

Oxford Companion to Wine

cru

French specialist term for a vineyard, usually reserved for those officially recognized as of superior quality. Such recognition was already known in Ancient **ROME**.

In English the word is often translated as 'growth'. **PREMIERS CRUS**, for example, are called **FIRST GROWTHS** in **BORDEAUX**, according to one of their official **CLASSIFICATIONS**. A cru that has been 'classified' is a **cru classé**, or **CLASSED GROWTH**. **GRANDS CRUS** can also have a very specific meaning, notably in **BURGUNDY** and **ALSACE**.

The top-ranked communes in **BEAUJOLAIS** are called crus, and their produce is Cru Beaujolais.

In **SWITZERLAND**, the first two vineyards to be officially awarded cru status were the neighbouring Dézaley and Calamin in Vaud.

In Italy there have been some attempts to define various superior vineyards as crus. The local dialect for such a site in **PIEMONTE** is **SORI**.

For the situation in Germany, see **GROSSES GEWÄCHS**