



# MICHEL GASSIER

## Cercius Rouge

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With encyclopedic knowledge of the wines and terroirs of the Rhône as well as his native Costières de Nîmes, Michel Gassier is a restless and innovative vigneron. Usually inquisitive personalities like Michel start as outsiders, enfants terribles, iconoclasts. Such is not the case with Michel, whose family has owned vineyards in the Costières de Nîmes for four generations. Together with his wife Tina, they are helping to establish a new level of quality for Costières de Nîmes without forsaking the uniqueness of their terroir.

They have achieved this through nurturing their land, farming organically, promoting biodiversity, and respecting their employees as much as their vines. They are proponents of indigenous varieties and taking advantage of the diversity of climats to make wines that are dense and pure but elegantly balanced. Cercius is made in partnership with Eric Solomon and Philippe Cambie from several sites throughout the Rhône valley. Nostre País is the epitome of the terroir of the Costières de Nîmes while Lou Coucardié represents the aspirations of Michel and Tina through conversation with the land and its history.

The Costières de Nîmes is politically part of Languedoc but its terroir is part of the Rhône valley and while most of the vineyards Michel Gassier farms are located here he also tends vines further inland and closer to the Rhône river – hence its Côtes-du-Rhône designation. Based on Grenache, with a small portion of Syrah, Cercius comes from a warm terroir of deep limestone soils topped with galets.

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#### ORIGIN

*France*

#### APPELLATION

*Côtes-du-Rhône*

#### SOIL

*Clay limestone, galets*

#### AGE OF VINES

*80+*

#### ELEVATION

*150 meters*

#### VARIETIES

*Grenache, Syrah*

#### FARMING

*Practicing organic, undergoing certification*

#### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, destemmed, natural yeast fermentation in concrete tank*

#### AGING

*6 months in concrete*

#### ACCOLADES

92 – 2016 Cercius Rouge – Jeb Dunnuck

90 – 2015 Cercius Rouge – Wine Advocate

91 – 2013 Cercius Rouge – Wine Advocate



ERIC SOLOMON  
SELECTIONS