



DOMAINE DE COURBISSAC

Les Traverses

The Languedoc, often touted as the “next big thing,” has struggled to gain attention from retailers and consumers alike. European Cellars, over the past 25 years, has represented various growers in the region. Despite the region’s historical focus on grape variety and modern winemaking trends, Domaine de Courbissac stands out for its commitment to terroir. Founded in 2002 by German film producer Reinhard Brundig, the estate prioritizes the respect and nurturing of soil and site. With biodynamic farming practices in place since its inception, Domaine de Courbissac, led by vigneronne Brunnhilde Claux since 2013, emphasizes the importance of established vines and complex soils, particularly in the La Livinière sub-zone of Minervois.

Situated near La Montagne Noire, Domaine de Courbissac’s vineyards, ranging from 250 to 450 meters above sea level, benefit from the influence of nearby mountains and a semi-Mediterranean climate. The estate’s unique terroir, characterized by clay-limestone soil with gravel and sandstone bands, allows for the successful cultivation of Grenache, Mourvèdre, Carignan, and Syrah. Brunnhilde employs a hands-off winemaking approach, continuing the biodynamic practices, manually harvesting each plot separately, and conducting fermentations in concrete vats and open-top wooden fermenters. Whole cluster fermentations are made possible by the grapes’ synchronized ripeness, resulting in fresh and balanced wines. The commitment to minimal intervention is evident, with the use of SO₂ only introduced just before bottling, showcasing a dedication to the authentic expression of the Languedoc terroir in Domaine de Courbissac’s wines.

A blend of roughly equal parts Grenache, Syrah & Mourvedre, Les Traverses comes from primarily the younger vines on the property and is aged in concrete. Fermentations are natural with partial whole clusters. No pigeage or remontage.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Minervois

SOIL

Clay limestone, sandstone, gravel

AGE OF VINES

12–25

ELEVATION

250–300 meters

VARIETIES

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre

FARMING

*Conversion to organic (ECOCERT)
& practicing biodynamic*

FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, partial whole cluster,
natural yeast fermentation in tank and
concrete*

AGING

6 months in concrete tank

ACCOLADES

90 – 2016 Les Traverses – Jeb Dunnuck

