



DOMAINE LAFAGE

Tessellae Carignan

Jean-Marc and Eliane Lafage farm 160 hectares of vines located just south of the capital of French Catalonia, Perpignan. Some of their vineyards are situated a few kilometers from the Mediterranean while others can be found in the foothills of the Pyrenees. This range of sites allow them to make both refreshing whites as well as concentrated reds and, this being the Roussillon, some fortified wines as well. Benefiting from a warm, dry climate, the estate is farmed organically. They grow primarily Grenache (Blanc, Gris & Noir), Syrah, Mourvedre, Carignan, Marsanne, Roussanne and Chardonnay with a significant proportion of the vines well over 50 years old. The soil, as you near the coast is weathered, alluvial gravel while in the higher elevation sites it is predominantly schist. They harvest by hand and the winemaking is surprisingly uncomplicated with stainless steel for the fresher whites but mostly concrete tanks for the rest with a small amount of French oak demi-muids.

Carignan has had a rather tumultuous history in the south of France. Once seen as a necessary grape to spur the recovery of the region after the plague of phylloxera in the late 19th century, primarily for its ability to produce high yields, it has been largely replaced with “nobler” varieties such as Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre. This is unfortunate, for as challenging as the variety is to love when the vines are young, they are superb with half a century under their belt. Jean-Marc Lafage luckily resisted the call to uproot and replace this variety, and he possesses Carignan vines well over 70 years old on schist with which he makes the Tessellae Carignan.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Côtes Catalanes

SOIL

Schist

AGE OF VINES

70

ELEVATION

275 meters

VARIETIES

Carignan

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, cold pre-fermentation maceration, fermented in concrete

AGING

12 months in concrete tanks (80%) and demi-muid (20%)

ACCOLADES

92 – 2015 Tessellae Carignan – Wine Advocate

92 – 2014 Tessellae Carignan – Wine Advocate

94 – 2013 Tessellae Carignan – Wine Advocate



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS