Ancient Rome 753BC -476AD | Six Dynasties of China 220-581 | Under King Charlemagne Europe unites 768 | Vikings discover and call North America Vinland 1000 | The "Great Schism" - Christian church splits into Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic 1054 | AlfonsoVIII becomes King of Castile and Toledo 1158 | Notre Dame Cathedral built in Paris 1163 | Oxford founded 1168 | 4th Crusade 1199 -1204

0AD — IRON AGE 1000BC—650AD — 1000 — VIKING AGE 793—1066 — 1110 — CRUSADES 1095—1291 — 1115 — MIDDLE AGES 500—1300 — 1125 — 2ND CRUSADE 1147—1149 — 1160 — BYZANTINE ERA 476—1453 — 1180 — 3RD CRUSADE 1189—1192

CISTERCIAN MONKS

480-547
St. Benedict writes his rule during his stays at Monte Cassino, Italy.

252-356
Saint Anthony of Egypt lived as a hermit in the desert and gradually gained followers who lived in hermitages nearby. Anthony became known as the "Father of Western Monasticism."

1075
The founding of Molesme, a Benedictine Abbey.

1096-1099
First Crusade
Jerusalem is re-taken from the Muslims on the urging of Pope Urban II (pictured). The Christian Crusades would last for two centuries aimed at recovering the Holy Land from Islamic rule in the Eastern Mediterranean.

1098
Cîteaux Abbey
On March 21st, twenty-one monks from the Molesme Abbey in Burgundy established the foundation of Cîteaux (pictured). The new abbey is settled in Dijon mainland, also called Cistercians (Latin) or Cîteaux (French), it is for this reason they are called The Order of Cistercians. Saint Robert is made 1st abbot of Cîteaux (pictured).

1099
St. Alberic, 2nd abbot of Cîteaux.

1106
Cîteaux's first stone church consecrated on November 16th.

1100's
Cîteaux's scriptorium was noted for its early Cistercian miniatures and manuscripts.

1109
St. Stephen Harding Becomes the 3rd abbot of Cîteaux.

1111
At at the age of 20, Bernard of Fontaines left his home to join the monastic community of Cîteaux. On June 25th, 1115 he is sent to found a daughter house of Cîteaux originally called Claire Vallée that evolved into Clairvaux.

In 1119 Hugh of Champagne gives the land to the Cistercians for the founding of Clairvaux Abbey.

1113
In April, St. Bernard of Clairvaux with 30 companions enter Cîteaux and make four foundations:

- Abbey of La Ferte founded 1113
- Pontigny Abbey in 1114 (Above)
- Morimond Abbey on June 25th, 1115
- Clairvaux Abbey on June 25th 1115 (Below)

1115
Saint Bernard
First abbot of Clairvaux
Saint Bernard of Clairvaux was a French abbot and the most influential advocate of the Second Crusade.

1119
Charter of Charity
St. Stephen writes the first 'constitution' of the Cistercian Order

1119
Founding of the Knights Templar
Founded to protect Jerusalem and European pilgrims on their journey to the city. Becomes the most recognized and powerful military order during the Crusades. Nine men began this organization. Among the original knights was Andre de Montbard, an uncle of Bernard of Clairvaux.

1125
Tart Abbey Nuns
First monastery of Cistercian nuns established at Tart, France

1127
The Rule
Council of Troyes asks Bernard of Clairvaux to write the rule, 'In Praise of the New Knighthood,' for the Knights Templar.

1147-1149
The "Cistercian Crusade"
The 2nd crusade was preached by St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Organized by the King of Spain and Pope Eugenius III (pictured). The Crusade came to an end with an aborted siege of Damascus.

INDUSTRIES

Early 1100's

Agriculture
Cistercian monasteries are known for their reclamation of waste land. These communities were given unwanted land. They would transform this land into valuable agricultural lands.

1133
Fish Farming
Waldsassen Abbey, Germany, developed pisciculture, a trade that many monasteries in northern Europe would cultivate.

6,000BC-1800'sAD
Originally the habitat of the Proto-Yana, or early Yana people. The Yana occupied the land of Vina and surrounding areas until the 16th century when they were pushed out of the area. They remained in the surrounding foothills until the mid 19th century when their numbers were decimated to extinction.

1146
Fruit Orchards
Lyse Monastery in Norway possessed large fruit orchards. Other Cistercian monasteries had the same.

1100's
Hog Industry
Mortimond, France at one time had 2,000 swine.

Early 1100's
Hydraulic Engineering
Cîteaux Abbey in France had a highly developed water system for use within the monastic buildings. Water power was used for crushing wheat, sawing flour, fulling cloth and tanning. In one of the earliest surviving monasteries they used a waterwheel for power and an elaborate water circulation system for central heating.

1100's
Wood Trade
Extensive wood trade, and sheep farming, began in England, France, Jura, and Spain.

1100's
Horse Breeding
Horse breeding was very popular with Cistercian monasteries, especially Jervaulx, England. At one time, before the French Revolution, Chiaravas had 800 horses. Remember, horses were the major means of travel until the auto industry

Cattle Industry
The 1100-1200's saw cattle husbandry on a major scale. Kirkstall, England, was one such Cistercian monastery.

