



MAS DONIS

Old Vines

Almost completely surrounding the DOQ of Priorat, the DO Montsant is one of the youngest DOs in Catalunya but like the neighboring Priorat viticulture here is centuries old. After years of inclusion in the arguably inferior and certainly more generic DO of Tarragona, Montsant was elevated in 2002 mainly in recognition of its superior wines produced from old vines on soils bearing a striking similarity to those in the Priorat.

Not so surprisingly, the cooperative of Capçanes is situated in the village of the same name, nestled among the foothills of the Montsant mountains. In the 1990's, the co-op began making kosher wines for the Jewish community in Barcelona, and from this exposure in the capital of Catalunya, the property began to attract a greater level of interest. By 1995, a vast investment took place and the whole winery was restructured and modernized. The old concrete tanks still remain but they have been supplemented with stainless steel fermentation tanks and a refurbished barrel room. The cooperative still makes bulk wine for the local community but supplemented with a series of more serious cuvées.

Shortly after the modernization, Eric Solomon visited the cooperative and he was taken by how similar the soils and grapes varieties were to the Priorat where he had just started working with an unknown estate and a lesser known winemaker, Daphne Glorian. Tasting through the various tanks and barrels at Capçanes, he created a cuvée of Garnatxa and Syrah that he named Mas Donis – a wine he jokingly said was his “best Côtes-du-Rhône.” Despite the similarities in cépage, the granite and schist terroirs here could not be more different than the calcareous soils of the Rhône valley. With time and experimentation – moving from barrel aging to aging entirely in concrete and selecting fruit from some of the oldest Garnatxa in the village, Mas Donis has evolved to show a more Priorat-inspired profile. A serious wine at an extremely friendly price.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Montsant

SOIL

Alluvial clay limestone, granite, slate

AGE OF VINES

35-50

ELEVATION

150-500 meters

VARIETIES

Garnatxa, Syrah

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, natural yeast fermentation in concrete tanks

AGING

6 months in concrete tanks

ACCOLADES

94 – 2016 Mas Donis Old Vines – Jeb Dunnuck

92 – 2015 Mas Donis Old Vines – Jeb Dunnuck

90 – 2014 Mas Donis Old Vines – Wine Advocate



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS