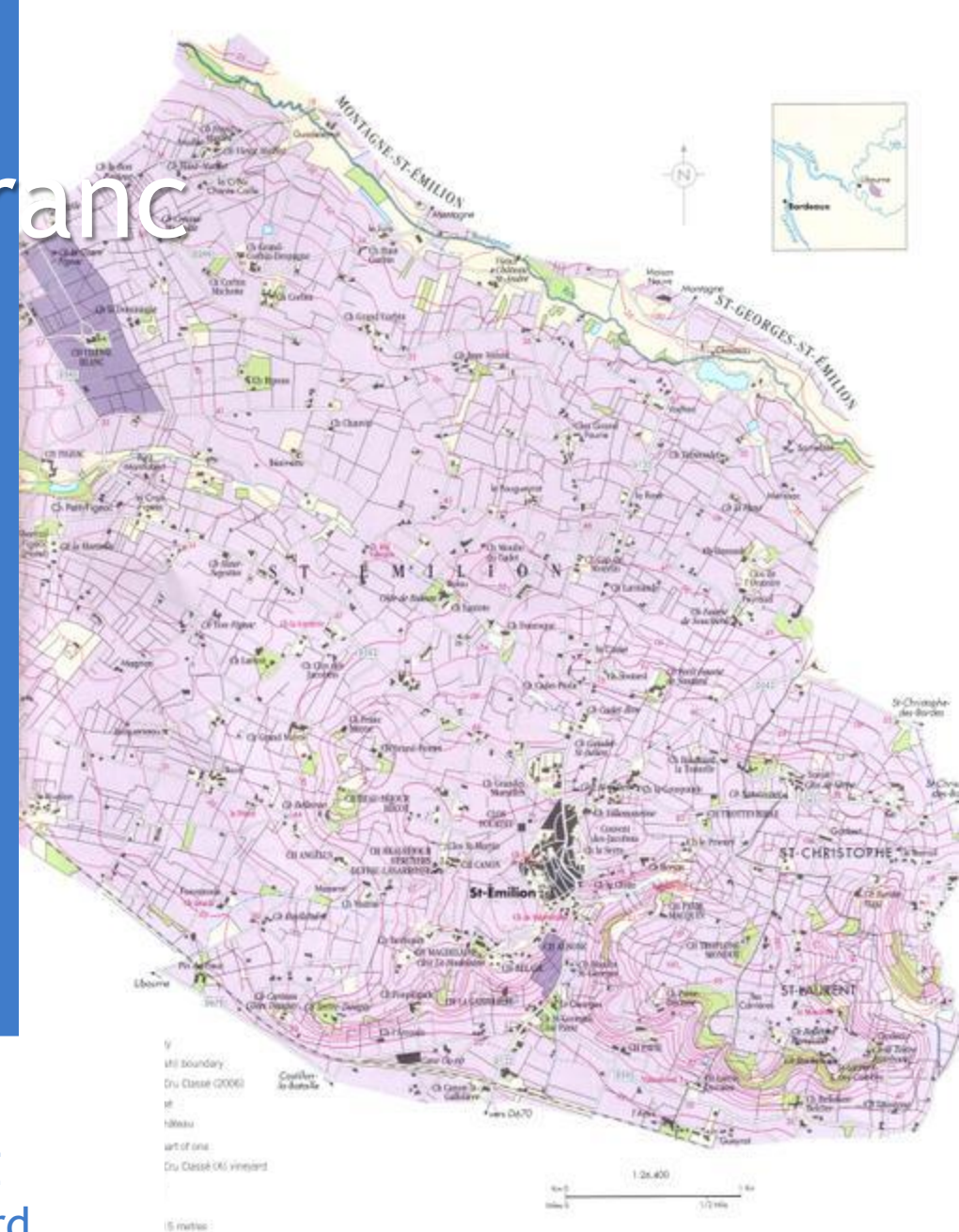
- France
 - Bordeaux
 - Predominant on the Right Bank
 - Sometimes 50/50 blend
 - Blended in smaller percent in Medoc

Le Vignoble de Bordeaux



Geography of Cabernet Franc

- St-Émilion
 - 2012 Classification (1958, 1969, 1986, 1996, 2006)
 - Can be adjusted every ten years
 - Four levels in the St. Émilion classification
 - Premier Cru Classé A (4)
 - Premier Grand Cru Classé B (15)
 - Grand Cru Classé (63)
 - Grand Cru (many)



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Geography of Cabernet Franc

- Italy
 - Tuscany
 - Umbria
 - Friuli

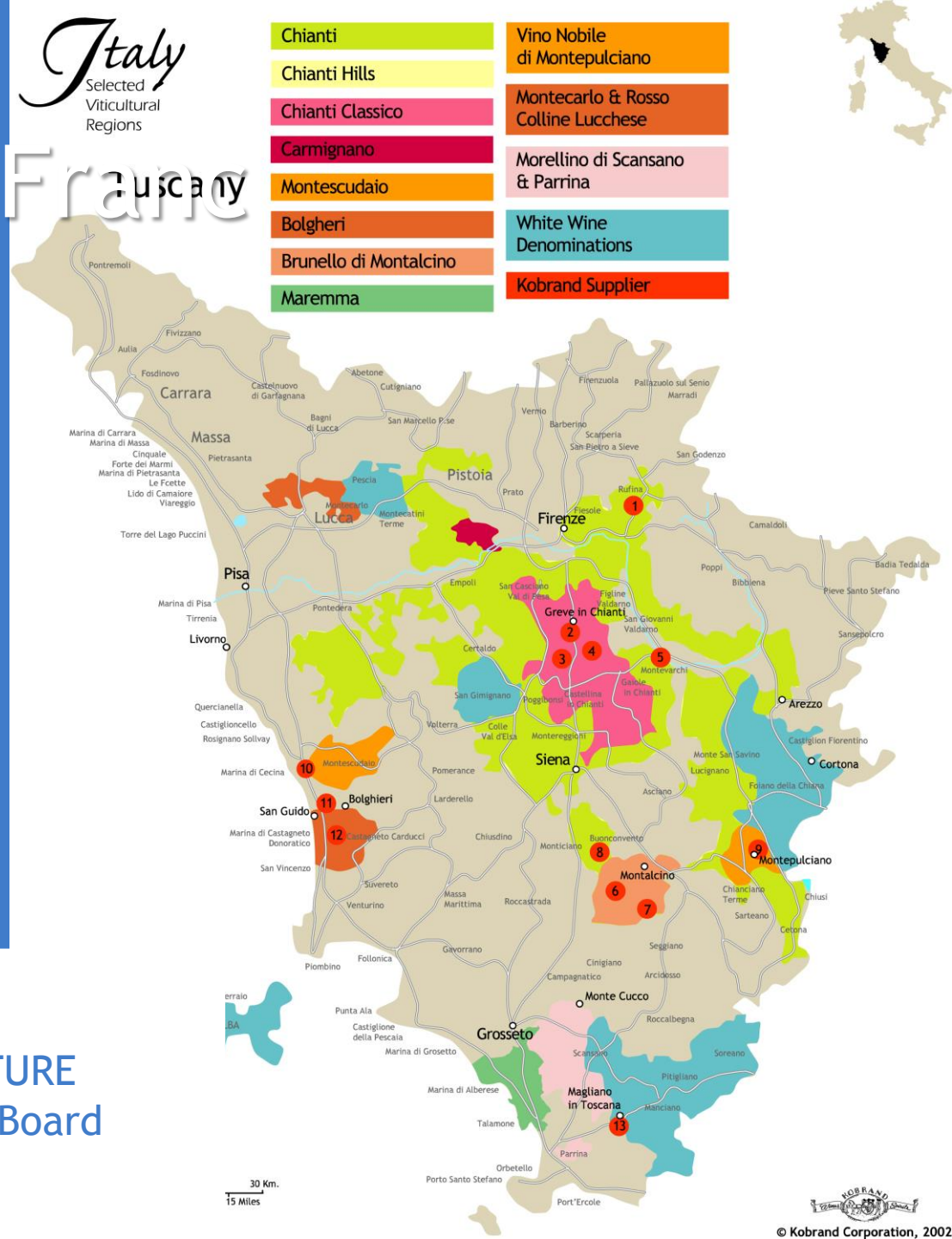


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Geography of Cabernet Franc

• Tuscany

- Super Tuscans – Vino da Tavola
- Originally outside of Italian law
- Maremma
 - Maremma, once an open, disease-infested marsh, has only been considered a world-class wine region for a few decades. Today, pretty seaside villages dot the coastline, but that, too is quite recent. Up until the 1970s or so, the nobles all lived in the hills, far away from the swamplands of the coast. That all changed when wines like Sassicaia, Grattamacco and later Ornellaia, Masseto and others exploded onto the global scene.
- Bolgheri
 - one of Italy's most prestigious vineyard areas
 - Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, though Sangiovese may comprise up to 50%
- Toscana IGT



