

Dom. du Banneret 2017 Châteauneuf du Pape Blanc

WineWise Code	FBA-CPB17
Country	France
Region	Rhone
Subregion	Châteauneuf du Pape
Color	White
Alcohol by Volume	13.5
Acidity	3.35
Residual Sugar	0.4
Closure	Natural Cork
Annual cases produced	70
Varieties	40% Grenache Blanc, 40% Clairette, 10% Picardan 10%, 5% Roussanne, 5% Bourboulenc
Aging method	Stainless Steel 80%, Used Barrique 20%
Filtered?	Yes
Fining agents	None
Yeast	Native, Spontaneous
Malolactic	No
Added Sulfur	Yes
Vineyard Name	Les Terres Blanches
Soil Type(s)	Calcareous
Elevation (meters)	118
Vineyard Aspect	Northeast
Vine age (years)	50
Farming practices	Sustainable
Grape Picking	Hand-harvested

Notes from the producer:

Jean-Claude and Marie Françoise Vidal decided to take care of the remaining vineyards in 1989. It was like a second life for both (vineyards and family) as Jean-Claude and Marie-François already had their jobs in Toulouse as architect and speech therapist. They took the vineyards to give a second chance to this little plot that otherwise would have been sold outside the family. The first harvest was made in the famous Henri Bonneau's cellar, a wine-maker, friend of the family. Since then, the domaine keeps a traditional approach, including some technology for the benefits of the wine. In 2013, Audrey joined the estate after ten years spent abroad. She is now in charge of the vineyards, winemaking and sales. In 2015, the Domaine bought few new plots, including one kept for white Châteauneuf du Pape.



WineWise Notes:

Audrey has already put her stamp on the domaine by purchasing a parcel from Ch. Vaudieu, whose steep, calcareous slopes, dotted with silex and iron, have long been considered the appellation's best spot for white wines. Composed of 40% each of Grenache Blanc and Clairette, the balance is Picardan, Bourboulenc and Roussanne. Just 15% is fermented in barrique in an effort to preserve freshness at all costs. And, at 13.5% alcohol, this is an uncommonly fragrant, incisive and elegant Châteauneuf, which blossoms beautifully with air. Only 1200 bottles were made, of which we got 120.

We resisted for a long time the temptation to import any wines from this iconic but often under-performing appellation. It is therefore with particular pleasure and some pride that we present to you the wines of a vigneron who is as rooted in his milieu as any we have ever encountered. Jean-Claude Vidal is the uncle of Jean-Marc Espinasse (see Rouge-Bleu above). An engineer by profession, he has lovingly tended his pocket-sized domaine since inheriting it twenty years ago. A fierce traditionalist, he makes a wine that will bring tears to the eyes of any nostalgists who believe that Châteauneuf's best days are behind it. Making just 500 cases a year, he proves that it is possible against all odds to harness the benefits of today's climate to the aesthetic standards of yesteryear.

