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28 Aug 2008 by Jancis Robinson

**In a nutshell**: Concentrated, beefy red wines designed for ageing with increasingly interesting whites. **Grapes**: Syrah, Grenache, Marsanne, Roussanne, Viognier.

The wide, lazy Rhône links two important French wine regions (and, in narrower, swifter form, the vineyards of <u>Savoie</u>, and some of <u>Switzerland</u>'s best). The <u>northern Rhône</u> produces small quantities of some very fine wine indeed, while the much more extensive vineyards of the <u>southern Rhône</u> produce one of France's 'commodity' wines, Côtes du Rhône, as well as a host of other wines based on the Grenache grape.