



# CLAUDY CLAVIEN

## Païen, Larmes du Terroir

You'd be hard pressed to find a more dramatic place to grow vines than in the Valais. Situated in the broad Alpine valley carved by the Rhône river, many of the most productive vineyards are situated on the deep alluvial clays on the valley floor, but the best sites can be found on slopes climbing into the mountains. The Valais is the largest wine producing region in Switzerland, providing a third of the wine made in this small country. Protected on three sides by the Alps, this is also the driest and sunniest part of Switzerland in the summer, as well as a skiing destination in the winter - add some fantastic wine and it is no wonder anyone who visits falls for the charms of this remarkable place.

Claudy Clavier was born in the heart of the Valais to parents that owned two hectares of vines located in the hills above the village of Miège. After studying oenology at Changins, Claudy returned home and founded La Cave des Champs in 1986. Starting with his parents vineyards, he has expanded his holdings to 6 hectares. Claudy has emerged as a proponent of the Valais' indigenous grape varieties – Petite Arvine, Savagnin Blanc, Chasselas, Humagne Rouge and Cornalin. In addition to these ancient varieties he also grows Chardonnay, Muscat, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris, Sylvaner, Gamay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Diolinoir and Carminoir. From his 6 ha. and 15 varieties, Claudy makes between 22-24 cuvées in each vintage so his modest cellar is run with remarkable precision.

Païen, Heida, Savagnin, Traminer and Gwurztraminer are names same grape variety with only minor clonal differenced. Depending on where it is grown and how it is vinified, their is always a wild floral and herbal dimension to this variety. In the Valais and in the hands of Claudy Clavier it expresses itself in a more linear and floral manner planted on the majestic, limestone-rich and schist-ladden hillsides around the tiny village of Miège. Long a minor but important variety in the Valais, plantings have expanded recently including Claudy's two parcels which total 0.35 ha. of his 6 ha. of vines.

### ORIGIN

*Switzerland*

### APPELLATION

*Valais*

### SOIL

*Clay limestone, schist*

### AGE OF VINES

*10+*

### ELEVATION

*750 meters*

### VARIETIES

*Savagnin Blanc*

### FARMING

*Sustainable with organic practices*

### FERMENTATION

*Hand harvested, whole cluster pressing, fermented in stainless steel tanks*

### AGING

*6 months in tank on the lees*

### ACCOLADES

91 – 2015 Païen Larmes du Terroir – Wine Advocate

