



CHÊNE BLEU



2020 ABÉLARD

WINERY

Chene Bleu's property is nestled in a UNESCO heritage-listed reserve among the diverse flora and fauna at one of the highest elevations in all of Southern Rhone, 2,000 feet above sea level. The remarkable 340-acre estate has functioned as a working vineyard since the Middle Ages. The high-altitude vineyards benefit from warm daytime sun and cool nights allowing a longer, gradual ripening season. The resulting wines embody the aromas and flavor of southern Rhône, together with the finesse and elegance of northern Rhône and the aging potential of the region's finest AOPs.

WINE

The flagship Grenache Blend named after the famed philosopher Pierre Abelard to reflect its forceful, brooding intensity and showcase the opulence and concentration of the old-vine Grenache, with some Syrah to add to the complex structure.

VINEYARDS

Grenache vines are 60 years old, facing north-west at 530m. Syrah vines are 50 years old, facing south-west at 540m. Pruning method: Single and double cordon de Royat with 5-6 shoots per cordon. The soil consists of clay, limestone, and many stones.

VINTAGE NOTES

An exceptionally dry season kept disease pressure low and organic/biodynamic treatments minimal. An early June storm damaged some high-elevation Rolle and Syrah, reducing yields, but overall quality was outstanding. Harvest was short and intense, beginning September 17, with a timely pre-harvest rain refreshing the vines. The 2020 reds show impressive concentration, depth, and structure.

WINEMAKING

The grapes were fully destemmed. The Syrah and Grenache are isolated in wooden tanks for a 30 day maceration period. Malolactic fermentation occurs post fermentation in barrels. The wine was aged for 18 months in barrels that were either new or one to two years old, with capacities ranging from 228 to 320 liters.

TASTING NOTES

Abélard boasts a ruby-red color with purple reflections. It offers notes of blackberry, pepper, and peony. On the palate, it is velvety, with present tannins and red fruits.

VINEYARD

- Region:** Rhône Valley
- Appellation:** Ventoux AOP
- Soil:** Clay and limestone, and very stony
- Age/Exposure:** Grenache Noir, 60 years old, North-West facing at 530m; Syrah, 50 years old, South-West facing at 540m;
- Eco-Practices:** Bee-friendly
- Certifications:** Organic - Ecocert

WINEMAKING

- Varietals:** 85% Grenache Noir, 15% Syrah
- Aging:** 18 months in either new or 1-2 two years old, 228L-320L barrels French oak barrels

TECHNICAL DETAILS

- Yeast:** Native
- Alcohol:** 14.5%
- Total Acidity:** 3.80 g/L
- pH:** 3.6

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