

PROFILE

# A VARIETY OF TERROIR AND VINE

A LOOK AT LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON



Languedoc comprises three 'departments' (Aude, Hérault, and Gard), while Roussillon only has one (Pyrénées Orientales). Pictured here is the city of Carcassonne, located in Aude.



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COVERING OVER 200 KILOMETRES FROM EAST TO WEST, ENCOMPASSING MEDITERRANEAN SHORES AND CRAGGY FOOTHILLS, THE LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON REGION IS THE EPITOME OF DIVERSITY – SOMETHING EMBODIED BY ITS WINES. FROM FRESH BUBBLIES TO ROBUST REDS AND CHARACTER-FILLED WHITES, TO TRENDING ROSÉS AND LEGENDARY NATURAL SWEET WINES WHOSE DYNAMISM UNDERLIES THEIR HISTORY, THIS FAMOUS WINE REGION NEVER CEASES TO SURPRISE AND IMPRESS.

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID DE STEFANO

## Languedoc

It's impossible to be bored when travelling through Languedoc, whether via car or through its amazing bottles; its wines are a perfect reflection of the landscape. The inherent freshness of the Cévennes Mountains is pleasantly present in wines from the Terrasses du Larzac appellation, located in the region's north-east. The steep hills of the Corbières or Minervois are apparent in that appellation's powerful reds. As if to even things out, the Mediterranean sun adds colour to white wines from the breathtaking Massif de La Clape, and to rosés that come from the sandy terroirs of the oceanside. Whichever wine is your pre-dilection, if it's from Languedoc, you'll taste it.



FRUITY AND VIBRANT

**\$17.90**  
**SIEUR D'ARQUES PREMIÈRE BULLE**  
Sparkling wine,  
Blanquette de Limoux AOC  
White wine / France  
00094953 / 750 ML

SCAN TO BUY



AROMATIC AND SUPPLE

ORGANIC

**\$18.30**  
**CHÂTEAU DES ESTANILLES**  
Syrah / Mourvèdre /  
Grenache / Carignan,  
Faugères AOC  
Red wine / France  
10272755 / 750 ML

SCAN TO BUY



### FRESHNESS AND BUBBLES

Ahh, Languedoc, land of...bubbles? Languedoc might well be more known for its sunny, robust reds but bubbles are indeed on the region's *carte du vin*. The Limoux appellation has a cool terroir and Atlantic climate that can ably produce festive, sparkling bubbly like **Sieur d'Arques** (one of the better-known names in Quebec). Even reds from Limoux can surprise with their freshness! Take for example **L'Impertinent** of the **Château des Estanilles**, whose grapes grow in a shale terroir of the Faugères appellation; once turned into wine and bottled, they have an energetic, crisp finish.



**ALL-IN-ONE  
SEAFOOD PLATTER**

See recipe on page 66  
and at [SAQ.COM/MAGAZINE](http://SAQ.COM/MAGAZINE)



**WHITE OR ROSÉ?**

With lively cepages such as Bourboulenc, Rolle, or Piquepoul, Languedoc's whites can be as refreshing as a Chablis or a Muscadet – and pair just as well with seafood. The Picpoul de Pinet appellation is located very near to the Étang de Thau (a lagoon where oysters are cultivated). Seafood and wines from Picpoul de Pinet pair beautifully – for your next seafood feast, try a **Ormarine** with its citrus and mineral notes. The region's rosés (like Côte des Roses **Gérard Bertrand**), especially when fresh and dry, are another match made in heaven when it comes to crustaceans.

**ORGANIC ORIGINALS**

Languedoc is a dynamic and ever-evolving location in terms of wine – even if the moderate Mediterranean climate inspires relaxation (perhaps even laziness!) and the desire to grab a bottle of rosé and either head to the beach, or linger while savouring a ratatouille. Despite its seeming tranquility, new appellations and vintages are constantly being created, and express each terroir's distinctive qualities. A healthy preoccupation with the environment also drives the region's position as France's leader in organic wine production, with a significant amount of winemakers bottling organic wines that have personality in addition to being unique.

Le Château des Estanilles is a perfect example of the above; established in 1976, original owner Michel Louison steadfastly refused to use pesticides. In 2009, second owner Julien Seydoux took over, following in Louison's footsteps. Shortly thereafter the estate was certified organic. In Languedoc, the steps taken to preserve the environment are many: winemakers plant and maintain hedges and *garrigue*, and they install bat shelters to help support wildlife. Several animal and plant species, such as the Bonelli eagle and the cornflower, La Clape's native flower, are also protected.



**\$13.20**  
**ORMARINE  
LES PINS  
DE CAMILLE**  
Piquepoul,  
Picpoul de Pinet AOC  
White wine / France  
00266064 / 750 ML

SCAN TO BUY



**\$18.35**  
**GÉRARD BERTRAND  
CÔTE DES ROSES**  
Grenache / Cinsaut / Syrah,  
Languedoc AOC  
Rosé wine / France  
12521962 / 750 ML

SCAN TO BUY



Prices are subject to change without notice.



The small city of Collioure, nestled between the ocean and mountains.

# Roussillon

Located close to the Spanish border, Roussillon is becoming increasingly well known. The Côtes du Roussillon and Côtes du Roussillon Villages appellation recently celebrated their 40th birthdays, and through the years have increased in profile. The latter appellations express the diversity of mountainous soils, overhung by the snowy silhouette of the Canigou, one of the Pyrennes' most impressive flanks and nearly synonymous with the region itself. The most recent appellation, Côtes du Roussillon Villages Les Aspres, evokes the fierceness of growing in poor, rocky soil, yet its wines are genuine vintages, stunning mixtures of strength and finesse, with a surprising cellaring potential.

Roussillon is also host to a proud tradition of fortified wines in the Banyuls, Rivesaltes and Maury appellations without overlooking Muscat de Rivesaltes. Fortified wines are truly exquisite yet often forgotten, and take on astounding dimensions when left to age.

## ROUSSILLON GREEN

Roussillon, like neighbouring Languedoc, has weather that heartily supports grape-growing. During the summer, rain is sparse, and maritime or mountain winds constantly caress the region, greatly reducing plant diseases. Winemakers capitalize on these factors, and are environmental leaders – more than 50 percent of the region's estates are either organic or HVE (*haute valeur environnementale* – high environmental value), a designation that indicates greatly reduced pesticide use and increased environmental harmony. Biodiversity is also one of the region's concerns, and research from Roussillon pushes the boundaries of viticulture that respects nature and takes climactic changes into account. The results are nothing less than fantastic: Terroirs that are very dry, where chirping crickets bask in the sun, are also alive with lush greenery and perfect vines.



AROMATIC AND ROBUST

**\$16.85**  
**BY JEFF CARREL**  
**VIEILLE MULE**  
 Grenache,  
 Côtes Catalanes IGP  
 Red wine / France  
 13284604 / 750 ML

SCAN TO BUY



AROMATIC AND ROBUST

**\$15.55**  
**M. CHAPOUTIER**  
**LES VIGNES DE**  
**BILA-HAUT**  
 Syrah / Grenache /  
 Carignan, Côtes du  
 Roussillon Villages AOC  
 Red wine / France  
 11314970 / 750 ML

SCAN TO BUY



Prices are subject to change without notice.



## RACK OF LAMB À LA GARRIGUE

See recipe on page 66  
 and at [SAQ.COM/MAGAZINE](http://SAQ.COM/MAGAZINE)