



DOMAINE GIRAUD

Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc Les Sables d'Arene

Domaine Giraud was founded in 1974 by Pierre and Mireille Giraud. Pierre comes from a long line of vigneron and is a sixth-generation winegrower in the village. His mother was a member of the Armenier family, making Pierre a descendant of one of the oldest families in the village and a cousin to Sophie and Catherine at Domaine Marcoux. Mireille was born into the Buou family, which ran the local distillery in Châteauneuf-du-Pape – a vital part of the social and economic fabric of the community for over a century. The distillery closed several decades ago, but the building still survives on the outskirts of the village, re-purposed in 1981 to house Domaine Giraud's cellars.

Beginning with only 4 hectares of leased vineyards, the estate has slowly grown to encompass 30 hectares, mostly in Châteauneuf-du-Pape with a small plot of 60-year-old Grenache and some leased vines of Mourvèdre & Syrah in Lirac. François is in charge of the farming at Domaine Giraud which has been certified organic (ECOCERT) since 2011. They tend several terroirs, most notably the red clay and gravelly soils of Les Galimardes and Le Crau, but they also have vines in Les Terres Blanches (pale limestone) and Pignan (sand). There is a high proportion of old vine Grenache throughout their holdings.

Les Sables d'Arene Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc comes from vineyards located in a sandy part of Lirac – the same vineyard where their Lirac Vieilles Vignes is sourced. A blend of Grenache Blanc and Clairette in roughly equal parts, it is a bright, clean and mineral-laden white wine that we look forward to tasting every year when we visit famille Giraud as it is the perfect accompaniment with Mireille's Blanquette de Veau.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Côtes-du-Rhône

SOIL

Sand

AGE OF VINES

30-50

ELEVATION

85 meters

VARIETIES

Grenache Blanc, Clairette

FARMING

Certified organic (ECOCERT)

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, gentle pressing, fermentation in tank

AGING

Aged 6 months in tank (2/3) and neutral French oak barrels (1/3)

ACCOLADES

91 – 2017 Côtes du Rhône Blanc – Jeb Dunnuck

90 – 2016 Côtes du Rhône Blanc – Jeb Dunnuck

91 – 2015 Côtes du Rhône Blanc – Wine Advocate

