



CAN RAFOLS DELS CAUS

Gran Caus Reserva

The Garraf Massif is a mountain range located south of Barcelona along the Mediterranean coast between the towns Castelldefels and Sitges. Rocky and calcareous, the region is sparsely wooded, carpeted in wild herbs and centered around the Parc Natural Garraf. In this stony, rugged landscape, Carlos Esteva took a dilapidated family estate and turned it into one of the most dynamic properties in Penedès. Starting in 1979, Carlos began to restore his grandfather's house and replant many of the vineyards and orchards. Now totaling 90ha of vineyards, 2ha of olive trees and 1 ha of almond trees, the farm has been organic since 2008 and has recently introduced biodynamic practices in some vineyards. The rugged, inhospitable landscape presents many varying microclimates which Carlos has taken advantage of by planting over 28 grapes varieties. The largest vineyard is only 2ha in size and while most of the vines were planted over the last thirty years, there is one old vineyard of Xarel.lo that dates to 1948.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Penedès

SOIL

Clay limestone, chalk

AGE OF VINES

35–40

ELEVATION

400 meters

VARIETIES

Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon

FARMING

Practicing organic and biodynamic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, natural yeast fermentation in French oak barrels

AGING

12 months in French oak, at least 4 years in bottle

The soils around Can Rafols dels Caus are comprised of decomposed dolomitic limestone with inclusions of ancient stones and fossils. The soil is shallow, free draining and poor in nutrients so even young vines are forced to root deep into the limestone bedrock of the region. To prevent erosion, Carlos only plows in the winter and encourages cover crops—mainly local varieties of nitrogen-fixing flora. The combination of its proximity to the Mediterranean and elevation, Can Rafols enjoys plenty of warmth and sunshine as well as afternoon winds that moderate the heat and humidity.

The flagship wine on the estate is the Gran Caus Tinto, made from Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon and aged in used French oak; combines the elegance of Bordeaux with the spice and herbal aromas of the Mediterranean.

ACCOLADES

92 – 2010 Can Caus Reserva – Wine Advocate

91 – 2008 Can Caus Reserva – Wine Advocate

90 – 2005 Can Caus Reserva – Wine Advocate

