

Veg Buying in Europe

Holland

The Netherlands provides major importers of tropical fruit (e.g., bananas, the UK's best-selling fruit) and South American produce (apples, pears, onions, etc.), specialists in glasshouse production (tomatoes, cucumbers, etc.), and general high-quality long-season production (i.e., after the UK season ends).

France

French produce includes Normandy apples, winter salads, summer stone fruits from Languedoc-Roussillon or Provence and early (pre-UK) supply in mild coastal western areas (e.g. the Vendee, where Riverford own land). Major wholesale markets exist in:

- Rungis, Paris (for French, Italian and Spanish produce)
- Saint Charles, Perpignan (for growing area of Languedoc-Roussillon and Spanish produce)

Spain

The powerhouse of organic fruit and vegetable growing for much of the year, Spain dominates in production of glasshouse crops, field vegetables and cucurbit fruits. Direct supply from Spanish wholesalers is possible in bigger volumes, but Unicorn acquires most Spanish produce through Perpignan.

Italy

Organic production takes place throughout the country, especially South Tyrol (winter apples after the UK season), Veneto (field vegetables) and Sicily (citrus, kiwis, avocados, tomatoes).