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Geograph

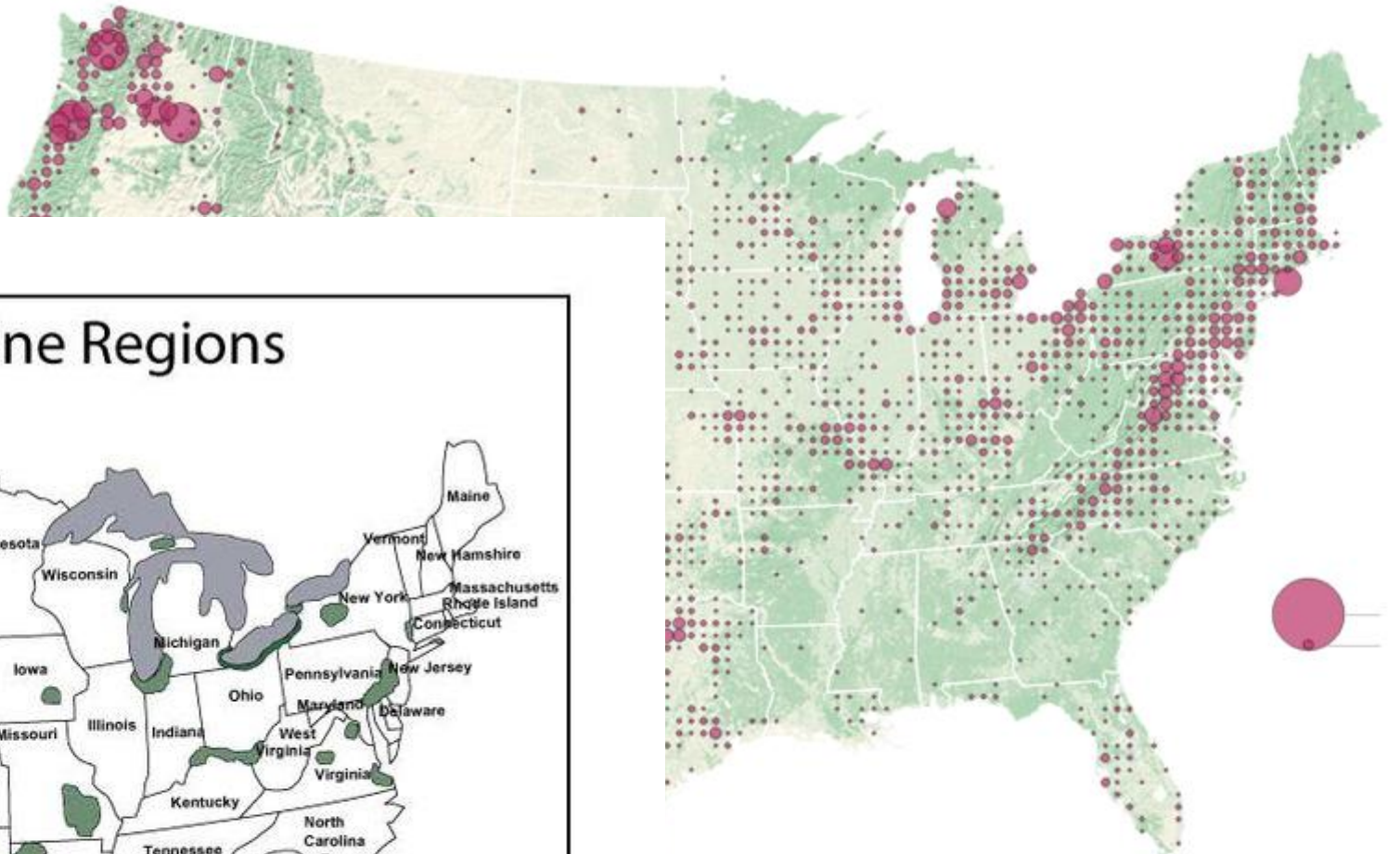


Fig. 16.1

Geography of Cabernet Franc

- California
 - Napa Valley
 - Sonoma
 - Santa Cruz Mts
 - Paso Robles



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Geography of Cabernet Franc

- Napa Valley
 - Coombsville
 - Oakville
 - Pritchard Hill



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The Napa Valley Appellation and its Sub-Appellations



napa valley vintners
legendary american wines
napavintners.com

Biology of Cabernet Franc

- Earlier ripening – vineyard insurance
- More adapted to clay-based soils and cooler climates than Cabernet Sauvignon
- Moderately vigorous – up to 8 tons per acre in fertile soil
- Adds soft tannins and generous flavors to the more austere Cabernet.
- Not as plush as Merlot can be
- Provides fruity impact in the middle to fill in the hole left by the tough, tannic framework of young Cabernet Sauvignon.
- More herbaceous notes than Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon



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Biology of Cabernet Franc

- Aromas/Flavors:
- FRUIT: raspberry, cherry, plum, blueberries, blackberries
- FLORAL: violet,
- OAK: vanilla, coconut, sweet wood, smoke, toast, tar
- SPICE: caramel, chocolate, clove, bay leaf, green peppercorn, licorice
- BOTTLE AGE: leather, cedar, cigar box
- HERBAL: bell pepper, mint, eucalyptus



