



Can the ‘Heuvelland’ region of West Flanders, Belgium, be considered as a ‘terroir’ for wine making?

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A ‘terroir’ can be defined as a group of vineyards from the same region, with the same type of soil, weather conditions, grapes and wine making.

The ‘Heuvelland’ region with a surface area of 19 km² is situated in the Province of West Flanders, Belgium, bordering with France. The region comprises a number of hills (heuvels) on which a fast growing ‘wine culture’ is developing.

Five different vineyards were selected from which soil samples were taken at different depths and locations on the slopes. The Belgian Soil Map, dating from the 1960’s, illustrated 6 different soil types, but a detailed study on the soil particle size distribution (texture) enabled to distinguish more soil types in the vineyards. This leads to a ‘tentative’ conclusion that on the basis of ‘soil type’ the Heuvelland region cannot be considered as one unique ‘terroir’.