

# Saint-Nectaire



Saint-Nectaire, a pressed uncooked cheese made from cow's milk, hails from the region of Saint-Nectaire, a spa town in the Monts Dore massif in Auvergne. This rustic treat is known for its supple and smooth paste and can boast of having been served to Louis XIV, having been introduced by the marshal of France, Henri de Sennecterre. Its area of origin is one of the smallest designated in France (comprising 69 communes spread across the Sancy Massif, Cézallier and Artense and straddling the department of Puy de Dôme and Cantal). It is tucked between the famous range of volcanoes in Auvergne and enjoys a long-established reputation. Saint-Nectaire can be farmhouse (produced in a farm with raw milk) or dairy (made in a dairy, with pasteurised milk). Aged over at least 28 days, it demands a reaction. It can be served plain on a cheeseboard or used in cooked dishes and is the definitive convivial cheese.



CHEESER  
COW'S MILK



YEAR OF LABELLING  
1955

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## KEY FIGURES

**459**

Milk producers

**212**

Farmhouse producers

**4**

Production plants

**20**

Maturing plants

**13658**

Tons marketed in 2020

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SITE WEB DE L'APPELLATION :

[www.aop-saintnectaire.com](http://www.aop-saintnectaire.com)



## Cutting



Cut into fine-tipped wedges from the middle outwards.



## Breads

Nut bread  
Cereal bread  
Cocoa bread  
Vienna bread  
Wholemeal bread



## Food pairings

Alcohol abuse is harmful to your health.

Drink in moderation.

Côtes d'Auvergne  
Côtes du Rhône  
Jura dry white wine  
Loire red wine  
Brut Champagne  
Dark beer  
Peated Islay whisky  
Burgundy red wine  
Champagne red wine  
Demi-sec Champagne  
Lager  
Rosé Champagne

Blue/green tea from Taiwan



## Appearance

The cheeses' rind is similar on both sides, with sparse mould. Depending on the extent of maturing, the mould may be white. Brown or grey, possibly with a cream-to-orange background and maybe yellow and/or red flecks. The paste is ivory-coloured and may feature significant, evenly-spread holes.



## Texture

The smooth and creamy paste yields when pressed.



## Smell

It has a cellar atmosphere that can bring to mind hints of the undergrowth and damp straw.



## Taste

It has a clear, soft and slightly salty taste, not too acidic and with mixed milky flavours (fresh milk, cream and butter) and traces of ageing (cellar, maturing straw, earth or undergrowth). All of this is often enhanced by a subtle hint of hazelnut.