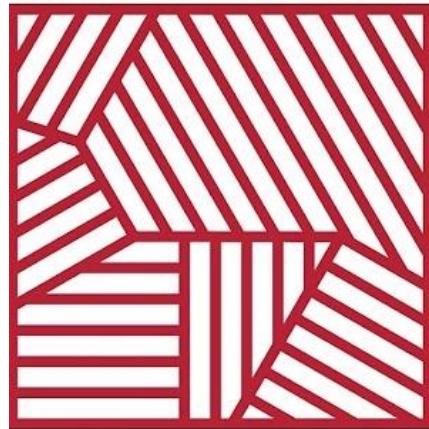




# Swiss wines and grapes

***Dr José Vouillamoz - Wine & Grapes Consulting - Switzerland***

@JoseGrapes - [www.josevouillamoz.com](http://www.josevouillamoz.com)



**SWISS WINE  
VALAIS**

**ACEEPT – Vines and Wines Day**

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 – Châteauneuf, Ecole d'agriculture du Valais (EAV)



# Wine Grapes

*Jancis Robinson, Julia Harding, José Vouillamoz*

[www.winegrapes.org](http://www.winegrapes.org)

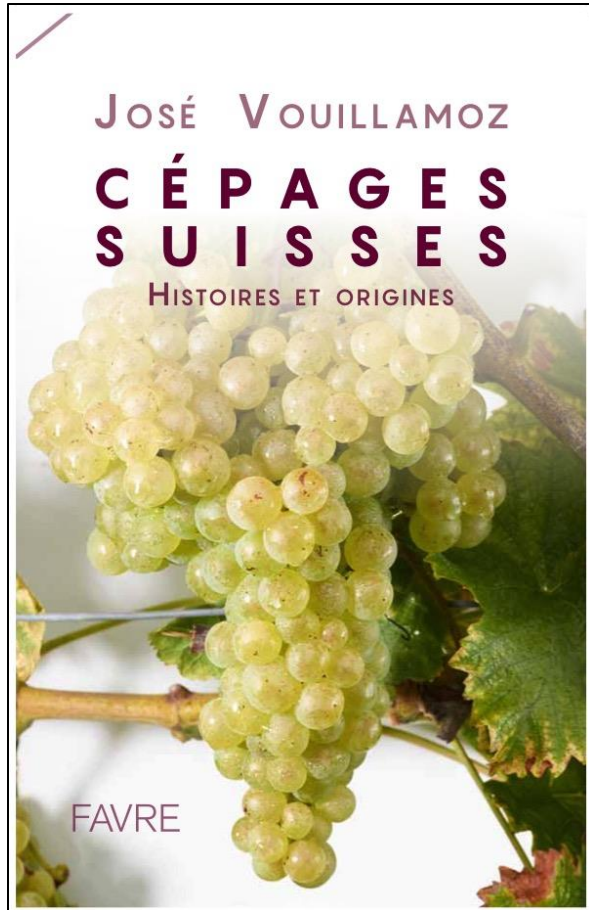


**First ever winner of all 6 major wine book awards 2012-13**

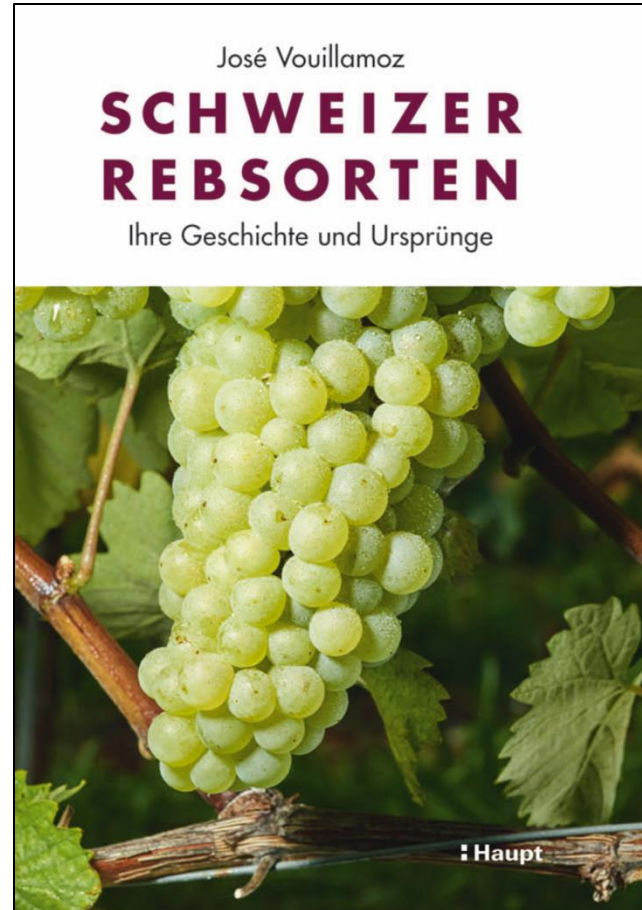


# References

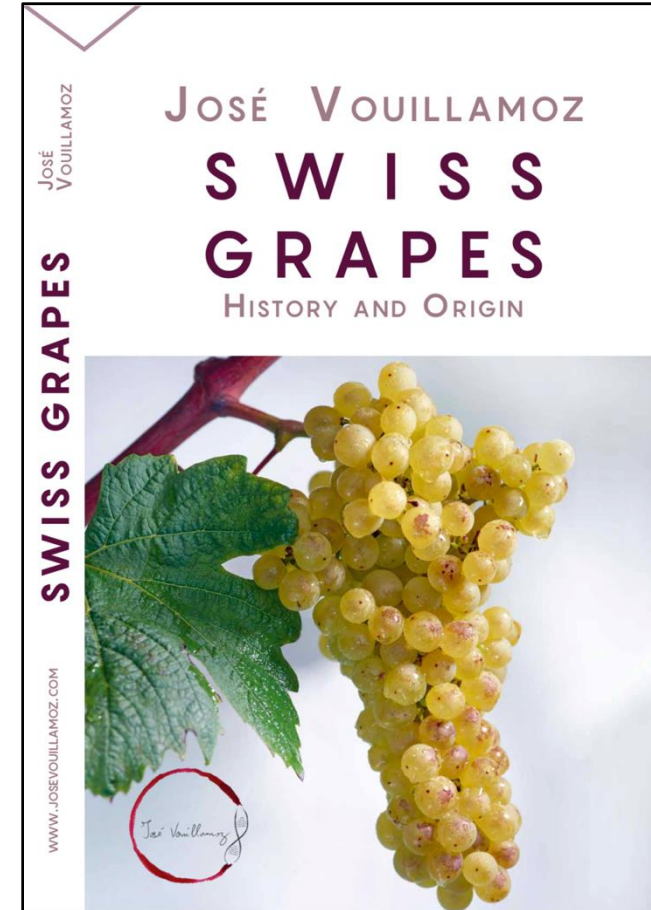
2017



2018



2020





# Presentation plan

- **Introduction to Swiss wines and grapes**
- **Introduction to Valais wines and grapes**
- **History and origin of a few grapes in Valais**
- **Wine tourism in Valais**



# Presentation plan

- **Introduction to Swiss wines and grapes**
- Introduction to Valais wines and grapes
- History and origin of a few grapes in Valais
- Wine tourism in Valais

# Switzerland – 26 cantons – 4 languages



Geographical distribution of the languages of Switzerland (2000)

- German
- French
- Italian
- Romansh
- bilingual areas and cities\*

\* Areas with changing majorities, traditionally strong minorities of other official languages (over 30%) and officially bilingual communities.

Officially bilingual are the cantons of  
 - Berne / Bern (German majority)  
 - Fribourg / Freiburg (French majority)  
 - Valais / Wallis (French majority)

Officially trilingual is the canton of  
 - Graubünden / Grigioni / Gischun (German majority)

De facto bilingual are the cantons of  
 - Jura (French majority)  
 - Ticino (Italian majority)



100% SWISS MADE

Nos vins de par là spécificité de nos terroirs, de nos cépages et de nos raisins 100% suisse expriment, conjugués au savoir-faire de nos vignerons un véritable « savoir-faire » 100% suisse.

Les Vins Suisses  
 www.swisswine.ch

Suisse, Naturelement.

UN SAVOIR-FAIRE SUISSE  
 L'esprit d'excellence permet de conjuguer tradition et innovation.

Les Vins Suisses  
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 Un savoir-faire à partager

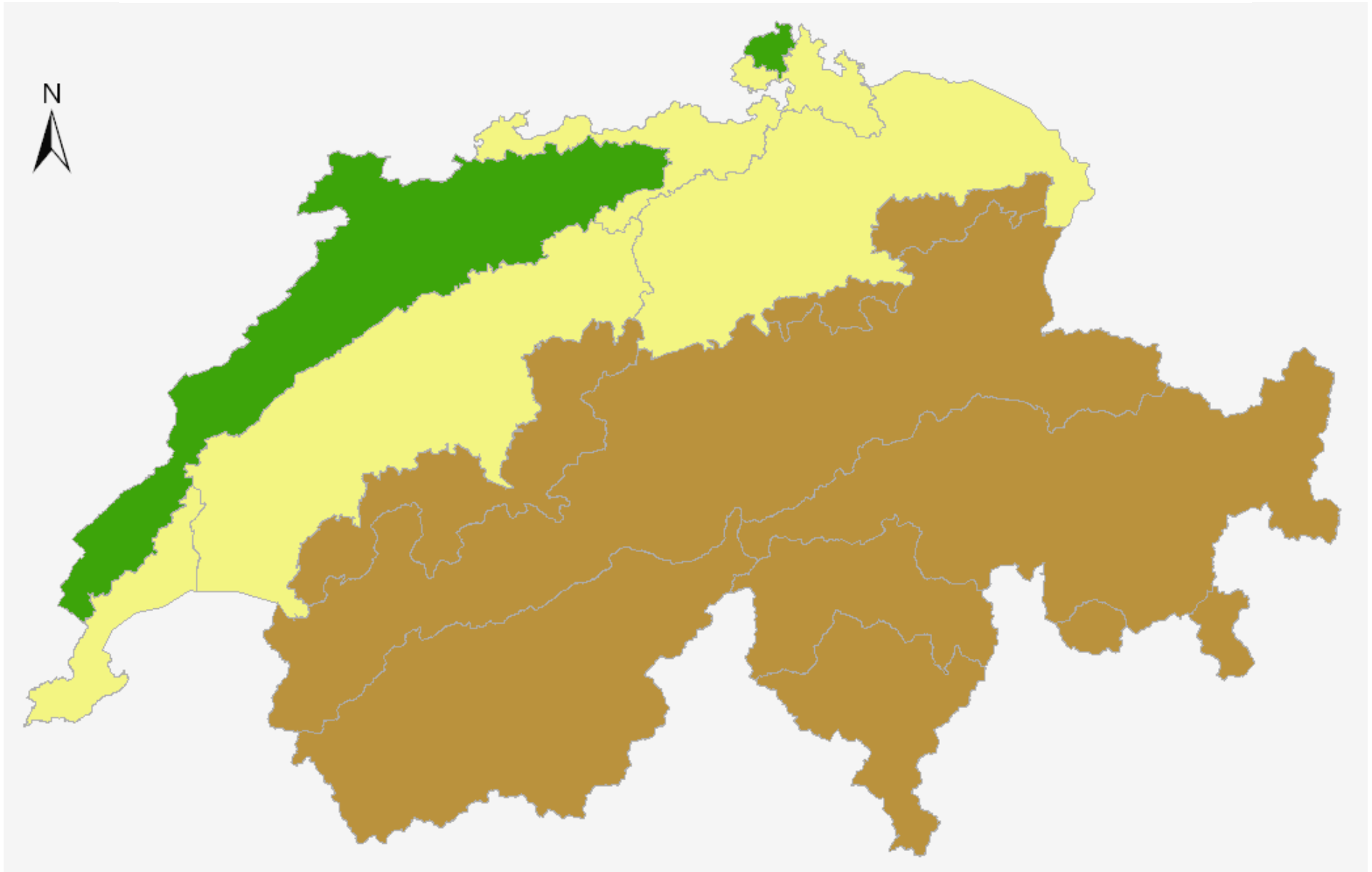
www.swisswine.ch

Suisse, Naturelement.



