

# DOMAINE GIRAUD

## Châteauneuf-du-Pape Prémices



### ORIGIN

France

### APPELLATION

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

### SOIL

Clay limestone, galets, sand

### AGE OF VINES

10-50

### ELEVATION

40-110 meters

### VARIETIES

Grenache

### FARMING

Certified organic (ECOCERT)

### FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, fermented in concrete vats, 21-28 day maceration

### AGING

Aged 10 months in concrete (2/3) and neutral French oak barrels (1/3)

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, repurposed 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.

With their elastic definition of young vines, the Giraud siblings have segregated their more youthful Grenache vines (anything up to 50 years old!) from Les Galimardes, Le Crau, Les Terres Blanches and Pignan and vinify them separately to make Prémices. A bright and forward style of Châteauneuf, it is immediately accessible but with surprising depth and concentration. When there has been growing criticism that the best estates in the region are robbing their basic bottlings so they can make luxury cuvées, it is a refreshing change of pace to see the opposite approach done so successfully.

### ACCOLADES

92 – 2015 Les Prémices – Wine Advocate

91 – 2013 Les Prémices – Wine Spectator

93 – 2012 Les Prémices – Wine Spectator

