

## Re: France's earliest winery found

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- *From:* "Uwe Müller" <[uwemueller@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:uwemueller@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 15 Jul 2007 09:26:09 +0200
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"Hayabusa" <[peregrine@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:peregrine@xxxxxxxxxx)> schrieb im Newsbeitrag  
[news:uikf93h09spvj1pl16qoe5isc3k6p9gn4a@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uikf93h09spvj1pl16qoe5isc3k6p9gn4a@xxxxxxxxxx)

On Fri, 13 Jul 2007 14:53:34 +0200, "Uwe Müller"  
<[uwemueller@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:uwemueller@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Do you really believe they could resist? Or do you think they  
were  
just looking at it?

The vessels are containers for the consumption of liquids and many show  
signs of use, not all. There have been two succesfull attempts at an  
analysis of the residue of whatever was inside the container, when they

were

buried. Both show a honey based drink. And even though pieces of

massiliotic

amphorae are found regularly as far as northern France (maybe the upper  
Danube), the actual numbers are surprisingly small. One amphora every ten

or

fifteen years for a whole region dominated by a fortified residence would

be

more than enough to account for all the finds in the more northern parts.  
Their numbers increase of course with the decrease in distance.

Maybe it was of minor importance which alcoholic beverage was used, and

wine

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was only used every couple of years, and sparingly. As long as the settlements were not excavated, the few surface finds could be

interpreted

as being only a tiny part of what they once had imported. Large scale excavations have not increased the numbers sufficiently.

Maybe they imported amphorae full of fish sauce and partied with mead and beer?

I assume you are talking about the time of ca.600 BCE. Does the pattern change with time as we get closer to Caesar's era?

Most of the vessels come from early iron age burials, there is a noted lack of burials in the middle Latène era. If you accept that as a change of pattern...

Are there clues – eg. labels, or characteristic designs, or decorations – on the amphoras that indicate which trade good was once inside?

Most of the finds are single pieces or up to about a dozen sherds per site. It's simply not enough to judge about forms or functions.

And is it known where the amphorae were made that were found in the North ? I mean, the petrographic/geochemical data base of the original clay is constantly improving.

The origin was identified by the clay, the preparation of the clay and the technics of firing, in other words by archaeological means. AFAIK no petrographic analysis was done.

There is a new book out on roman amphorae in German Ulrike Ehmig, Die römischen Amphoren aus Mainz, 2004. Nearly 5000 amphorae from Mogontiacum have been analysed, about 400 of them underwent geochemical analysis for the origin of the vessels. You'd have to look into that for more info on origins, distribution etc. AFAIK many vessels that would have been foreign by form turned out to be locally made.

have fun

Uwe Mueller

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