



**Grape varieties :** 45 % syrah, 40% grenache, 15% carignan.



**Terroir :** round pebbles mixed in a chalky sand-clay soil, which dates from the Miocene and Ice-age period (- 6 à -18 million years). The pebbles cumulate the sun heat during the day and return it to the vines in the evening, giving concentrated, mature wines. This soil has a lot of complexity : because of erosion, the soil particles have become very fine, small enough to be picked up by the roots. This region also benefits from the largest number of sunshine hours of France, important for the photo synthesis, sugar and maturing process. The northern wind called "Mistral", blows up to 100 days a year, and keeps the vines clean and healthy; it reduces the amount of treatments substantially.



**Vine growing :** old and low yield vines planted with a density of 4200 per hectare. The number of treatments is limited to a minimum and depends on the weather. Limited amounts of fertilizers are used, only to maintain a balance in the soil, and when required by the vines. This is based on soil and leaf analysis. The yield is kept at a low level in order to have a high quality of grape. This is done by hedging, leaf-thinning and green harvesting



**Vinification :** the harvest is done during the night to limit oxidation. The grapes are destemmed and crushed, followed by a pre-fermentation at low temperature to extract more primary aromas. The extraction of aromas, tannins etc. is enhanced by cap punching and pumping over of the juice. The vinification is done at controlled low temperature and is up to 4 weeks.

**Ageing :** this wine matures for 1 year in small oak barrels, medium heated. ¼ is american oak barrel and 3 /4 is french oak.

**Annual production :** 12 000 bottles.



**Tasting :** dark red color. Pleasant nose revealing vanilla and jammy fruit. Round palate with aromas of redcurrant, vanilla, pepper, blond tobacco and cacao. Quite some tannins, but well build in. Powerfull wine with a long mouth feel.

**Keeping potential :** maximum 10 years.



**Food match :** hare leg, red meat, big game.

**Packaging sizes :** bottles of 37.5cl, 75cl, magnums on request.

