



DOMAINE LAFAGE

Cayrol

For twenty years, we have worked with Jean-Marc Lafage at his estate in the Roussillon and across the border in Spain, where he consults on several projects. As good as his wines were when we first met him, they only get better with each vintage.

While his family has been growing grapes and making wine in the Roussillon since 1791, it was Jean-Marc's early insight into the potential for the Roussillon to make a wide range of dry wines at very affordable prices that established his "new" estate. While his grandfather and father made wine for the family, Jean-Marc was the first to break away from selling most of his grapes to the local cooperative. Over the generations, his family had amassed scattered vineyards throughout the region, which now totals over 160 hectares of vines, most of them in excess of 50 years in age.

Another factor in Jean-Marc's success is the diversity of the terroirs in the Roussillon. Squeezed between the far southern edge of the limestone Corbières Massif to the north and the granitic Pyrenees mountains in the south, the Roussillon is an undulating terrain of complex soil types, orientations, and exposures. Three river valleys, the Agly, Têt, and Tech, drain the region generally flowing west to east, where they meet the Mediterranean. Within its borders, Jean-Marc has identified six principal sub-zones in the appellation: the Crest, the Upper Agly Valley, the Uplands of Fenouillet, Les Aspès, the Mediterranean Plain, the Rocky Coast. Each region has its own expression and when you factor in the various varieties Jean-Marc has planted, you can understand why he can make so many riveting wines at such reasonable prices.

Cayrol is a cuvée of 100% Carignan selected from Lafage family vineyards situated in the foothills of the Corbières Masif above Maury and the Agly River Valley. What unites these patchwork of sites of varying exposure is a unique soil that blends the black schist of the Agly valley floor with the clay-limestone soils eroded from the mountains that form the northern boundary of the Roussillon. The result is a fruit-driven Carignan with bright red berry flavors followed by a peppery finish with rounded tannins – a remarkably different expression from the Carignan grown just a few kilometers closer to the village of Maury.

LOCATION

France, Côtes Catalanes

SOIL

Schistose marl

ELEVATION

200-250 meters

FARMING

Sustainable

VARIETIES

Carignan

AGE OF VINES

60 years-old

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, 1 week pre-fermentation maceration, natural yeast fermentation lasting 1 month

AGING

9 months in concrete tanks (90%) and new French oak barrels (10%)

ACCOLADES

91 – 2021, *James Suckling*

91 – 2020, *Wine Advocate*

92 – 2019, *Jeb Dunnuck*

