



DOMAINE LAFAGE

Cuvée Nicolas Vieilles Vignes

For twenty years, we have worked with Jean-Marc Lafage at his estate in the Roussillon and across the border in Spain, where he consults on several projects. As good as his wines were when we first met him, they only get better with each vintage.

While his family has been growing grapes and making wine in the Roussillon since 1791, it was Jean-Marc's early insight into the potential for the Roussillon to make a wide range of dry wines at very affordable prices that established his "new" estate. While his grandfather and father made wine for the family, Jean-Marc was the first to break away from selling most of his grapes to the local cooperative. Over the generations, his family had amassed scattered vineyards throughout the region, which now totals over 160 hectares of vines, most of them in excess of 50 years in age.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Côtes Catalanes

SOIL

Red schist, black schist

AGE OF VINES

65

ELEVATION

140-300 meters

VARIETIES

Grenache

FARMING

Practicing organic

FERMENTATION

Hand harvested, destemmed, 7 day pre-fermentation maceration, fermentation in tank with regular pigeage, 22 day maceration

AGING

12 months in concrete (50%), and French oak demi-muids (50%)

Another factor in Jean-Marc's success is the diversity of the terroirs in the Roussillon. Squeezed between the far southern edge of the limestone Corbières Massif to the north and the granitic Pyrenees mountains in the south, the Roussillon is an undulating terrain of complex soil types, orientations, and exposures. Three river valleys, the Agly, Têt, and Tech, drain the region generally flowing west to east, where they meet the Mediterranean. Within its borders, Jean-Marc has identified six principal sub-zones in the appellation: the Crest, the Upper Agly Valley, the Uplands of Fenouillet, Les Asprès, the Mediterranean Plain, the Rocky Coast. Each region has its own expression and when you factor in the various varieties Jean-Marc has planted, you can understand why he can make so many riveting wines at such reasonable prices.

Cuvée Nicolas is named after Jean-Marc and Eliane's son and comes from Grenache grown in the schist soils of the foothills of the Pyrenees in Aspres. These low yielding vines (19hl/ha) are around 65 years old and are planted on terraces with southern and southeastern exposure.

ACCOLADES

90-92 – 2018 Cuvée Nicolas – Wine Advocate

91-93 – 2017 Cuvée Nicolas – Wine Advocate

92 – 2016 Cuvée Nicolas – Wine Advocate