

DOMAINE DE COURBISSAC

Roc du Piere



ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Minervois

SOIL

Chalky limestone, sandstone, gravel

AGE OF VINES

35–45

ELEVATION

350 meters

VARIETIES

Syrah, Mourvedre

FARMING

Practicing biodynamic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, whole cluster, natural yeast fermentation in vat, 9–12 day maceration without pigeage or remontage

AGING

Aged in 40hl foudre

Reinhard Brundig, a successful film producer from Germany, founded Domaine de Courbissac in 2002. What drew them to this property located in the La Livinière sub-zone of Minervois was three fold: established and well tended vines, the complexity of the soils, and the proximity to La Montagne Noire. At the heart of Domaine de Courbissac are 90 year old Grenache and 70 year-old Carignan as well as some solidly middle-aged Syrah and Mourvedre of about 40 years-old. Farmed biodynamically since 2002, Reinhard has expanded the size of the vineyards, now totaling 30 hectares, by planting some additional Syrah, Grenache and Mourvedre. At the end of 2013, Reinhard brought in Brunnhilde Claux, a young vigneronne with an impressive resumé. Brunnhilde got her start at Domaine Gauby where she learned how to handle the natural exuberance of grapes grown in the generous Mediterranean climate. From there she moved on to Terroir al Limit in the Priorat where she worked with Dominik Huber for three vintages before Reinhard tapped her to lead Domaine de Courbissac.

At 250–300 meters above sea level, Domaine de Courbissac benefits from its location near La Montagne Noire, the southern edge of the Massif Central and the terminus of the Cévennes. At the far western border of the Languedoc, Minervois has a semi-continental climate, especially as you approach the northern boundary of the appellation. While the growing season is warm and dry – as the wide, rocky and parched local river beds can attest – winter brings plenty of precipitation to recharge the soils and sustain the vines through the growing season. Daytime temperature in summer are moderated by the influence of the mountains allowing the grapes to reach ripeness in sync with their physiological maturity.

Roc du Piere, as its name indicates, comes from the rockiest part of Domaine de Courbissac located outside the village of Cessero in the lieu-dit of Fauzan. This site has a southeastern exposure. Brunnhilde and Reinhard consider this site their premier cru vineyard.

ACCOLADES

93 – 2015 Roc du Piere – Jeb Dunnuck

90 – 2014 Roc du Piere – Wine Advocate

90 – 2014 Roc du Piere – Wine & Spirits

