



# DOMAINE DE CÉBÈNE

## Ex Arena

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Leaving her native Bordeaux and the employ of Jean-Luc Thunevin, for whom she was the export manager, Brigitte Chevalier settled in Faugères with the intention of starting her own estate. For years she had been drawn to the unique terroirs of Faugères and its rugged landscape hugging the Massif Central in the far northwest corner of the Languedoc. Faugères is a borderland where the gentle climate of the Mediterranean meets the wild and unpredictable weather of the central upland of France. Through diligent research, Brigitte was able to locate a group of vineyards in a remote part of Faugères centered around a ziggurat-shaped hill at an elevation of 320m above sea level. This location affords a range of exposures from north-facing, then around the slope of the hill facing east before finishing with full southern exposure. Underneath these sites is the classic soil of Faugères – schist. This distinctive soil stretches from Faugères southwestwards into Saint-Chinian creating wines with pronounced acidity and minerality – qualities that make these two regions stand apart from their neighbors. These factors: soil, exposure and climate, combine to allow Brigitte to make wines that suit her palate, what she calls, “Vin du Nord in the South.”

In addition to the poised and elegant wines that Brigitte makes from her vineyards in Faugères, she makes another cuvée from a terroir equally capable of producing elegant wines. The frisson between Grenache and sandy soils is legendary. Some of the greatest wines of Châteauneuf-du-Pape are sourced from sandy soils such as the Cuvée Chaupin from Domaine de la Janasse or the incomparable Château Rayas. Ex Arena, meaning “out of the sand,” is a cuvée that Brigitte makes from Grenache vines planted on sandy soils that are nearly 40m deep in a place just 20km from the Mediterranean. Brigitte adds a small amount of Mourvedre, about 10%, to this cuvée, to add a touch of bass notes to this blend.

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### ORIGIN

*France*

### APPELLATION

*IGP Pays d'Oc*

### SOIL

*Sandy marine and alluvial soils*

### AGE OF VINES

*35*

### ELEVATION

*40 meters*

### VARIETIES

*Grenache, Mourvedre*

### FARMING

*Certified organic (ECOCERT)*

### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, whole cluster fermentation in concrete tanks, basket press*

### AGING

*9 months in tank*

## ACCOLADES

**92** – 2016 Ex Arena – Jeb Dunnuck

**92** – 2015 Ex Arena – Wine Advocate

**89** – 2013 Ex Arena – Wine Advocate

