



CAN RAFOLS DELS CAUS

Terraprima Red

The Garraf Massif is a mountain range located south of Barcelona along the Mediterranean coast between the towns Castelldefels and Sitges. Rocky and calcareous, the region is sparsely wooded, carpeted in wild herbs and centered around the Parc Natural Garraf. In this stony, rugged landscape, Carlos Esteva took a dilapidated family estate and turned it into one of the most dynamic properties in Penedès. Starting in 1979, Carlos began to restore his grandfather's house and replant many of the vineyards and orchards. Now totaling 90ha of vineyards, 2ha of olive trees and 1 ha of almond trees, the farm has been organic since 2008 and has recently introduced biodynamic practices in some vineyards. The rugged, inhospitable landscape presents many varying microclimates which Carlos has taken advantage of by planting over 28 grapes varieties. The largest vineyard is only 2ha in size and while most of the vines were planted over the last thirty years, there is one old vineyard of Xarel.lo that dates to 1948.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Penedès

SOIL

Clay limestone, chalk

AGE OF VINES

30-50+

ELEVATION

450 meters

VARIETIES

Cabernet Franc, Garnatxa, Syrah

FARMING

Practicing organic and biodynamic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, natural yeast fermentation in tank

AGING

12 months in neutral French oak barrels followed by one year in bottle before release

The soils around Can Rafols dels Caus are comprised of decomposed dolomitic limestone with inclusions of ancient stones and fossils. The soil is shallow, free draining and poor in nutrients so even young vines are forced to root deep into the limestone bedrock of the region. To prevent erosion, Carlos only plows in the winter and encourages cover crops—mainly local varieties of nitrogen-fixing flora. The combination of its proximity to the Mediterranean and elevation, Can Rafols enjoys plenty of warmth and sunshine as well as afternoon winds that moderate the heat and humidity.

The Terraprima wines come from a vineyard site adjacent to Can Rafols that Carlos purchased in 2004 to prevent it from becoming a quarry for the production of cement. It includes 40 hectares of vines many of them well over 50 years old. Terraprima Red is a blend of Cabernet Franc, Garnatxa and Syrah that is fermented in tank and aged in bottle.

ACCOLADES

89 – 2014 Terraprima Red – Wine Advocate

90 – 2011 Terraprima Red – Vinous Media

