



We get Our First RVF Star & are chosen Favorite Languedoc Winery 2020

Le coup de cœur de Caroline Furstoss:

JOHN ET NICOLE BOJANOWSKI

CLOS DES GRAVILLAS



OUR TASTERS' 2020 FAVORITES

Each year a handful of notable wineries deeply move our tasting panel. Our 15 favorites, one from each French region, share one virtue: Attention. All take particular care in their vineyards and redouble those efforts during vinification. These men and women thus succeed at translating their individual terroir and carrying that expression even further, so well that it speaks of a second common denominator they share: Intention. That of causing emotion through great wines. Whether regulars in our guide or as new entries, all of their wines bring profound energy to a glass of wine and dynamism to their respective appellations. Theirs is the fruit of relentless, dedicated work and a passion to surmount all obstacles, including those of climate.



CLOS DU GRAVILLAS

Thanks to vigneron like Nicole and John Bojanowski, Carignan has fully regained its place as a keystone in the vinous identity of this region. The Bojanowski's, artisanal producers since 1999 on the arid limestone shelf of St Jean de Minervois, love this variety which finds expression aplenty in their wines, even if it is not the only protagonist. These inviting and intense reds easily find a place on the table, where their rusticity, justly tamed, becomes velvet. The wines have gained more and more potential, especially the whites, and the regularity of the domaine over several years, coupled with the audacity to always go a bit further, confirms their higher level needed that we award this first star.

CLOS DU GRAVILLAS

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Vente et visites : au domaine sur rendez-vous.

A LIVING EXPRESSION OF LANGUEDOC

It is enough to visit their vineyards, planted since the year 2000, to understand the unconditional love that unites these two vigneron with their land and with their 20 grape varieties. Nicole, a Narbonnaise whose accent sings of the South with a warm welcome, did not have much trouble convincing John, from Kentucky, to move to this little village built on white limestone. Perched on the plateaux of Cazelles and St. Jean de Minervois, this Franco-American couple caught the fever for older traditional Languedoc varieties. So they wagered on varieties such as Carignan Blanc, Piquepoul Gris or Terret, with a vinification and élevage adapted to each one.

But the expressive and living wines from this friendly Minervois domaine do not only come from younger vines. Old parcels of Carignan, planted in 1911, mark some delicious red wines. The new cellar, built in 2018 next to the old one, now allows for slow, careful vinification and aging in small barrels and amphorae. We find lots of identity and personality in their whites, and a beautiful expression in the reds grown on this brutal limestone plateau, but also lots of fun in the pet-nat, and balance and brilliance in their beautiful Muscat de St Jean de Minervois! This first RVF star proves to be well deserved by this endearing couple.

The Wines : Muscat comes in several variations here. A superb rush of fruit is found in Jour de Teuf, a pet-nat Muscat that wears well its name and is easily lovable with its light touch of residual sugar. Fleur de Peau is a long skin contact Muscat, combining notes of wax and orange flower. The palate is fluid and easygoing, without the bitterness often found in this type of wine. Douce Providence is a sure winner, a true, dense and spicy Muscat St Jean de Minervois in which sweetness does not take the upper hand. The white Minervois, L'Inattendu, a delicious blend of Grenache Blanc & Macabeu, is persistent but without having too much force. The palate finishes with a smooth reminder of its stony origins. Rendez-Vous sur la Lune is a very friendly red with smooth tannins. It is ready to drink, whereas the old Carignan vines in the Lo Vièlh cuvée are still tight in 2016, with a persistent dryness.

☞ Minervois L'Inattendu 2017	19 € 15,5
☞ Muscat de Saint-Jean de Minervois Douce Providence 2017	11,50 € 15
☞ VDF A Fleur de Peau 2017	19 € 14,5
☞ IGP Côtes de Brian Lo Vièlh de 100 Ans 2016	19 € 15
☞ Minervois Rendez-Vous Sur La Lune 2017	14,50 € 15
Le coup de ♥	
☞ VDF Jour de Teuf 2018	14 € 14,5

Rouge : 4,5 hectares.
Syrah 38 %, Carignan 35 %, Cabernet-Sauvignon 10 %, Cinsault 6 %, Grenache noir 5 %, Mourvèdre 2 %, Terret noir 2 %, Counoise 2 %
Blanc : 3 hectares.
Muscat à petits grains blancs 35 %, Terret blanc (terret bourret) 33 %, Grenache blanc 20 %, Macabeu 4 %, Roussanne 3 %, Vioignier 3 %, Picpoul blanc 2 %
Production moyenne : 33 000 bt/an