1181
King Alfonso VIII's Tomb
Cistercians found Santi Maria de Ovila, Spain, under aegis of Alfonso VIII.

1187
Las Huelgas
Cistercian nuns found Las Huelgas, Burgos, Spain. It is still in existence today.

1189-1192
Third Crusade
These Crusades had a Cistercian Cardinal and a Cistercian Archbishop of Canterbury accompanying the armies to the Middle East.

LAND OF VINA

1115
June 23, Morimond Abbey founded (library today pictured). Morimond established three abbeys, one assist of Alfonso VIII and Martin de Finojosa in establishing Ovila. Documentation has been lost on which one this was. These abbeys are:

- Berdoues in France (1136)
- Valbuena de Duero in Spain (1143)
- Boulbonne (Benedictine Abbey) in France (1150) joins the Cistercians under the aegis of Morimond.

1150
Boulbonne (a Benedictine Abbey) in France joins the Cistercians under the aegis of Morimond.

1143
Valbuena de Duero Abbey in Spain.

1136
Berdoues Abbey in France founded.

1175-1181
King Alfonso VIII decides to establish an abbey on the Tagus River in Trillo, Spain to forestall raids from Muslim armies. In 1177 Alfonso defeats the Moslems in the battle at Cuenca and establishes Santi Maria de Ovila (later renamed Ovila). In 1181 more Cistercian monks arrive to help found the abbey.

1185
Martel moves a few miles south on the Tagus to a better location and is renamed Ovila.

1190
Construction begins on the Ovila Chapter house. Pictured is Ovila as it is today.

THE ABBEY CHURCH

1108
Cistercians were given first vineyard at Meursault, by the Duke of Burgundy.

WINE CLASSIFICATIONS

"Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée" is a French certification granted to certain wines that are grown and produced in specific French geographical areas.
(See also 1936)

The cru classification system in Burgundy designates a high-quality vineyard. These classifications are based on observation that began with 12th-century Cistercian and Benedictine monks in the Côte d'Or. Every vineyard in Burgundy is classified into this hierarchy. Grand Cru is at the top of the pyramid, followed by Premier Cru, the "village" wines, with the generic Bourgogne category at the bottom.

BURGUNDY'S CRU HIERARCHY
1. Grand Cru
2. "Premier" Cru
3. "Village" wines
4. Bourgogne

ACQUISITIONS

BEFORE 1110
Cîteaux acquires first property at Vougeot.

Cîteaux receives a donation of uncultivated land at Gilly-lès-Vougeot from the de Vergy family and purchases adjoining land from the Benedictine monastery of Saint-Germain-des Prés.

1110
Clos de Vougeot vineyard is planted and given to the Cîteaux Abbey by Guerric of Chambolle. It was carefully cultivated by the monks, and it became one the most renowned vineyards in France, remaining with Cîteaux until the French Revolution.

1112-1115
Construction begins on the wine cellar at Vougeot.

Local families donate a parcel of land enclosed by walls to build a wine cellar, together with nearby vineyards.

1114
Cistercian monks of Pontigny Abbey (pictured) are believed to have first planted Chardonnay at Chablis, where this famed white grape spread to the rest of the Burgundy region.

WINEMAKING

1137
Cistercians plant vineyards in Saint-Émilion on the left bank in Bordeaux, France.

1141
Cistercian nuns of Notre Dame de Tart purchase the vineyard of Clos de Tart.

1143
Clairvaux Abbey acquires vineyard at Morvineau.

1160
A priest gives Cîteaux his vineyards at Clos du Cruz (A.O.C. wine), and Corton property has expanded. It's possible that today's Corton Charlemagne grand cru belonged to the Cistercians.

1153
Clairvaux builds first wine press.

BEFORE 1163
Cîteaux acquires Le Clos de la Perrière (premier cru). Sometime before 1163 a clerge house and vineyard called Clos de La Perrière near the village of Fixin, France was donated to Cîteaux, but opposed by Duke Odo of Champagne. The gift was renewed in 1176—1173 by the sons of the original donor.

1168
Hugh the Red, son of Duke Odo II of Burgundy, donates his vineyard Meursault (in the A.O.C. system) to Cîteaux.

1170
The vineyard of Kloster Eberbach (Cistercian monastery) planted in the Rheingau of Germany; by 1500, this vineyard estate is the largest in Europe.

1179-80
Cîteaux wins ownership of Chambolle-Musigny (grand cru). A property dispute was settled after witnesses testified they had seen monks tending the vineyards some 40 years earlier. This property is currently part of the present grand cru vintage Chambolle-Musigny or the Clos de Vougeot 'Petits Musigny'

1180
Cîteaux acquires vineyards at Cras Poussot and Les Combes (both in the premier cru wine class).

1186-1187
Pontigny monastery recieves a winery named Dumbout from a couple in a valley near Chablis, France.

The wine was described as "white and long lasting." The couple asked that the wine bt be used in celebration of the Mass.

1189
Cîteaux receives adjoining vineyards at Vosne, France.

1193
Pontigny acquires vineyards in the village of Chichée, now part of the town of Chablis, France. Exact parcels the abbey owned there are unknown but three premier cru winieries exist, Vaucoupin, Vosgirant and Vosgros.

1194
Wine production begins at Santa Maria de Ovila Abbey, Spain.