

Cyprus

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The island's most exciting vine product is Commandaria, a historic dark, raisiny dessert wine which, you just know on tasting it, could be very good indeed.

Cyprus has otherwise concentrated too heavily for too long on very ordinary bulk wine, grape concentrate and pretend sherries although its accession to the EU in 2004 has encouraged more ambition and a trend to moving winemaking equipment much closer to the vineyards in the interior. Extended journeys to large wineries in the main cities in the blistering Mediterranean sun did nothing for freshly-picked grapes.