# Geographic regions in Switzerland

The three main geographic regions:  Jura  Plateau  Alps





# Viticulture in Switzerland

14'569 ha (0.2% world surface area)



1:675,000  
Km 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 Km  
Miles 0 10 20 30 40 Miles

World Atlas of Wine	
P251	Switzerland Regional
MAP 000	

# Grapes possibly cultivated before the Roman era

Grape pips from the archaeological site Gamsen/Waldmatte near Brig/Valais (800-500 BC)





# Roman era

## Roman pruning knives in Valais (2<sup>nd</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> AD)





# Heroic viticulture

**Vaud – Lavaux UNESCO heritage**



**High cost of labour**

**Ticino**



**Valais**

**400-2000 hrs/ha  
[Bordeaux 300]**



**Zurich**





# International recognition



Wine Spectator  
www.winespectator.com



Decanter  
the world's best wine magazine

Forbes  
.com

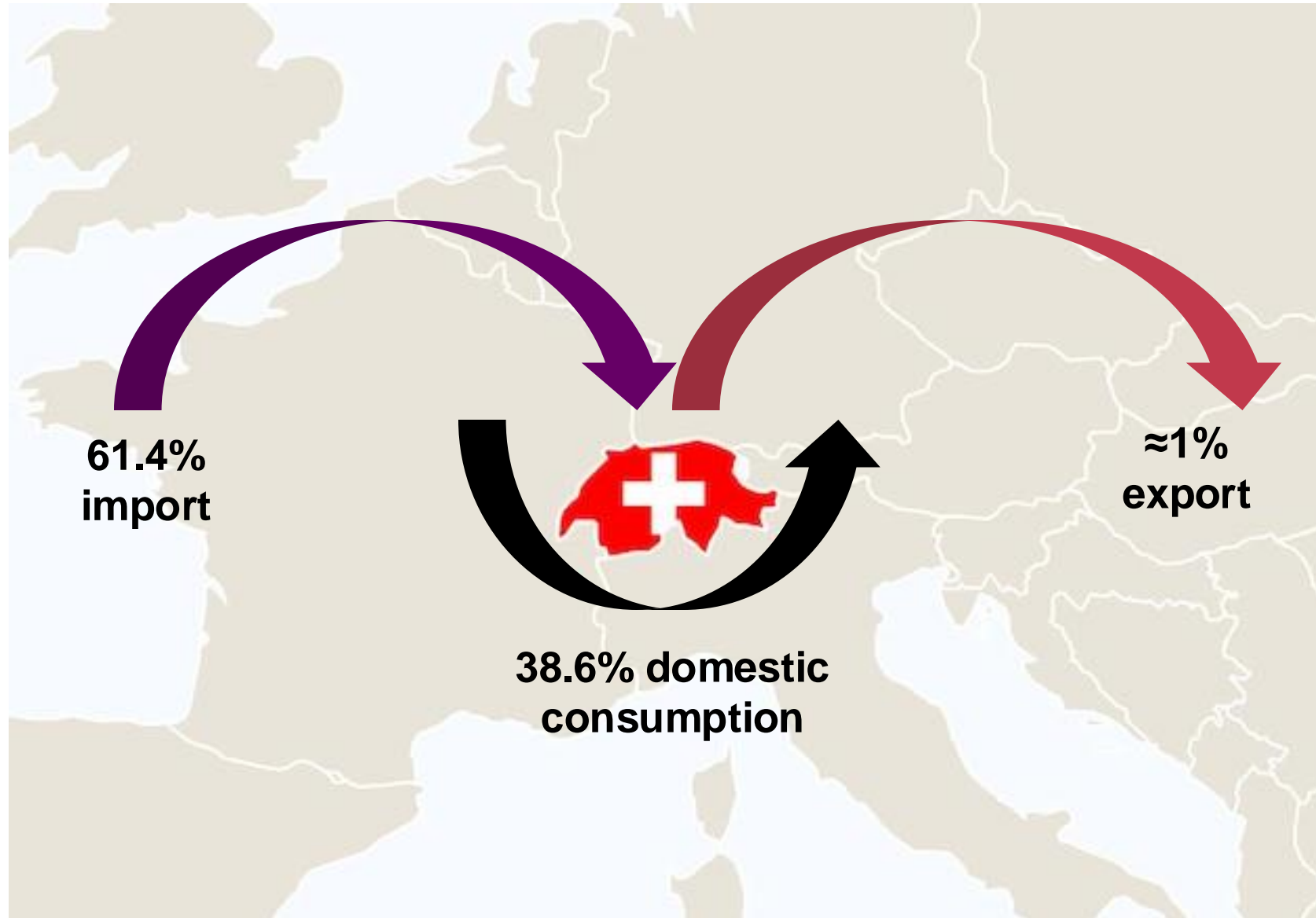
The  
New York  
Times

Jancis Robinson  
JancisRobinson.com

THE WORLD OF  
FINE WINE



# Import, export and consumption (2023)



# Import, export and consumption (2023)

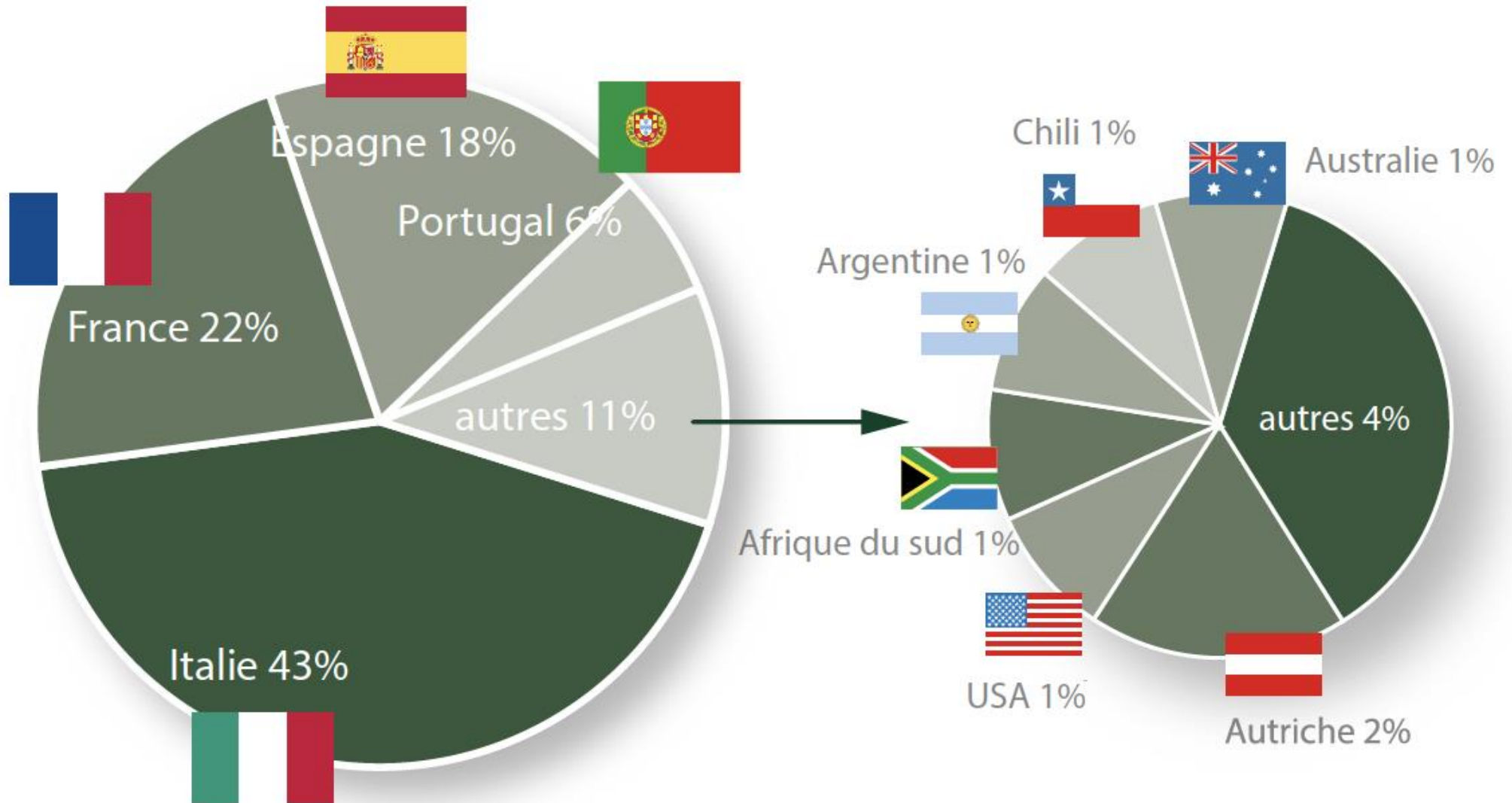


Figure 3-1: Importation par pays (total)

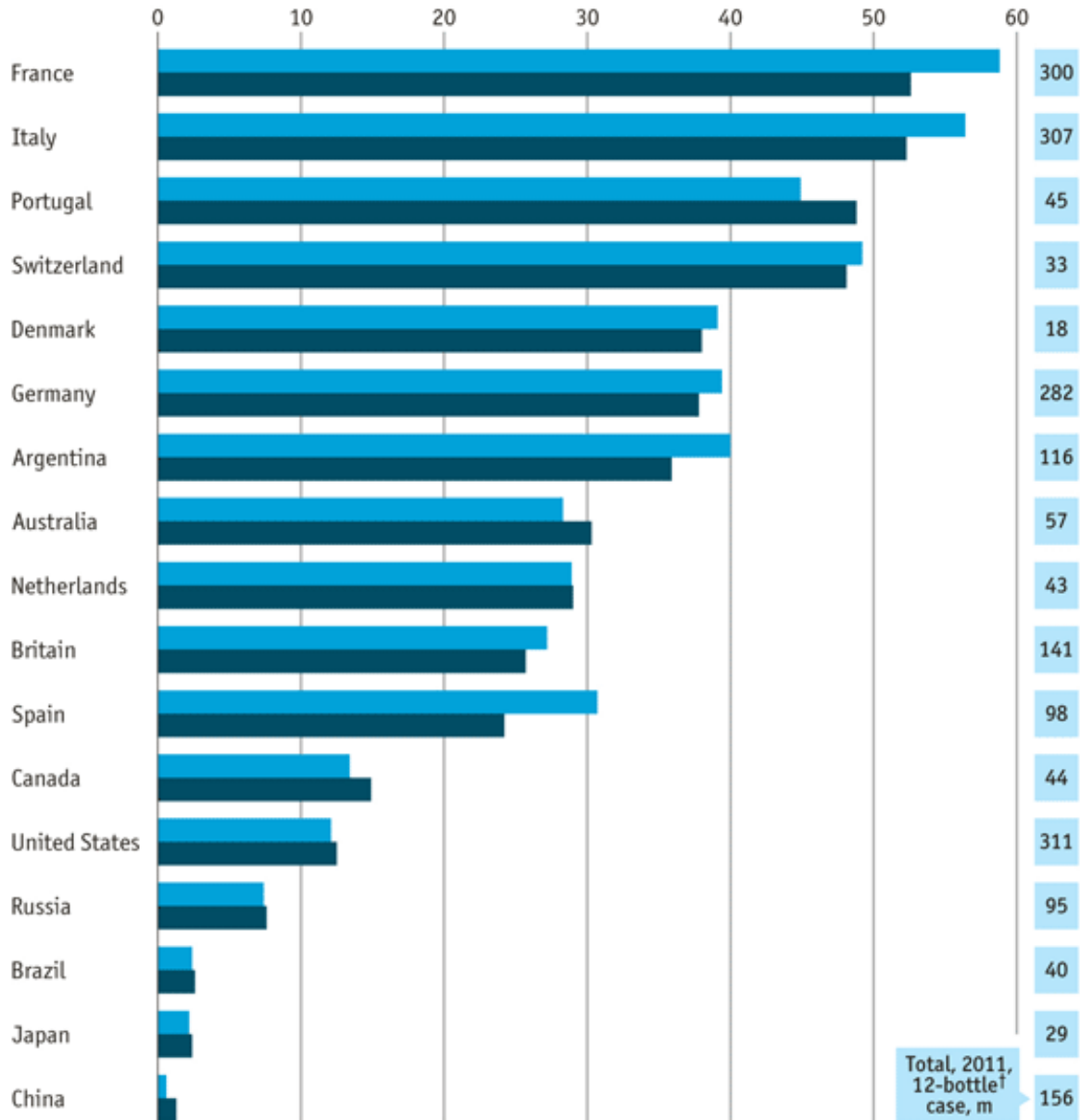


## Wine consumption

Selected countries, still and sparkling, litres per person\*

2007

2011



Sources: Vinexpo; International Wine & Spirit Research

\*Of legal drinking age †750ml



# Importation, exportation and consumption

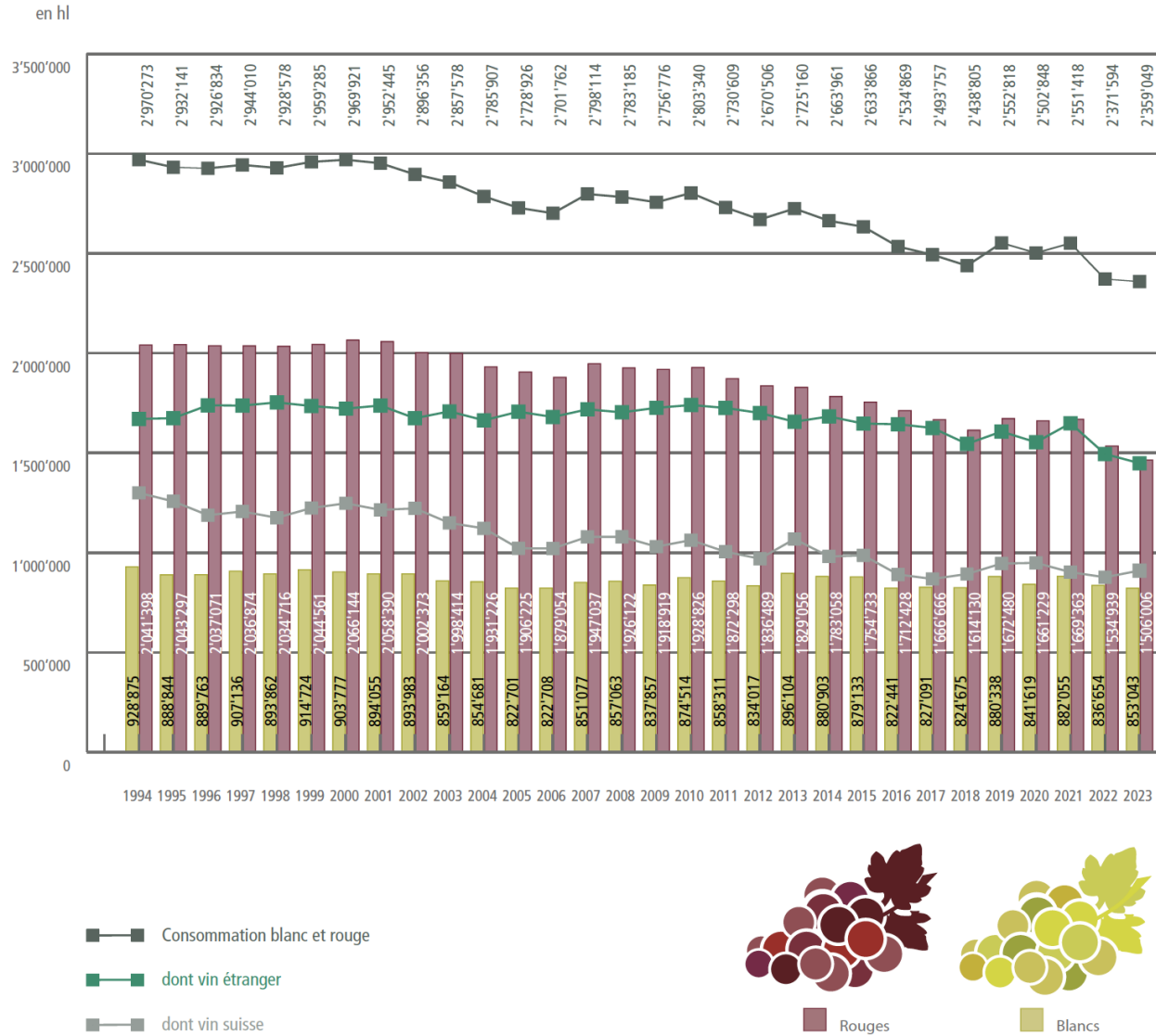


Figure 6-3: Évolution de la consommation de vin en Suisse





# 168 authorized varieties in the Swiss AOC

(out of 252)

<b>Canton</b>	<b>AOC</b>
Zurich	85
Vaud	66
Bâle-Campagne, Bâle-Ville, Soleure	62
Appenzell RE et RI, Glaris, Saint-Gall et Schaffhouse	60
Lac de Bienne	58
Valais	57
Argovie	56
Grisons	52
Autres cantons	52
Genève	49
Lucerne	48
Fribourg	45
Schwytz	31
Lac de Thoune	27
Tessin	24
Neuchâtel	12



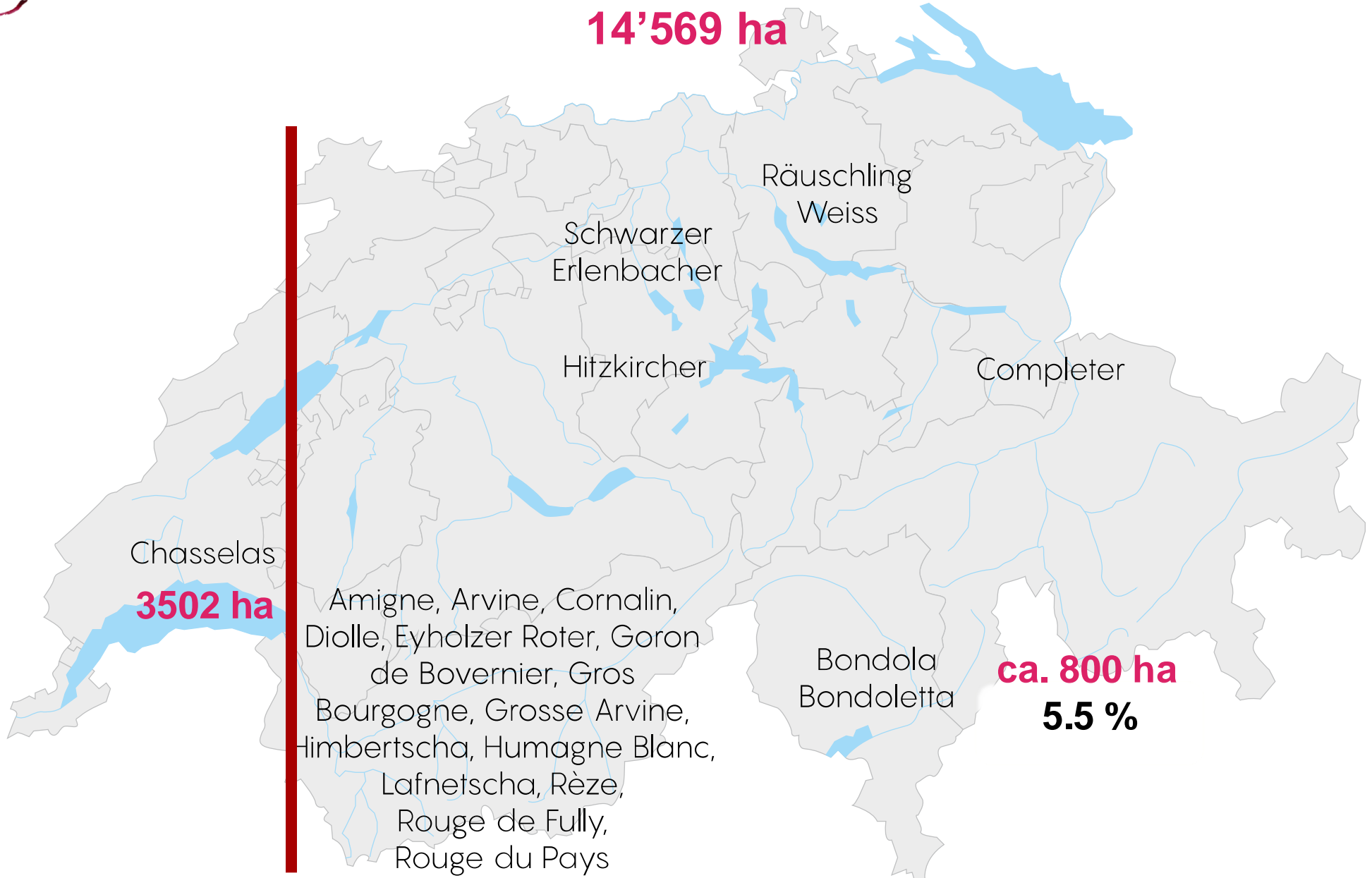
# Three categories of wine grape varieties

<b>Indigenous (born in Switzerland)</b>	<b>Traditionnal (introduced &lt;1900)</b>	<b>Allogenuous (introduced &gt;1900)</b>
80	23	150
<b>Heritage</b>	Pinot	Syrah
21	Gamay	Viognier
<b>Crossings</b>	Sylvaner	Nebbiolo
16	Muscat	Dunkelfelder
<b>Hybrids</b>	Savagnin	Aligoté
43	etc.	etc.



# 21 heritage grape varieties in Switzerland

14'569 ha



# Recent crossings @ Agroscope National Research Station



Variety	Crossing	Year	Ha	Aim
Charmont	Chasselas × Chardonnay	1965	10	↑ sugar in Chasselas
Doral	Chasselas × Chardonnay	1965	35	↑ sugar in Chasselas
Divona	Gamaret × Bronner	2018	13	↑ Resistance to Botrytis, Mildews
Gamaret	Reichensteiner × Gamay	1970	430	↑ Anthocyanins, Botrytis resistance
Garanoir	Reichensteiner × Gamay	1970	228	↑ Anthocyanins, Botrytis resistance
Mara	Reichensteiner × Gamay	1970	13	↑ Anthocyanins, Botrytis resistance
Diolinoir	Pinot Noir × Robin Noir	1970	125	↑ Anthocyanins
Galotta	Ancellotta × Gamay	1981	46	↑ Anthocyanins
Carminoir	Cabernet Sauvignon × Pinot	1982	11	↑ Ripeness, Botrytis resistance
Divico	Gamaret × Bronner	1996	30	↑ Resistance to Botrytis, Mildews
<b>Total</b>			<b>928</b>	<b>6.3% of the surfaces</b>

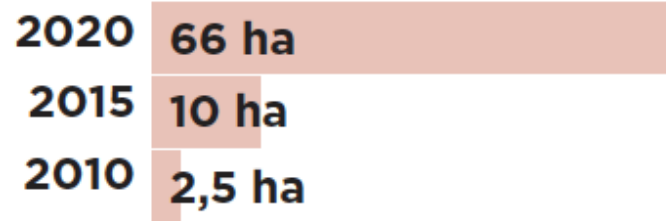


# PIWIs in Switzerland

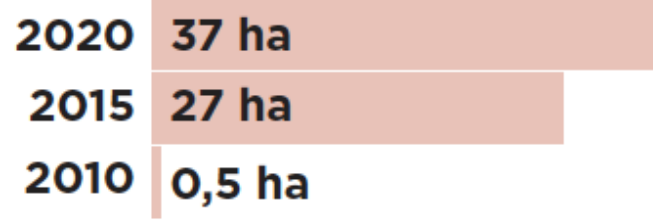
Resistant interspecific hybrids – 2.5% of Swiss vineyards

## REDS

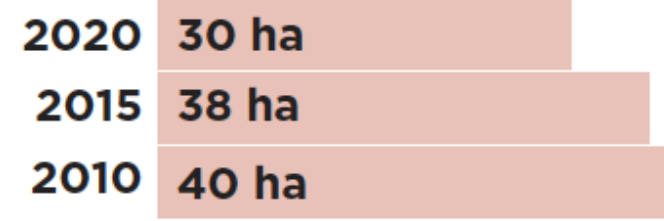
### DIVICO



### CABERNET JURA

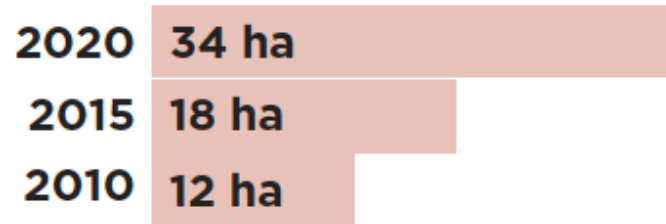


### REGENT

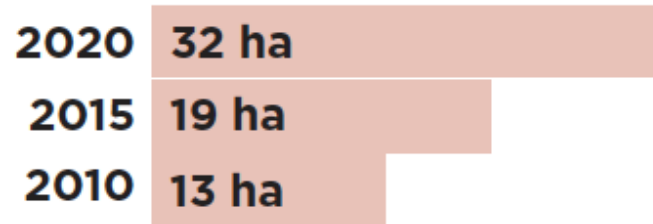


## WHITES

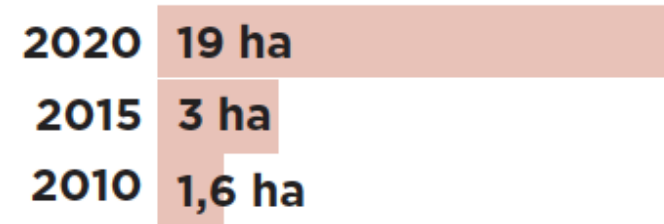
### JOHANNITER



### SOLARIS



### SOUVIGNIER GRIS

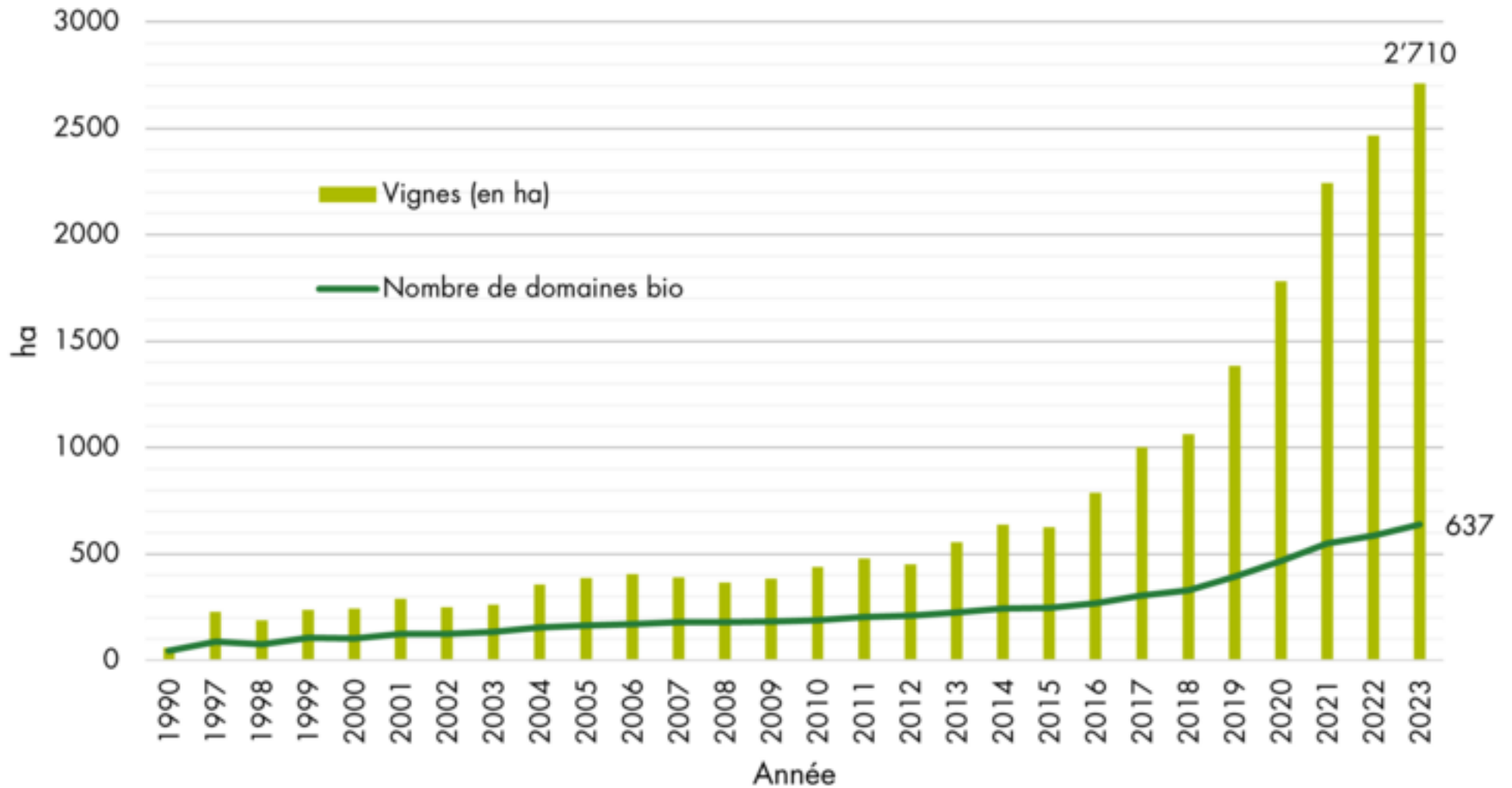


Source: Swiss Wine Promotion



# Organic viticulture

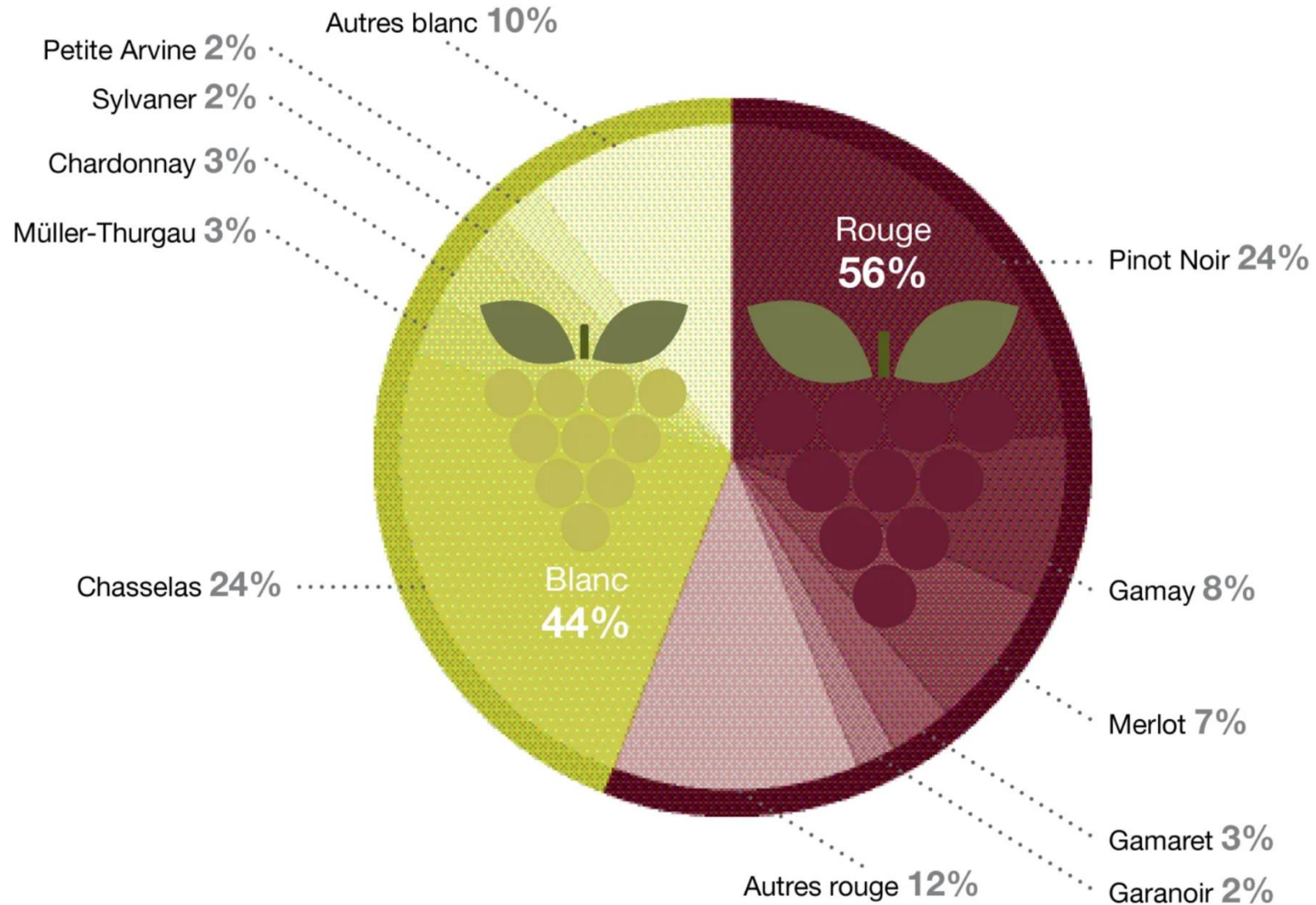
## Développement de la viticulture biologique



Source: OFAG



# Grape varieties cultivated in Switzerland



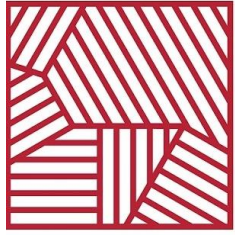


# Presentation plan

- Introduction to Swiss wines and grapes
- **Introduction to Valais wines and grapes**
- History and origin of a few grapes in Valais
- Wine tourism in Valais



# Valais – Wines and grapes



## SWISS WINE VALAIS

60 %  
40 %

42 m kg/y

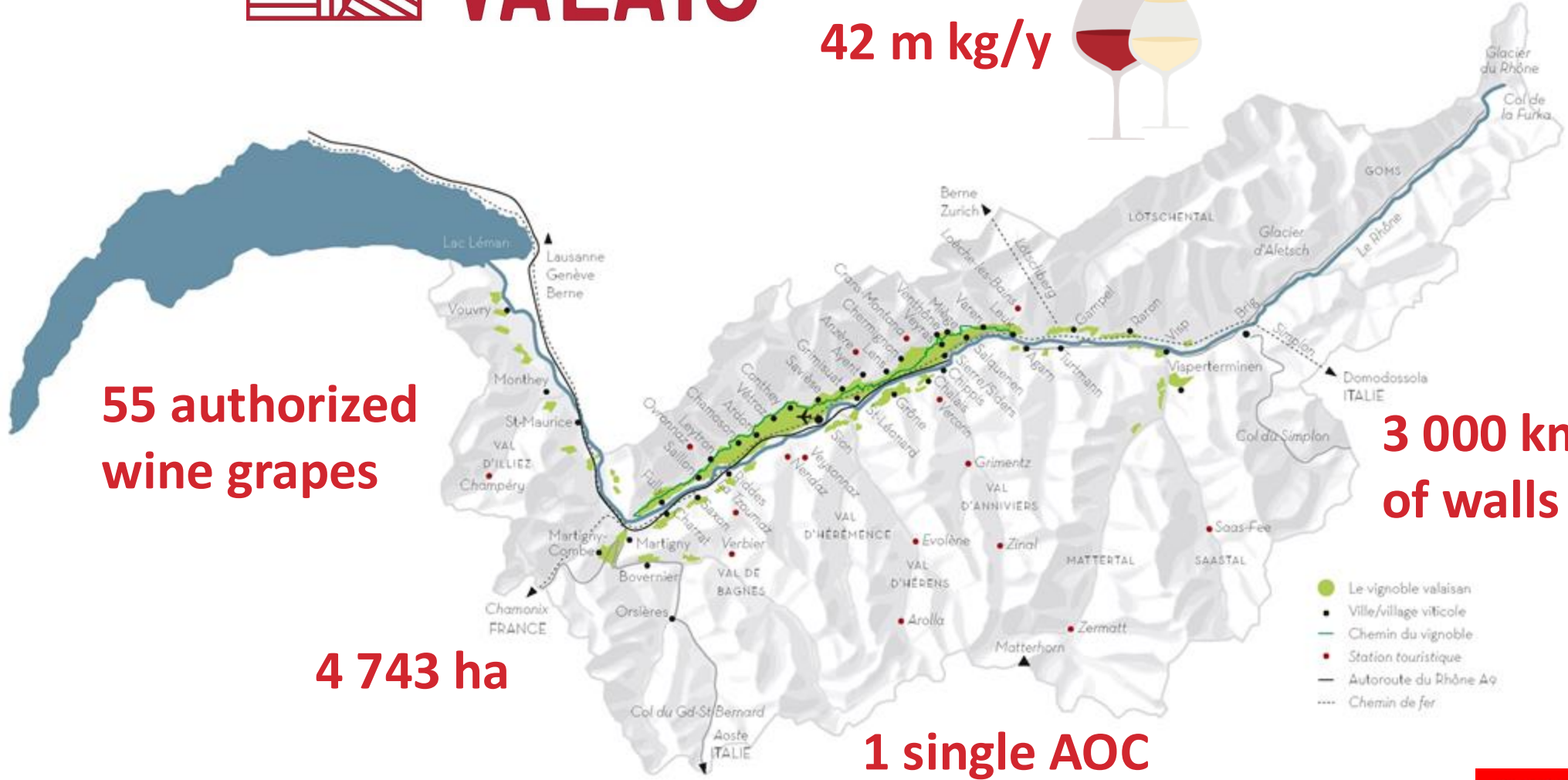


55 authorized  
wine grapes

4 743 ha

3 000 km  
of walls

1 single AOC

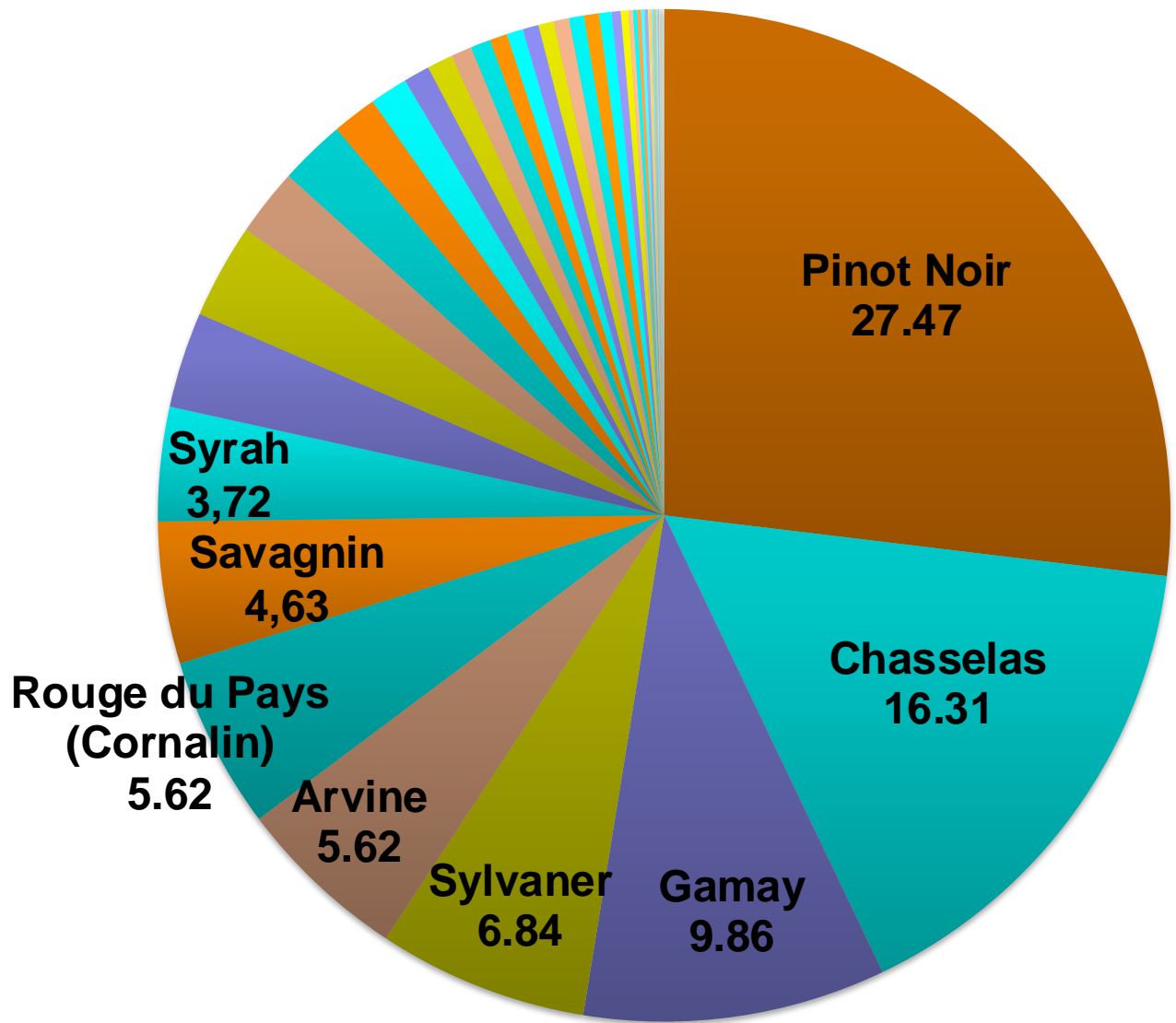


- Le vignoble valaisan
- Ville/village viticole
- Chemin du vignoble
- Station touristique
- Autoroute du Rhône A9
- Chemin de fer



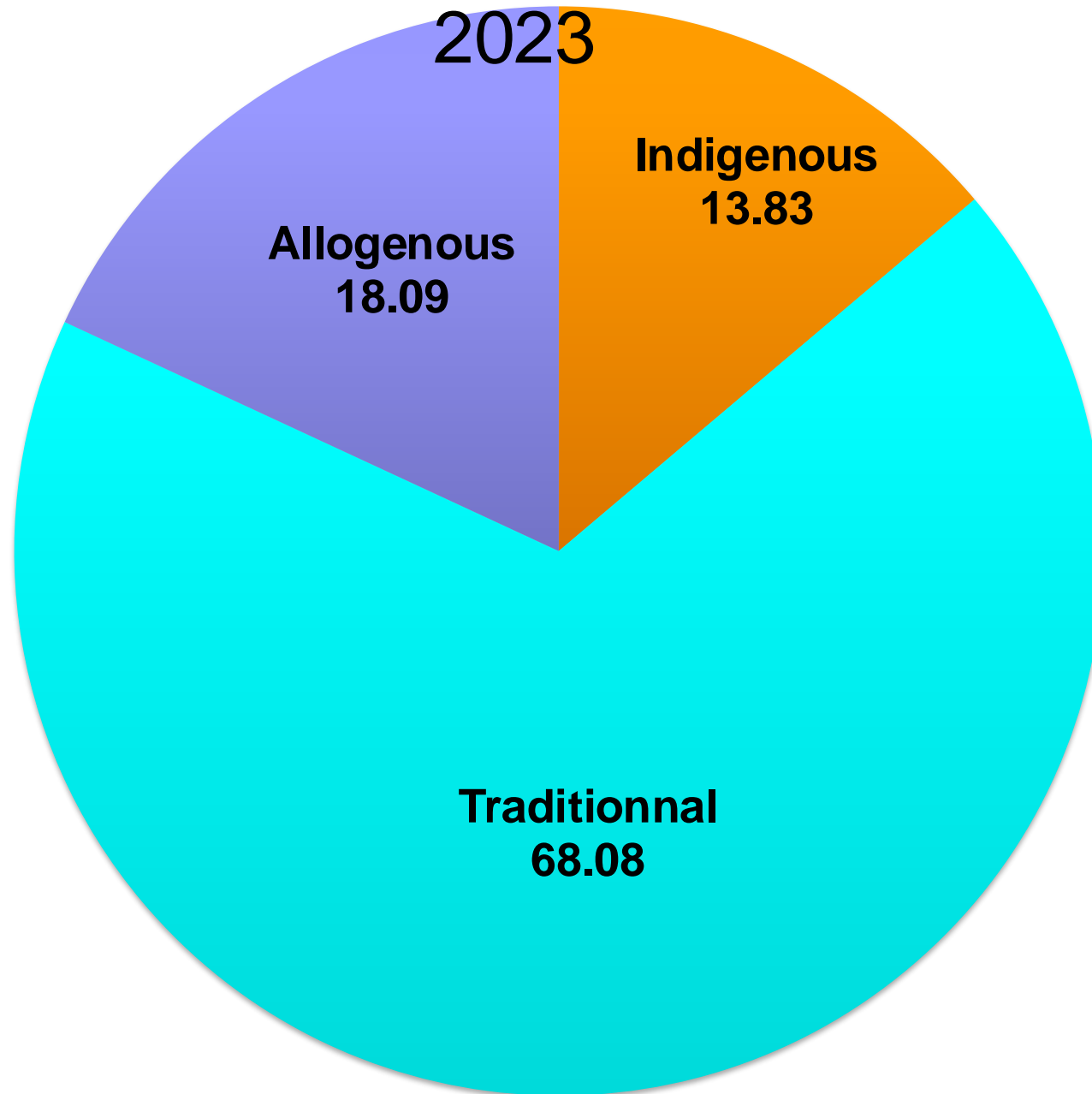



# Major grape varieties in Valais [ha] in 2023a





# Bearing area of grapes [%] in Valais in





# Valais / 4812 ha / > 62 grape varieties / 55 in AOC

(33 w/24 r)

14 indigenous	12 traditionnal (<1900)	36 allogenuous (>1900)		
<b>Amigne</b>	<b>Chasselas/Fendant</b>	<b>Aligoté</b>	<b>Diolinoir</b>	<b>Millot-Foch</b>
<b>Arvine</b>	<b>Completer</b>	<b>Altesse</b>	<b>Divico</b>	<b>Mondeuse Noire</b>
<b>Cornalin</b>	<b>Gamay</b>	<b>Ancellotta</b>	<b>Doral</b>	<b>Müller-Thurgau (Riesling-Sylvaner)</b>
<b>Diolle*</b>	<b>Gouais Blanc</b>			
<b>Eyholzer Rote</b>	<b>Marsanne/Ermitage</b>	<b>Bianca</b>	<b>Dunkelfelder</b>	<b>Pinot Blanc</b>
<b>Goron de Bovernier*</b>	<b>Moscato Giallo</b>	<b>Bronner</b>	<b>Fumin</b>	<b>Regent</b>
<b>Gros Bourgogne*</b>	<b>Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains</b>	<b>Cabernet Franc</b>	<b>Galotta</b>	<b>Roussanne</b>
<b>Grosse Arvine*</b>		<b>Cabernet Sauvignon</b>	<b>Gamaret</b>	<b>Sauvignon Blanc</b>
<b>Himbertscha</b>	<b>Pinot Gris/Malvoisie</b>			
<b>Humagne Blanc</b>	<b>Pinot Noir</b>	<b>Carminoir</b>	<b>Garanoir</b>	<b>Sémillon</b>
<b>Lafnetscha</b>	<b>Riesling</b>	<b>Chardonnay</b>	<b>Gewürztraminer</b>	<b>Solaris</b>
<b>Rèze</b>	<b>Sylvaner/Johannisberg</b>	<b>Charmont</b>	<b>Johanniter</b>	<b>Syrah</b>
<b>Rouge de Fully</b>	<b>Savagnin/Heida/Paiën</b>	<b>Chenin Blanc</b>	<b>Léon Millot</b>	<b>Tannat</b>
<b>Rouge du Pays</b>	<b>*not AOC</b>	<b>Dakane</b>	<b>Merlot</b>	<b>Viognier</b>



# Presentation plan

- Introduction to Swiss wines and grapes
- Introduction to Valais wines and grapes
- **History and origin of a few grapes in Valais**
- Wine tourism in Valais



# History and origin of a few grapes in Valais

**Chasselas**

**Arvine**

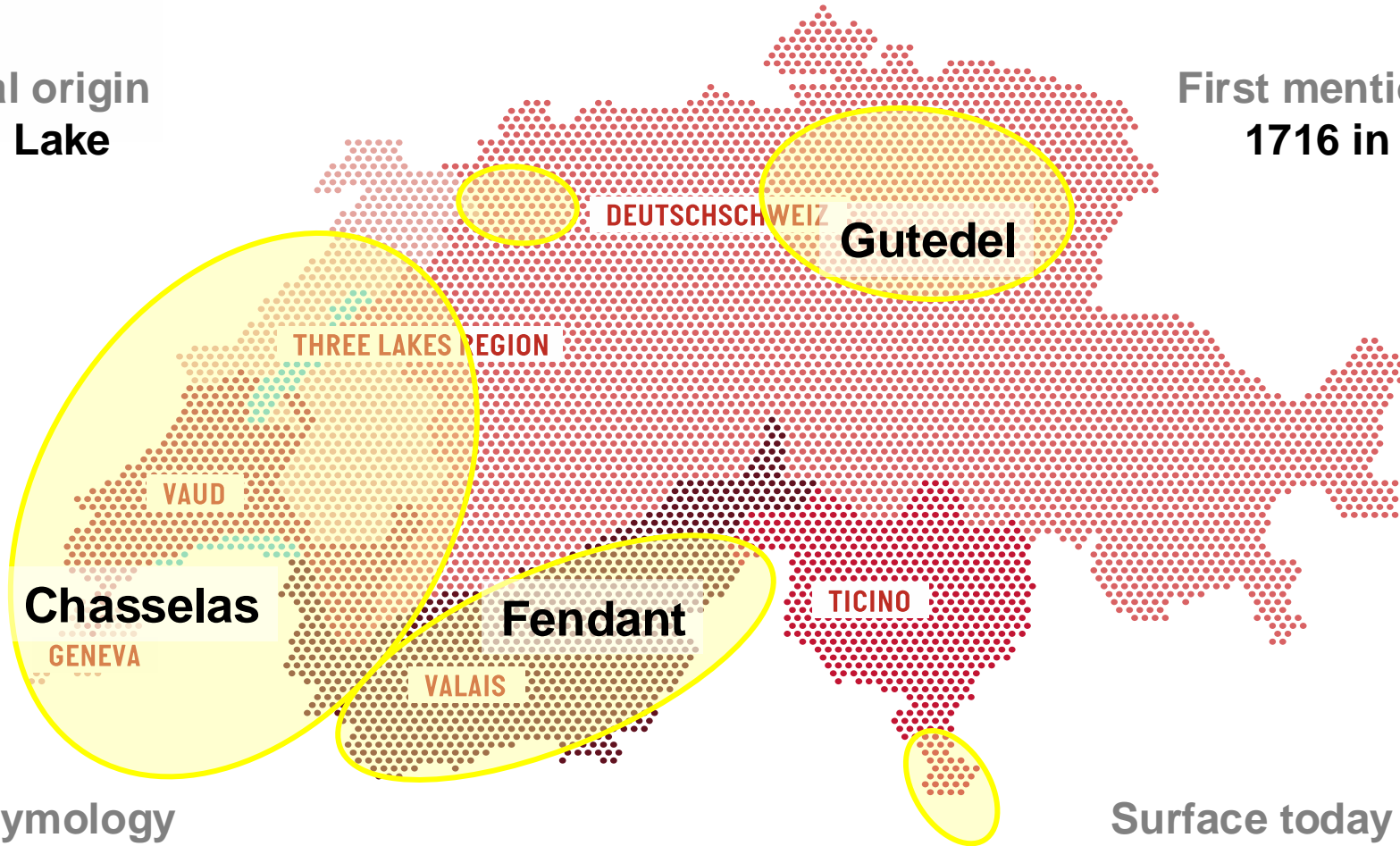
**Pinot/Gamay**



# Chasselas

Historical origin  
Leman Lake

First mention in CH  
1716 in Vaud



Etymology  
Village near Mâcon (F)

Surface today in CH  
3734 ha



# Earliest mentions

**1612**  
Fendans  
Fendant  
Lausannois

**1654**  
Chasselas

**1716**  
Fendant

**1848**  
Fendant



# Two main types of Chasselas



«*Fendant*»



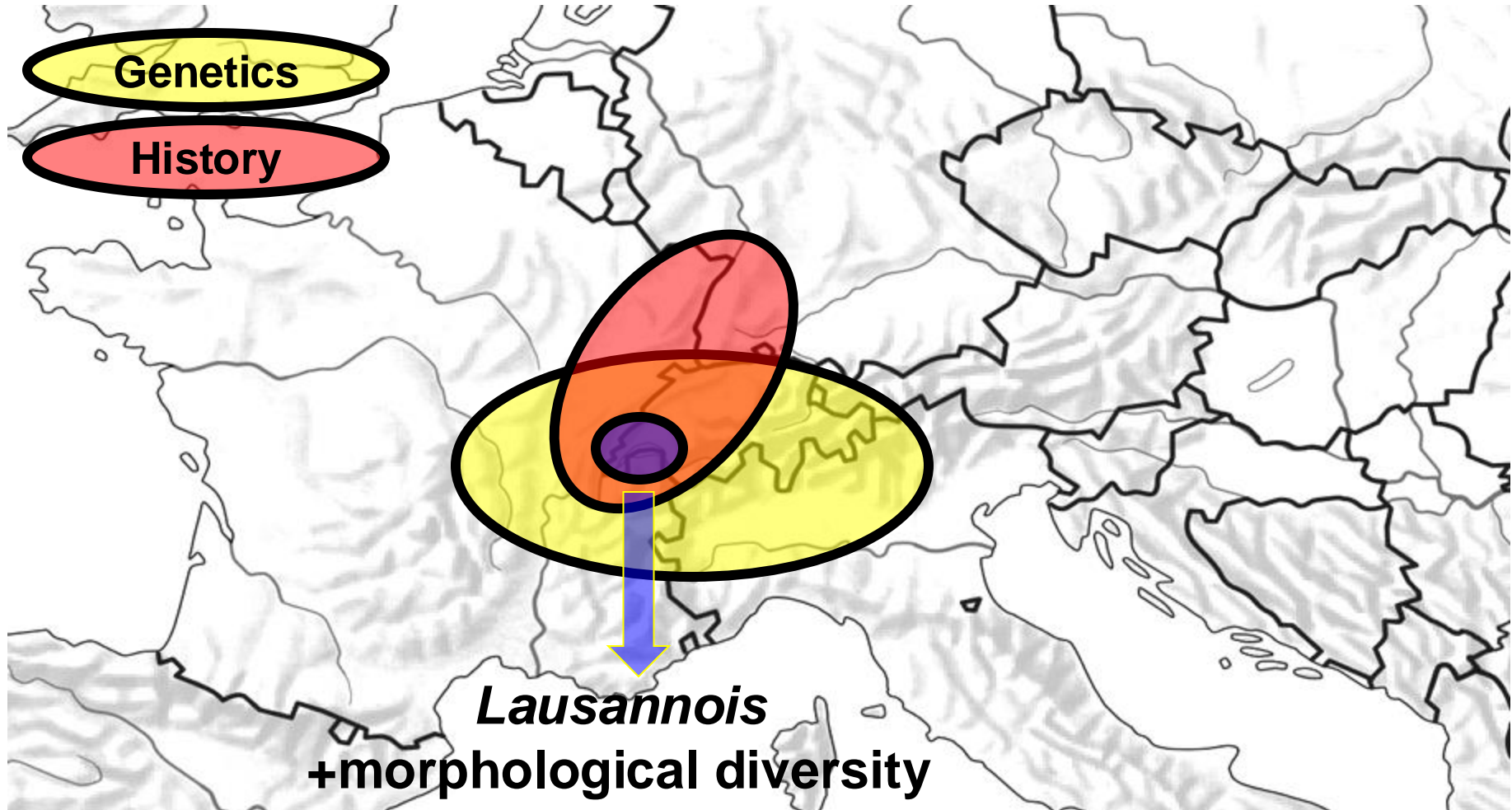
«*Giclet*»

Consistance de la pulpe



# Cradle of Chasselas

*511 varieties, 18 countries, 11 DNA regions*



**Vuillamoz & Arnold 2009. Etude historico-génétique de l'origine du 'Chasselas'.  
*Revue suisse Vitic. Arboric. Hortic.* 41(5):299-307**



