

Domaine de l'Hortus,
Bergerie de L'Hortus Blanc 2021
Pic Saint-Loup, Languedoc, France



PRODUCER

Located in the heart of the Pic Saint-Loup appellation in the Languedoc, Domaine de l'Hortus was established by Jean Orliac in the late seventies. A keen rock climber and recent agricultural college graduate, Jean recognised the potential of Mount Hortus' abandoned and steep, limestone slopes for growing both red and white grapes successfully. Fortunately, the land was unwanted, and therefore cheap, so Jean managed to purchase 50 hectares. He then spent the next 15 years understanding the complex soil structures and carefully selecting the right parcels for each grape variety, before releasing their first vintage in 1990. Over the years, this unique location has persuaded his four children to return home and take over different parts of the business. Now over forty years later, Domaine de l'Hortus is a flag-bearer for the appellation and with 80 hectares to their name, Francois, Yves, Marie and Martin Orliac continue to drive it forwards.

VINEYARDS

The vineyards stretch across a deep valley between two mountains: The Pic Saint Loup and the Hortus. The Bergerie white are sourced from vineyards planted on the alluvial soils of the valley floor. The vines are less exposed to the elements than the higher terraces and the grapes therefore mature later, resulting in an excellent balance between acidity and aromatic complexity. Jean's children have introduced higher density plantings and sustainable practices to the vineyards to improve the soils and quality of the grapes.

VINTAGE

The Domaine lost 50% of production in 2021 due to a very damaging frost on the 8th of April. The weather that followed was very cool and delayed ripening. The summer was rather fresh and humid. Harvest of the white grapes started on 1st September and finished on 10th with the Roussanne. The cooler summer resulted in excellent acidity and aromatic complexity.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were harvested in the early hours to preserve freshness and then pressed before undergoing cold-settling and fermentation in temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. The wine was racked at the end of fermentation and then spent a further four months in tank before bottling. The wine is classified as Vin de France due to the Pic-Saint-Loup appellation only including red and rosé wines.

TASTING NOTES

The nose displays aromas of fresh lime, white flowers and apricot notes while the palate is driven by energetic acidity, notes of stone fruit culminating in a long, saline finish.

Grape Varieties	30% Roussanne 20% Sauvignon Blanc 20% Viognier 10% Sauvignon Gris 10% Chardonnay 5% Muscat Blanc à Petits Grai 5% Petit Manseng
Winemaker	Martin Orliac
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	12.5%
Residual Sugar	0.8g/L
Acidity	5.37g/L
Wine pH	3.52
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Sustainable, Vegetarian, Vegan