

Akluj Red 2016

Akluj, Mahārāshtra, India



Grape Varieties

- 58% Cabernet Sauvignon**
- 19% Marselan**
- 19% Petit Verdot**
- 4% Sangiovese**

Winemaker	Piero Masi
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	13.5%
Residual Sugar	3g/L
Acidity	5.5g/L
Wine pH	3.44
Bottle Sizes	75cl

PRODUCER

J'NOON is a joint venture between Kapil Sekhri of Fratelli wines and Jean-Charles Boisset. The name is a French take on the Urdu word "Junoon", which means "passion". The aim of Jean-Charles and Kapil was to produce India's finest wine, and we think they've achieved that.

VINEYARDS

J'NOON's vineyards span 95 hectares over three sites in Akluj (Mahārāshtra), on the right bank of the Nira River. The climate in this region is sub-tropical but the altitude of 650 metres ensures cool nights which helps retain freshness and acidity in the wines. The fruit for this wine comes from the three different plots within the Garwar vineyards: the rocky low nutrient soils of Plot A for the Cabernet Sauvignon, the sandy Plot F for the Petit Verdot/Marselan and Plot C for the Sangiovese.

VINTAGE

Unlike warmer regions in India, temperatures in the Mahārāshtra are moderate enough to produce only one harvest a year, which drastically improves quality. 2016 proved to be warmer than previous years, resulting in a slightly earlier harvest than was anticipated: the Sangiovese harvest began during the third week of January, followed by the Cabernet Sauvignon on the 1st of February and finally, on the 22nd February, the Petit Verdot and Marselan were picked together over six days.

VINIFICATION

The Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese grapes were processed and vinified separately, and the Petit Verdot and Marselan grapes were co-fermented. Following destemming, the grapes were fermented for 10 days in stainless steel tanks at a temperature of 25°C-28°C, with daily pump overs, before being transferred into French oak barrels (of which 50% new oak was used) for malolactic fermentation. The wines were then aged for 24 months, 50% in oak and 50% in steel tanks, before blending and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The Cabernet Sauvignon contributes backbone as well as freshness to this blend. The Petit Verdot, Marselan and Sangiovese grapes give the wine its deep purple colour and provide luscious flavours of black fruits with structured tannins, a full body and a long, silky finish.