



TERROIR SENSE FRONTERES

Guix Vermell de Montsant

The dramatic view from Dominik Huber and Tatjana Peceric's Les Manyes vineyard shows the tortured topography of the Priorat, their adopted home. Making wines in the Priorat has always been a challenging struggle against the torrid climate, steep hillsides, poor soils, and a generally conservative approach to grape growing and winemaking. But, being inclined towards organic and biodynamic cultivation and preferring wines of infusion rather than extraction, these two outsiders (Dominik from Germany and Tatjana from Serbia) must toil even more. Especially after all the accolades their distinctive wines earn year after year. So rather than look south from Les Manyes, they turned their attention to the north, where the DO of Montsant offers a diversity of *terruño* and a more liberal attitude about farming and winemaking. In 2017, they created Terroir Sense Fronteres, a range of wines from the Montsant as honest and forthright in expressing their origins as they've done in the Priorat with Terroir al Limit.

ORIGIN

Spain

APPELLATION

Montsant

SOIL

Red clay, gypsum

AGE OF VINES

45 years-old

ELEVATION

800 meters

VARIETIES

Garnatxa

FARMING

Certified organic (CCPAE)

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, whole-cluster, natural yeast fermentation in terracotta amphorae, 8-day maceration before pressing

AGING

6 months in terracotta amphorae after primary fermentation is complete

In the Montsant, they've assembled a diverse collection of sites. Some they own outright, while others are farmed organically under their supervision. They offer two village wines sourced from vines on sandy clay soils – a white called *Brisat* and a red called simply *Negre*. In addition, there are currently three single terroir offerings, *Vèrtebra* from *La Figuera*, just to the west of Priorat, and *Marcenca* and *Guix Vermell* from a vineyard close to Les Manyes but just over the border in Montsant. With less rigid regulations, a preference for sheltered sites, and their natural inclination for lithe and lively wines, the offerings from Terroir Sense Fronteres are slightly lower in alcohol and lighter in color than what they make in the Priorat. Still, they share the same vinous persistence, haunting aromas, mineral depths, and fruit precision.

The same tilted and dramatic plateau where Les Manyes is situated is also the location of another vineyard of Garnatxa, *Els Montalts*, planted just over the border in Montsant. This four-hectare parcel of 45-year-old Garnatxa is more exposed and at a slightly higher elevation, a dizzying 800m. Despite being quite close to Les Manyes and sharing an identical terroir, *Guix Vermell* offers a soaring take on Garnatxa with a deceptive fragility of delicate red fruit and heady aromas of orange peel, violets, and spring lilies. While there is a certain kinship with Les Manyes, these are unique variations on a theme and proof positive of the mysteries of terroir.

ACCOLADES

97 – 2021 Guix Vermell – Wine Advocate

96 – 2021 Guix Vermell – James Suckling

97 – 2019 Guix Vermell – Wine Advocate

