

DOMAINE DE FONDRÈCHE

VENTOUX – IL ÉTAIT UNE FOIS

RHÔNE

Story

The Domaine de Fondrèche estate is situated at the foot of Mont Ventoux, particularly famous thanks to the Tour de France, on a plateau where cattle used to drink. In fact, « Frondrèche » means the spring in Provencal dialect. Created in 1991, Domaine de Fondrèche is now run by Sebastien Vicenti, the 2nd generation working on the estate. It covers an area of 52 hectares of vines and 20 ha of woods. Thanks to a major vineyard restructuring, 3 different types of soils/locations were identified, each one assigned to a specific production.

Farming philosophy : Organic and biodynamic (No certification)

« Il était une fois » meaning *Once upon a time*, refers to beginning of the story : the oldest vines planted on the estate.

Vineyard Information

Grape varieties : 80% Grenache , 10% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre

Plot size : 2 ha (5 acres)

Average age of the vines : 85-90 years

East facing

Elevation : 250m (820 ft)

Soils : Ancient alluvium - very stony (rolled pebbles, flint) and calcareous from the surface with a sandy-clay texture.

FARMING PRACTICES

- Training method : Cordon de Royat & Guyot (Syrah)
- No herbicides
- Regular work of the soils (develop the roots, protect the vine)
- Decoction and infusion of plants (horsetail, nettle, willow)
- Cover crops
- Use of the lunar calendar
- Organic treatments

Winemaking

- Hand picked grapes / Destemmed with sorting
- Indigenous yeasts
- Fermentation : temperature-controlled concrete tank / 20 days
- Maceration technique : some plungings
- Pneumatic press
- SO2 only added after the malo
- Aging : 12 months in new barrels (Syrah and Mourvèdre), amphora & ovoid concrete tank / on lees
- Fined : No
- Filtration : Yes
- SO2 Total : <50ppm Vegan : Yes

Tasting notes

The wine opens with notes of raspberry, pepper and garrigue. The mouth is long with spices and cocoa. A wine that is longer than it is wide with incredible finesse, silky tannins and a rare freshness.



Press Ratings

95 pts Jeb Dunnuck – 2020 vintage

92-94+ pts Wine Advocate – 2019 vintage

94 pts Editor's Choice Wine Enthusiast – 2018 vintage

French
Libération