



But the best-known French product, and one of France's most important agricultural exports, is wine. Wine has been produced in France since Roman times and perhaps earlier. There is hardly a region of France that does not have its vineyards. Ranging in color from pale rose to deep ruby, from golden amber to almost clear white, the wines of France are considered by many to be the finest in the world. There are the roses of Provence and Anjou, the reds of the Rhone, and the whites of the Loire and Alsace. The sparkling wines of the Champagne region are the only ones in the world legally entitled to use the name. Some of the wines of the Cognac and Armagnac regions are justly renowned around the world, though often they may come from holdings only a few acres in size.

Besides the important well-known vineyards, such as Rothschild and Romanée-Conti, there are local wines and everyday wines (*vins ordinaires*), which are rarely exported. Many small farms have their own prized vines, producing just enough for family and friends.

In some parts of France, after picking time, farmers still trudge up the slopes to prune their weathered, gnarled vines with old-fashioned long-handled knives, as they did in the time of Saint Vincent, long ago. According to an old Burgundian legend it was this saint who first taught that severely pruned vines yield more grapes. It takes year-round, unremitting toil to grow the grapes that keep France in the forefront of the world's wine producers.

French steel goes to the Renault, the world's largest automobile manufacturer. The French Government produces iron ore, and much of the world's leading production in Lorraine, and much of the world's highest in Europe.

In today's industrial revolution, the replacement of coal by iron ore, and the damming of rivers, responsible for the growth of the Rhone, was known as early as the 19th century. Today the whole Rhone valley is a hotbed of excellent synthetic fabrics, haute couture, or high fashion. France also has a thriving synthetic industry. Significant deposits in the north and northeast of France are produced in the Paris basin also has a field, and under special arrangements made by the government, France obtained about two-thirds of the world's natural gas from the Pyrenees colony, where it is used for cooking and heating.

Beyond these energy sources, France is rich in uranium deposits of central France. The uranium reactors that run huge power stations are also well supplied with the sun's energy. At Odeirun, the world's first tidal power station, France is also well supplied with the sun's energy. The transportation industries. Aluminum ore, or bauxite, is mined in the 19th century.



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