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Tasting Benchmark Cabernet Franc

15 minute break...

Benchmark Cabernet Franc

- 2015 Olga Raffault 'Les Barnabés' - **Chinon**
- 2013 Domaine du Collier 'La Ripaille' - **Saumur**
- 2013 Catherine & Pierre Breton 'Les Perrières' - **Bourgueil**
- 2015 Vigneti Le Monde - **Friuli Grave DOC**
- 2007 Duemani Duemani - **Costa Toscana IGP**
- 2015 I Brand & Family 'Bayly Ranch' Cabernet Franc - **Paicines AVA**
- 2014 Lang & Reed 'Two-Fourteen' Cabernet Franc - **Napa Valley AVA**
- 2014 Detert Vineyards - **Oakville AVA**
- 2014 Paumanok Vineyards 'Grand Vintage' Cabernet Franc - **North Fork of Long Island AVA**
- 2010 Le Dôme - **Saint-Emilion Grand Cru**



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Blind Comparative Tasting

15 minute break...

Blind Comparative Tasting

Guesses on the wines...

Benchmark Cabernet Franc

- 2010 Olga Raffault 'Les Picasses' - **Chinon – 12.5%, \$26**
- 2013 Bookcliff Vineyards Reserve Cabernet Franc - **Grand Valley AVA – 13.5%, \$25**
- 2013 Duemani CiFRA - **Costa Toscano IGP – 13.5%, \$35**
- 2013 Kingman Estate 'Karen's Reserve' Cabernet Franc - **Grand Valley AVA – 13.5%, \$45**
- 2014 Creekside Cellars Cabernet Franc - **Grand Valley AVA – 14.3%, \$45**



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Colorado Cultivar Camp: **CABERNET FRANC**

Thank you very much!!



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