



Domaine Sainte Leocadie Minervois Cuvée Leukadios

WINERY OVERVIEW	<p>Thierry Bonnel's great-grandfather, Fernand Avéroux, established this domaine in the medieval village of Aigne at the beginning of the 20th century. Thierry now tends approximately 51 acres of vines spread out over several south and southwest facing parcels in the Les Mourels sector of the Minervois appellation. This high-elevation zone (300 meters) sits above the village of Minerve between the Causses sector and the Serre d'Oupia mountain range.</p> <p>Great-grand-dad named the domaine after the 4th century patron saint of Toledo, Spain where she was publicly tortured and imprisoned, dying in a dungeon for refusing to renounce her faith. Saint Léocadie became an important Christian figure to the Visigoths who shortly thereafter gained control the Iberian Peninsula and a large section of southwestern Gaul (France) from the 5th to 8th century. When Fernand Avéroux purchased the domaine, he discovered Visigoth religious ruins and relics on the property. Inspired by the spiritual history of his new home, Avéroux erected a statue of the patron saint of Toledo and Aigne on the family house overlooking his vines.</p> <p>Thierry Bonnel's vineyard practices are sustainable. Because of the rugged terrain, much of the work, including harvest, must be conducted by hand. Thierry and his wife Anne built a modern winery with all of the latest vinification and bottling equipment in 2002. They now produce four red cuvées along with small amounts of rosé and a white wine made from Marsanne, Vermentino and Muscat. Thierry's red wines are all made using carbonic maceration with pigeage done the old-fashioned way, treading. Elevage for three of the reds takes place in cement cuves, while Cuvée Eden is aged in barrel.</p>
REGION	Languedoc-Roussillon
Property	74 acres total. Just under 50 acres in multiple parcels in the Minervois appellation. Planted to Syrah, Grenache, Carignan, Mourvèdre, Cinsault, Vermentino, Marsanne, Viognier and Muscat à Petits Grains.
VARIETAL COMPOSITION	Syrah 50% Grenache 50%
Soil Structure	The Les Mourels sector of Minervois has a rugged mosaic of geology including sandstone (grès), limestone (calcaire) and clay marls (marne). Some of the Bonnel's plots are covered with small rocks like the galets roulés of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.
VINIFICATION & MATURING	Fermentation for all reds with indigenous yeast using carbonic maceration. Elevage for Cuvée Leukadios, Les Clause, and Cuvée Fernand Avéroux takes place in cement cuves.
TASTING NOTES	The wine has an intense ruby red colour. On the nose, the wine expresses berries compote aromas as well as liquorice. There is an harmonious feel in the mouth with rounded tannins and fruity tones on the palate