# **History and origin of a few grapes in Valais**

**Chasselas**

**Arvine**

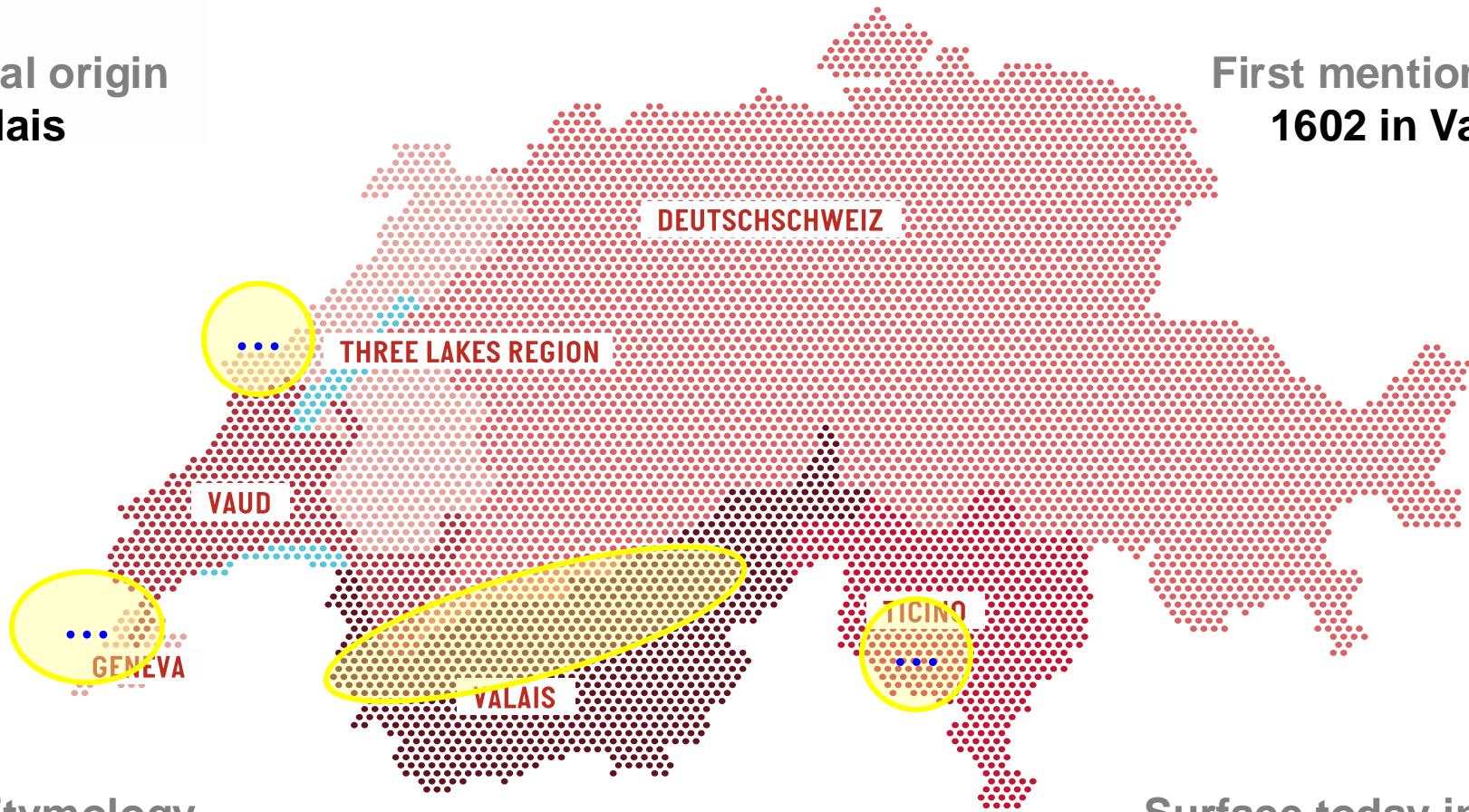
**Pinot/Gamay**



# Arvine

Historical origin  
**Valais**

First mention in CH  
**1602 in Valais**



Etymology  
*arvena*

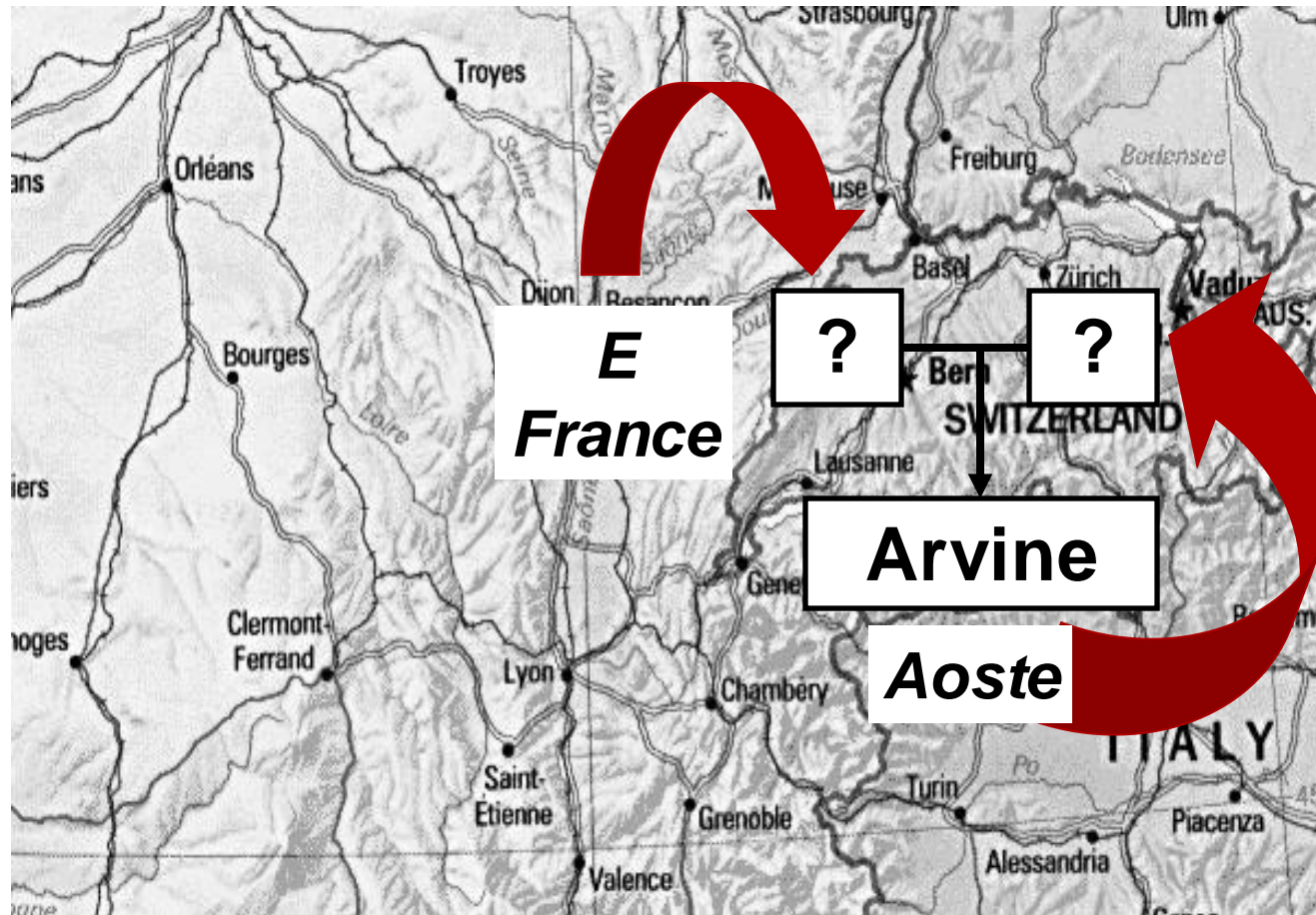
'advenir' = just arrived

Surface today in CH  
**166 ha**



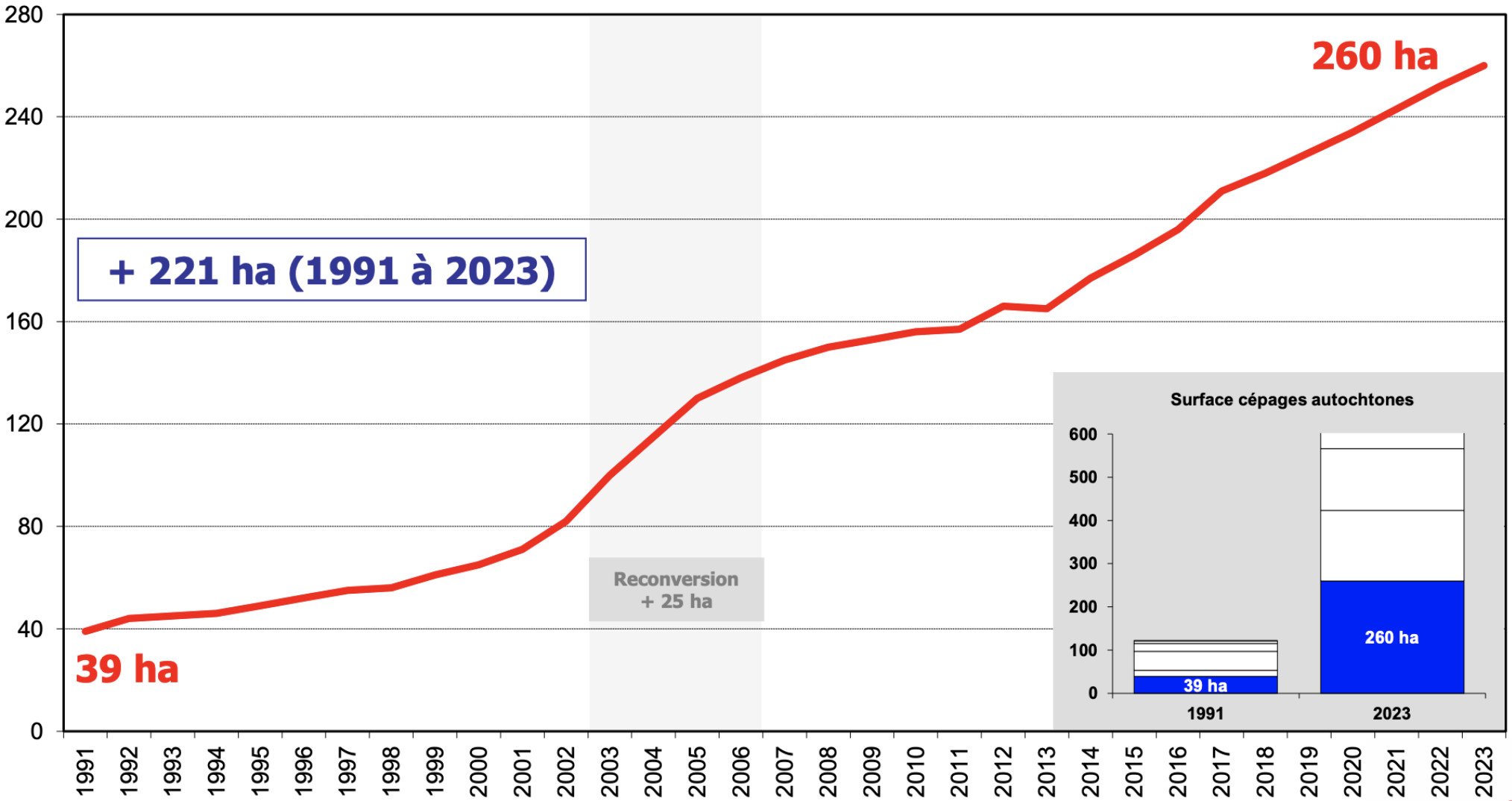
# Arvine – DNA parentage analysis

## Lost parents – orphan variety





# Evolution of the bearing area of Arvine in Valais





# History and origin of a few grapes in Valais

**Chasselas**

**Arvine**

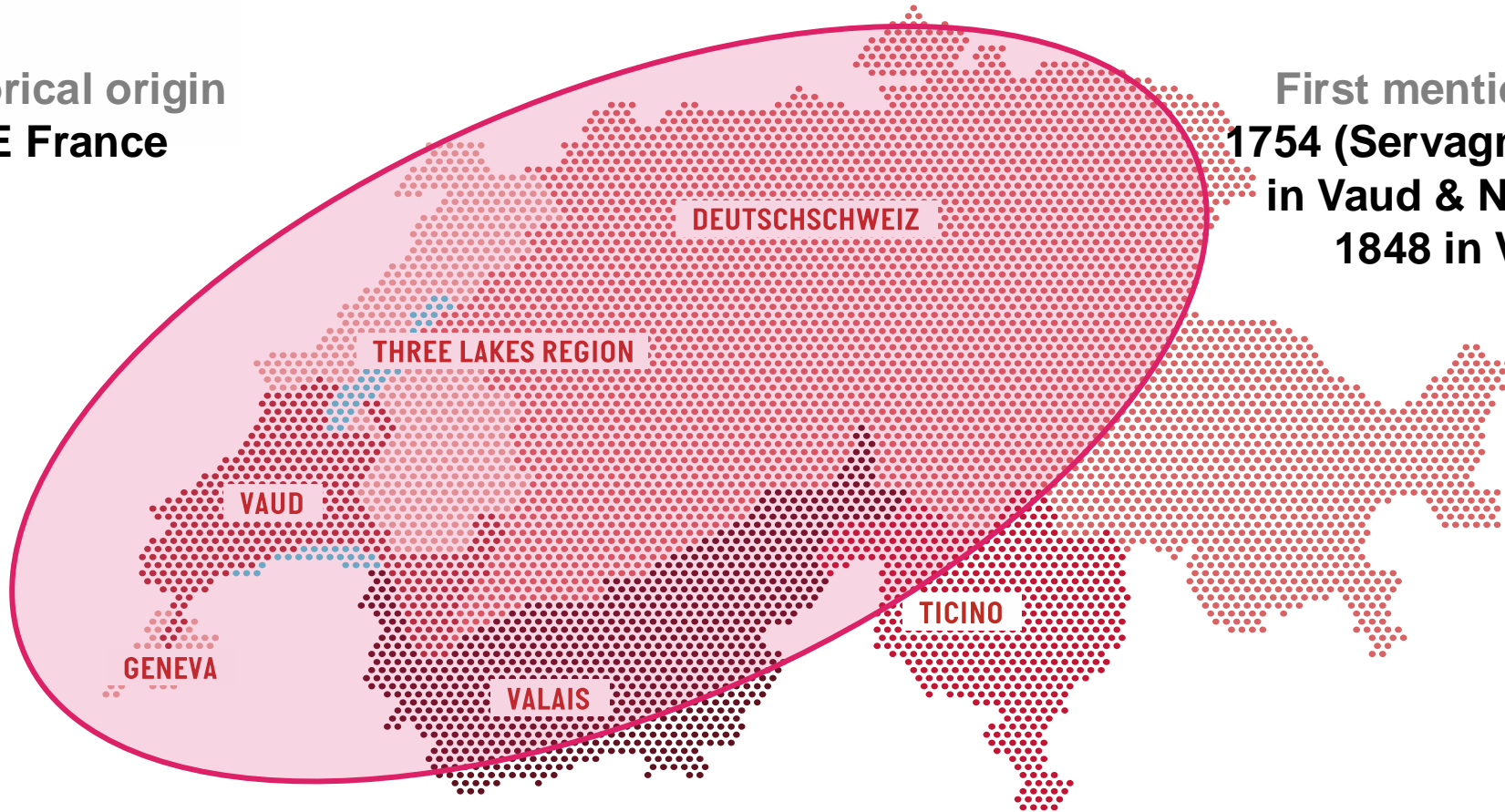
**Pinot/Gamay**



# Pinot

Historical origin  
NE France

First mention in CH  
1754 (Servagnin, Técu)  
in Vaud & Neuchâtel  
1848 in Valais



Etymology  
Pine cone  
Pignols (Auvergne)

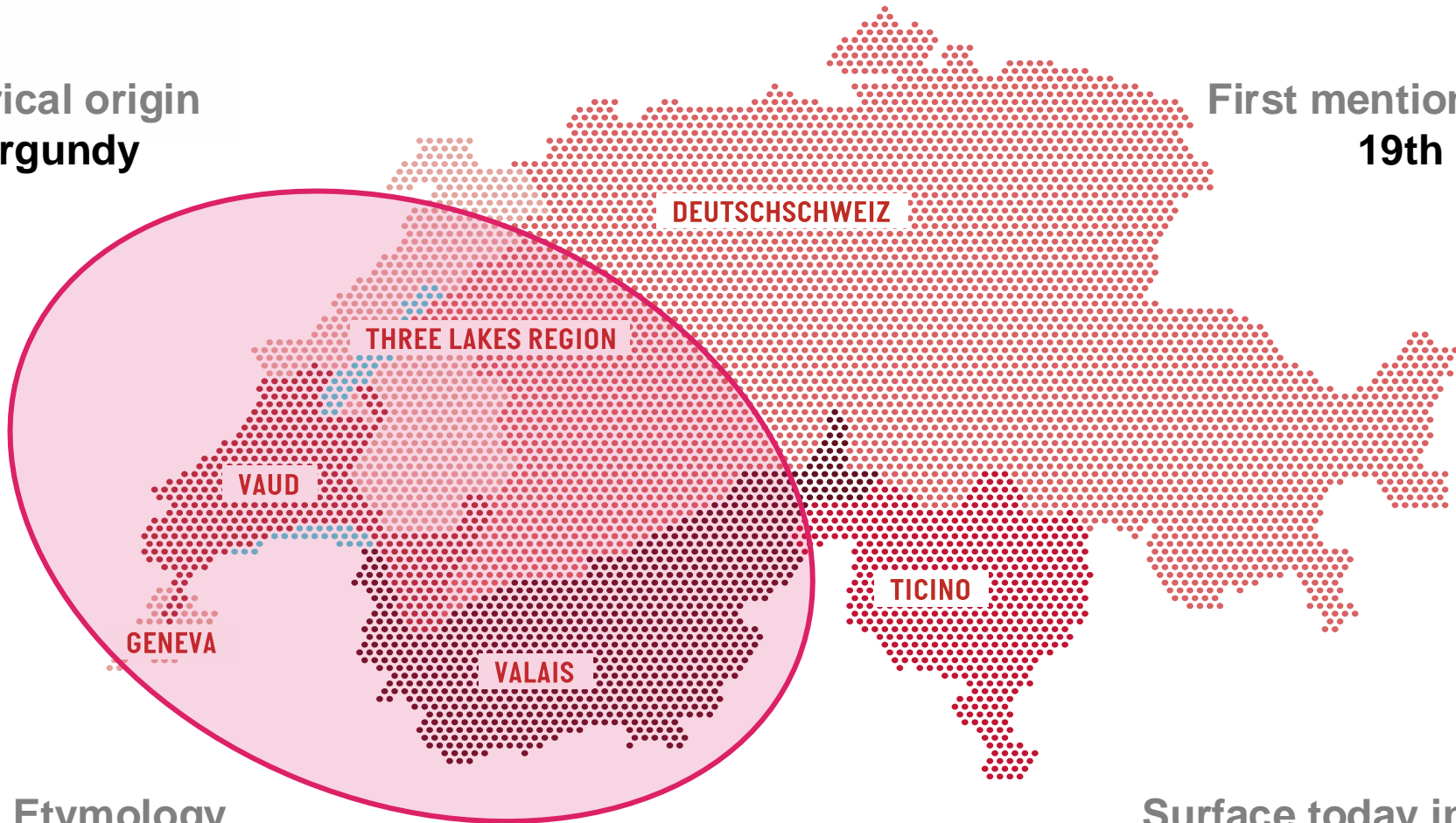
Surface today in CH  
3757 ha



# Gamay

**Historical origin**  
**Burgundy**

**First mention in CH**  
**19th**



**Etymology**  
**Gamay near Saint-Aubin**  
**in the Côte d'Or**

**Surface today in CH**  
**1'381 ha**



# Gamay et Chardonnay – Full-siblings

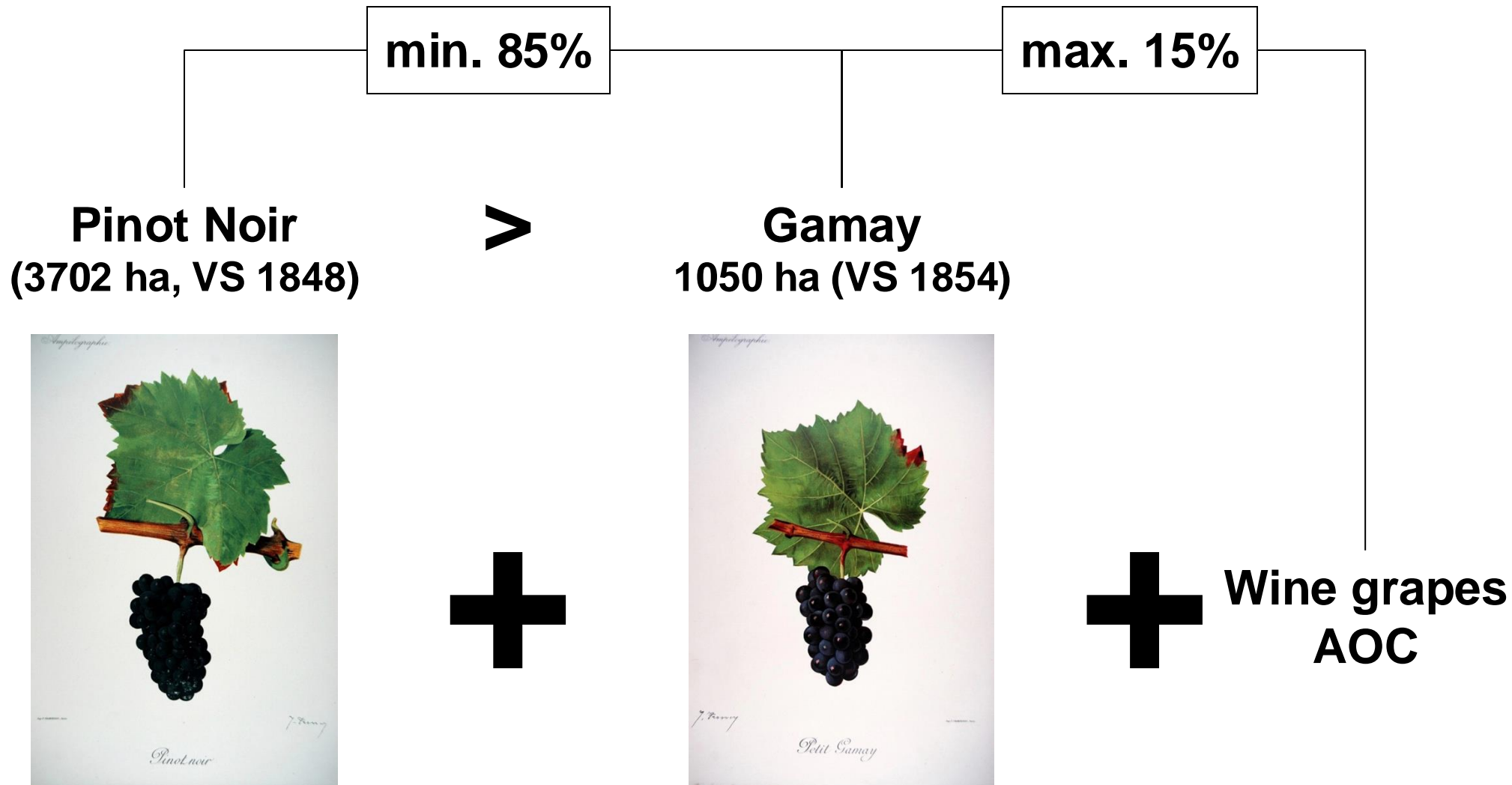


**Bowers *et al.* 1999. Historical genetics: the parentage of Chardonnay, Gamay, and other wine grapes of Northeastern France. *Science* 285:1562-1565**



# Dôle

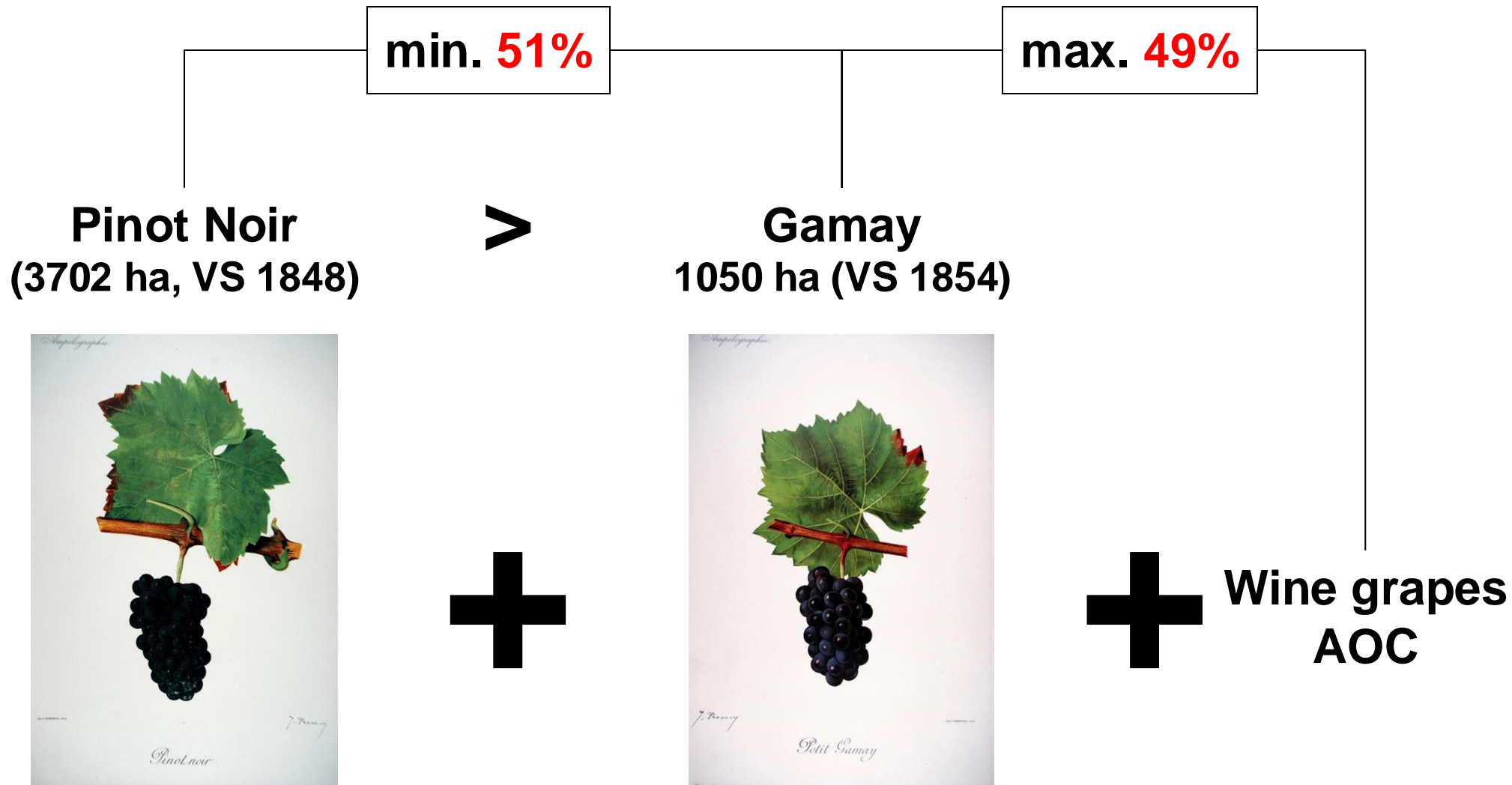
## Regulation before 2021





# Dôle

## Regulation after 2021





# Dôle – current promotional campaign



Suisse. Naturellement.



# Wine event in Valais – Caves Ouvertes

09 – 11 mai 2024



Caves Ouvertes  
des Vins du Valais



Suisse. Naturellement.



# Presentation plan

- Introduction to Swiss wines and grapes
- Introduction to Valais wines and grapes
- History and origin of a few grapes in Valais
- **Wine tourism in Valais**



# Wine tourism in Valais





# Wine tourism in Valais

32<sup>e</sup> Marche des Cépages  
Rebsortenwanderung





# Wine tourism in Valais

## BALADE À VÉLO ENTRE MARTIGNY ET SION

Itinéraire facile sur le chemin du Vignoble





# Wine tourism in Valais – «tavolata»

## La Tavolata des vins du Valais

Valais wines deserve unique experiences !

Discover our wines as a vehicle for friendship by sitting down to one of the tavolata at Swiss Wine Valais.

A rendezvous with the **MADE IN VALAIS** art of living in August 2024



SWISS WINE

Suisse. Naturellement.



# Wine tourism in Valais – dry stone walls

3000 km

1500 ha



**Hikes and  
lunch  
surrounded by  
the stone walls**



# Wine tourism in Valais – «bisses»





# Wine tourism in Valais – obstacles

**Tradition of free tasting...  
because paid tastings are forbidden by law...**



**...unless you have a restaurant licence!**



# **Wine tourism in Valais – obstacles**

- **Land use planning**
- **Regional offers by private winemakers**
- **Regional events**
- **Lack of funds**
- **Lack of coordination for wine tourism**



# Open questions

- **Does grape diversity create identity?**
- **Do we need less varieties in AOCs?**
- **Do we need more hybrids?**
- **Do we need to focus on indigenous grapes?**
- **Do we need to develop wine tourism?**



# Takeaway – Switzerland and Valais

- **Unique grape varieties**
- **Diversity of grapes and climates**
- **Great potential for wine tourism**
- **Great potential for export**
- **Great potential of organic production**
- **More sustainable viticulture**
- **Overcome the difficulties in joining forces...**



Be smart, drink Swiss wines !



**SWISS WINE**

@JoseGrapes -  
[www.josevouillamoz.com](http://www.josevouillamoz.com)