



PRIEURÉ SAINT JEAN DE BÉBIAN

Prieuré Saint Jean de Bébian Blanc

Bébian refers to Bebianus, the retired centurion who was granted these lands upon his retirement from the Roman legions in the 1st century CE. By this time Pliny the Elder had already written praise for the vineyards in the vicinity of Béziers, the Roman town closest to Bebianus' new estate. With the fall of the Roman Empire Bebianus' lands returned to obscurity until they were rediscovered by the Cistercians who built the priory church of Saint Jean in 1152 and began replanting the vineyards. Handed down from generation to generation, Bebian eventually came into the possession of Alain Roux who replanted many of the vines of the property sourcing the best massale selections of Syrah from Chave, Grenache from the Rayas and Mourvedre from Tempier. Alain also established the early reputation of Prieuré Saint Jean de Bébian with his iconoclastic wines and temperament.

Currently under the stewardship of Karen Turner, an enologist from Australia who came to Bébian in 2004, the wines from this estate are more elegant and winsome than ever. We are happy to have them back in our portfolio.

Coming from the chalkiest terroirs of Bébian, the Prieuré Saint Jean de Bébian Blanc is roughly 2/3 Roussanne with the remainder of the blend being Clairette, Picpoul and Grenache Blanc. The remarkably high lime content in these soils (measured at 32%) is evidenced by this wine's piercing minerality which underpins its rich texture. Appealing in youth, it really shines after a few years in bottle.

ORIGIN

France

APELLATION

Languedoc

SOIL

Chalk, clay limestone, gravel

AGE OF VINES

30

ELEVATION

80 meters

VARIETIES

Roussanne, Clairette, Picpoul, Grenache Blanc

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, whole cluster pressing, each variety fermented separately in French oak barrels (25% new)

AGING

12 months in French oak barrels (25% new) with lees stirring

ACCOLADES

94 – 2015 Prieuré Saint Jean de Bébian Blanc – Wine Advocate

92 – 2014 Prieuré Saint Jean de Bébian Blanc – Wine Advocate



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS