

Merlot Pays d'Oc 2017

Languedoc, France



Grape Varieties	100% Merlot
Winemaker	Bernard Nivollet
Closure	Screwcap
ABV	13%
Residual Sugar	0.4g/L
Acidity	4.09g/L
Wine pH	3.69
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Sustainable, Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Established in the late 1990s, Château Haut-Blanville is a family-run domaine located in Pézenas outside Montpellier. Bernard and Beatrice Nivollet moved to the Languedoc from Paris in 1995 to realise their dream of becoming wine producers. Attracted by the region's richly diverse soils, they settled upon the Languedoc Grés de Montpellier appellation. Bernard and Beatrice took up the challenge of creating their own estate, Château Haut-Blanville, and over the years have gradually selected and carefully built up a collection of parcels of vines across the region.

VINEYARDS

Château Haut Blanville has 40 hectares of vineyards across the Languedoc Grés de Montpellier appellation and 30 hectares under IGP. The warm dry climate is moderated by summer sea-breezes which encourage the grapes to ripen early and gives good freshness to the wines. All the vines are cultivated according to hybrid sustainable principles which combine Lutte Raisonnée, organic cultivation and biodynamics. With the aim to preserve the quality and diversity of the various soils, no chemical fertilisers are used in the vineyards.

VINTAGE

The 2017 growing season started with a cold and rainy winter. A severe Spring frost during April destroyed the vegetative shoots in the vineyard, resulting in lower yields. May and June were exceptionally warm and dry. Temperatures were high in the summer but due to the good reserves created by the heavy rains earlier in the season, the vines were not water stressed. Harvest started towards the end of August, making 2017 one of the earliest harvests on record.

VINIFICATION

The Merlot was fermented in temperature controlled, stainless steel tanks with 80% whole bunch, which preserved the bright, fruit forward profile of the wine.

TASTING NOTES

The nose boasts aromas of fresh red fruits with a hint of licquorice. On the palate the tannins are ripe and plush, complimented by flavours of juicy red fruits. This is an extremely approachable and excellent value merlot.