

FRENCH OAK FORESTS CONTINUED

*ha = generalized hectares of forest that includes other trees besides oak.

1.	Jupilles/Bercé 5,400 ha	Very dense forest located on calcareous soils next to the Loire Valley viticultural area. Wood is dense and tight grained.
2.	Bellême 2,400	Forest is located very far north in comparison to other forests and deals with Normandy's colder and wetter temperatures.
3.	Blois 2,800	Small dense forest located next to the famous Vouvray and Touraine winemaking regions.
4.	Limousin 568,000	Largest oak forest in France. Growing conditions force trees to grow wide and fast creating loose grain wood which is adored by Cognac producers because of its vanilla notes.
5.	Allier 122,000	Soil is not very fertile, heavy in silica and clay and trees are planted close to one another creating tight grain wood. Oak is famous for baking spices and clove notes.
6.	Tronçais 10,500	Is sometimes rose in color and the forest was originally planted by Louis le XIV for supplying timber for the Navy. Most centrally located forest in France, is within the Allier forest and is internationally recognized by winemakers for having the tightest grained oak.
7.	Fontainebleau 17,000	Known as "Le Foret Royale". French kings in Versailles and Paris would hunt, ride horses and spend vacation here causing the forest to be very well maintained.
8.	Nevers 225,000	Soils are richer and moister because they receive more precipitation than neighboring Allier, therefore allowing for more growth and slightly more open grain.
9.	Bertranges 10,000	Forest located within the Nevers forest. Has a higher percentage of Quercus Patraea oak species than the rest of Nevers, allowing for the oak to be slightly tighter in grain.
10.	Ardennes 36,140	Still lots of shrapnel and bullets in the trees from WWI and WWII. Wood is hard to cooper because the shrapnel and bullets damage saws, and have caused trees to grow "twisted" and not straight.
11.	Chatillon 9,000	Forest is located in Burgundy, but close to Vosges; therefore has similarities to forests in the Vosges mountains.
12.	Cîteaux 13,284	Forest located in Burgundy next to a famous Abbaye de Cîteaux where monks live. Oak is slightly less tight grained than its neighboring "Centre France Forests" and is more porous.
13.	Vosges 280,000	Oak tends to be clear and white in color. Vosges mountains sit on large mineral deposits that sometimes are translated into the oak.
14.	Jura 180,000 ha	Oak forests are within the Jura mountain range. Trees grow at different altitudes and in valleys and receive more storm fronts and snow precipitation than other oak forests.