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**Turckheim Brand**

**A** long time ago as the Rhine Valley was a wide lake a dragon lost its way along the shores around the place called Turckheim nowadays. The sun heat warmed the dragon so much that its blood purted out of its body. The beast barely reached a cave where it died.

Thousands of years later a wine-grower planted vine in the place said to be where the dragon had lost its blood. This place was bathed and warmed up by the sun and he obtained a wine full of vitality and fire.

The site is still called "DRAGONLOCH" (dragon hole) and BRAND (blessed by fire).

From Jean BRESCH.



**Viticultural Foot-path**

If **Turckheim** has got a high rank in Alsatian viticulture it is above all due to its exceptional soil, well-selected vine-plants and the ability of its wine-growers.

The vine-area spreads on approximately 500 ha, 350 of which are effectively productive. The 1646 ha borough is 200-370 m high above the sea level. One of the features of the soil lies in the large diversity of the underground which varies according to the different vine-yard locations : granitic, chalky, clayey or alluvial.

"**Brand**" is one of the most famous sites of viticultural Alsace and a well known saying declares : "Here grows the king of all best wines". This fame is due to two essential factors : its geographical situation and its ground and underground nature. The site with the shape of a shallow depression towards the South enjoys long hours of sunshine. The surrounding summits keep the northern and eastern winds away. **Kirchberg** and **Eichberg** heights protect the place from the western winds that dissipate heat. The average annual temperature is 10,5 °C. The sunshine is particularly important with an average of 800 hrs a year. Rainfalls reach 600 mm a year.

The "**terroir**" (soil) results from a complex close blend of sub-ground rocks, earth, wide sunshine, large wind exposure and early mist. For centuries wine-growers have been using all these elements to give wine the very "**taste of the terroir**".



création atelier.com - dessin : E. Noack - Photos : Syndicat Viticole Turckheim





# The Wine Circuit

- **Departure** : Tourist Office
- **Length** : 2 km
- **Time** : 1 hour

## • Vintages

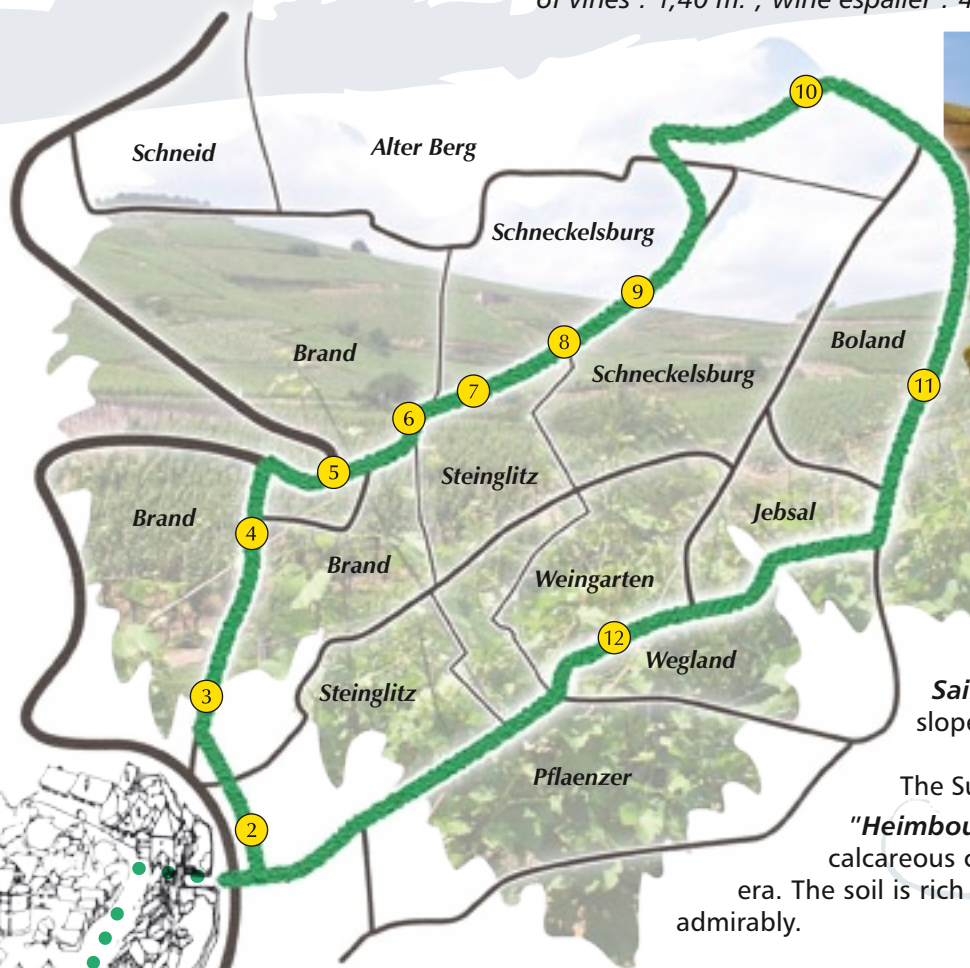
- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Sylvaner    | Gewurztraminer       |
| Pinot blanc | Grand Cru            |
| Riesling    | 3 Vendanges Tardives |
| Pinot Gris  | Grains Nobles        |
| Muscat      | 5 Crémant            |
| Pinot Noir  |                      |

## • From vine to wine stages

- 2 Planting
- 4 Soil management
- 6 Vine management
- 7 Different tasks time-table
- 9 Pest controls
- 10 Wine harvest
- 11 Transformation of grape into wine
- 12 Wine storage

## • Vineyard planting 2

Cultivated surface in Alsace : 12 000 hectares, which gives a production of 800 000 hectolitres of wine per year.  
(Cultivated surface at a rate of 4 000 to 5 000 plants per hectare ; spacing of vines : 1,40 m. ; wine espalier : 4 to 5).



## • Geology 8

The Vosges mountains edge.  
Two granitic soils : "**Brand**" and "**Val Saint Grégoire**" on *Munster Valley's* western slopes.

The Sub-Vosges hills.  
"**Heimbourg**", half-way on the wine circuit. Its sea calcareous clay nature originates from the secondary era. The soil is rich and it produces powerful wines that age admirably.

The older peat alluvial soil.  
"**Herrenweg**", south of **Turckheim**. It consists of stones, gravel and sand carried along by the river "*Fecht*" at the end of the ice age. This soil produces early maturing and particularly fruity wines.



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