



DOMAINE ROGER SABON

Châteauneuf-du-Pape Le Secret des Sabon

Domaine Roger Sabon was founded in 1952 and is currently run by Roger's sons Denis and Gilbert. A third son, Jean-Jacques is deceased but his son-in-law Didier Negrin is the current winemaker. Denis and his son Julien oversee the farming while Gilbert and his niece, Delphine run the office. It is quite the family affair!

The size of the domaine has grown slowly over the years with 18 hectares in Châteauneuf du Pape, 8 hectares in Lirac and 8 hectares in Côtes-du-Rhône. Most of their holdings in Châteauneuf-du-Pape are located in the northeastern part of the appellation, where the soils are sandier with a high concentration of limestone. They also own a few parcels in La Crau famous for its red clay under a deep layer of galets deposited from the alps eons ago. These two soil types combine to make wines that are equally rich and nuanced.

Since 2001 Didier Negrin has made the wines at Domaine Roger Sabon, but recently he's begun to move away from demi-muids and barriques in favor of aging his family's wines in concrete and large French oak foudres. While the terroir of Roger Sabon, with its high concentration of sand and limestone, has always been inclined to a more ethereal and delicate style of Châteauneuf, Didier's changes in the cellar have amplified these qualities – the wines have never been more engaging and lovely.

With only about a single demi-muid produced each year, from presumably old vines with their correspondingly low yields, there isn't much Secret des Sabon to go around. It is quite surprising to taste Secret after the Cuvée Prestige, as one normally expects the "top" win of the estate to be the biggest, but this is a red herring. While there is an unmistakably glyceric weight to Le Secret, it is more high-toned than you would initially expect. Red fruit predominates with stony and herbal accents that hint at a long life ahead.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

SOIL

Sandy, clay limestone

AGE OF VINES

100+

ELEVATION

50-100 meters

VARIETIES

Grenache (5% other varieties according to Didier)

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, partially destemmed depending on the vintage, fermentation in French oak vat

AGING

18 months in a 600L French oak demi-muid

ACCOLADES

94-96+ – 2023 Le Secret des Sabon – Jeb Dunnuck

(97-99) – 2022 Le Secret des Sabon – Wine Advocate

96-98 – 2022 Le Secret des Sabon – Jeb Dunnuck

95 – 2022 Le Secret des Sabon – James Suckling

