



## CHARTRAND IMPORTS

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Chartrand Imports began importing organically grown French wines to the U.S. in 1985. It was the first company to import and sell a complete line of organic wines nationwide. Paul Chartrand, president and founder, worked in the natural foods and organic farming movement after studying chemical engineering at Columbia University. He discovered many wonderful European organic wines while working as an apprentice on French organic farms and vineyards in 1982. Since then, he has been developing relationships with Europe's finest organic wine makers to bring their wines to the United States.

Chartrand Imports sells wines that are certified organically grown by an independent third party verification. In France there are three such organizations with the same standards: Ecocert, Ulase and Qualite France. They work with standards approved by the French Ministry of Agriculture for the sale of foods organically grown, or "biologique".

Organic wines are produced using only organically grown grapes. Synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are not allowed on the vines or in the soil. Strict rules also govern the winemaking process and storage conditions. Only pure sulfur dioxide is used as an antioxidant, and amounts allowed are far less than common usage in Europe or the U.S. Sulfur dioxide has been used for centuries in winemaking and without this harmless treatment, a winemaker risks producing an inconsistent or extremely fragile wine. Chartrand Imports offers several wines that are made with no added sulfur, in addition to the full line of organic, low sulfite wines.

Many people find organic wines to be more drinkable and flavorful than wines made by more industrial standards. The healthy soil contributes to a rich and full flavored wine, balanced and requiring no extra additives. The farmers choose organic methods to obtain the ripest and richest grapes possible. Their wines reflect that dedication.

Chartrand Imports offers over 70 organic French, Italian and Spanish wines as well as organic wines from the New World: California, Washington, South America and New Zealand. Chartrand Imports will gladly help restaurants and stores obtain these wines through wholesale distributors throughout the U.S., and offer mail order service to individuals in most areas not served by retailers.