



# CAN RAFOLS DELS CAUS

## Xarel·lo Pairal

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

*Chalky clay*

### AGE OF VINES

*60-70*

### ELEVATION

*300 meters*

### VARIETIES

*Xarel·lo*

### FARMING

*Practicing organic and biodynamic*

### FERMENTATION

*Hard harvested, natural yeast fermentation in new 450L chestnut barrels*

### AGING

*4 months in 450L chestnut barrels then 2 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 old vine Xarel·lo is from El Cirerer, a .86ha vineyard of bush vine Xarel·lo planted in 1948. When Carlos renovated the original cellars he removed several old chestnut barrels. In honor of this tradition he ferments the fruit from his oldest vines in new chestnut barrels for 4 months. The Xarel·lo Pairal shares the same mineral backbone as La Calma and El Rocallis but shows a weight and density typical of old vines of this varietal.

### ACCOLADES

93 – 2014 Xarel·lo Pairal – Wine Advocate

91 – 2013 Xarel·lo Pairal – Wine Advocate

91 – 2012 Xarel·lo Pairal – Wine Advocate

