

DOMAINE DES TOURELLES

Bekaa Rouge



While only 30-50km from the Mediterranean coast, the Bekaa valley in Lebanon is at an average elevation of 1000 meters and surrounded by mountains – Mount Lebanon in the west and the Anti-Lebanon range in the east. Both ranges are composed of limestone, sandstone, and dolomite which has weathered to form heavy clays in the center of the valley where cereal grains are grown, and poor, gravelly, clays on the edges where vines and olive trees thrive. Despite its southern latitude, its elevation ensures warm, dry days and cool nights during summer. In winter, the oak- and cedar-clad mountains are snow-covered ensuring plenty of groundwater year-round.

Blessed with an ideal climate for growing grapes, Faouzi Issa and Domaine des Tourelles have a simple philosophy of sustainable and manual farming, social responsibility, hand harvesting, indigenous fermentation, minimal SO₂, and a preference for neutral oak aging for their red wines except for the Marquis des Beys and Syrah du Liban. Temperature control for the red wines is entirely passive and based on centuries of knowledge on how to keep cool in a hot climate. While the majority of the wines ferment in cement tanks dating back to the mid-19th century, the whites and rosé are fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks to preserve their freshness. The byproducts from the fermentations are composted and returned to the soils. These are not only sustainably-made wines, but they are wines of tremendous authenticity, minimally made, and nourishingly Mediterranean.

The estate Rouge from Domaine des Tourelles represents a classic blend – 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Syrah, 15% Cinsault, and 5% Carignan – that many associate with the red wines of Lebanon but with the added twist of being entirely fermented and aged in the estate's old concrete tanks. This makes for a lively and expressively aromatic wine that honestly reflects the hot summer days and cool nights of the Bekaa Valley. It is released in early spring to preserve its juicy dark fruit.

ORIGIN

Lebanon

APPELLATION

Bekaa Valley

SOIL

Sandy clay limestone, heavier clay soils

AGE OF VINES

15-20

ELEVATION

1050 meters

VARIETIES

Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, natural yeast fermentation in concrete vats, 10 day maceration

AGING

3 months in concrete vats

