

"I was blown away by the quality here and their wines were easily some of the top..." The Wine Advocate Feb 2014



Domaine du Gros' Noré

www.gros-nore.com Bandol (Provence) (Organic)



Owner and wine-maker Alain Pascal has 16 ha of vines around the prime sector of Cadiere d'Azur (some being planted with help of their friends the Peyrauds of Domaine Tempier who are close neighbours and friends). The first official vintage released by Alain after his fathers death was 1997. Prior to this, Alain's father, Honore (his name is shortened to 'Nore to give the name of the Domaine as Gros Noré = Big Honore) worked the vineyards but never made his own wine. Instead he sold the grapes to other leading Bandol producers at that time, Domaine Ott and Chateau de Pibarnon. These beautifully sited vineyards have an average age of 35 years with some located in the highest coolest part of Bandol as well as vineyards surrounding the winery on the Chemin de l'Argile just below Cadiere d'Azur where they are located.

Bandol is regarded as the First Growth of Provence producing the most serious, and well known, wines of Provence. The Mourvèdre grape variety is the basis of great Bandol with appellation laws requiring a minimum of 50% for the red wines (though many use up to 100% for some cuvees). As well as Mourvèdre (80%), the Gros' Noré red also has a dash of Grenache(15%), and old vine Cinsault (5%). The wine is aged for 18 months in old 60 hl wooden barrels (*foudres*). There are no new barriques used.

There are now two cuvees of red wine is produced, bottled without fining or filtration. Cuvee Antionette comes from old vines located in the highest and coolest north facing slope in Bandol and was first produced in 2008. Made from 95% Mourvedre this wine is intense yet still fresh and one of the very best of the appellation.

"In ten years, Alain Pascal has made his domaine one of the best representatives of his appellation. With old vines of Mourvedre ripened to perfect maturity he produces Bandol reds which are always very complete, intense and made for long ageing from the clay soils of Cadiere d'Azur." From Classement 2013



2015 Bandol Rosé (40% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache and 40% Cinsault)

Note for 2014 vintage. 2015 will not be reviewed until mid 2016 *"Bright orange. Aromas of pungent red berries, cherry pit and blood orange, joined by a slowly emerging mineral element. Sappy and penetrating, offering spice-tinged raspberry, orange zest and succulent herb flavors that deepen and spread out with air. Smoothly plays richness off vivacity and finishes long and gently sweet, displaying a repeating mineral note and a hint of candied rose. 91."* Vinousmedia.com June 2016

2012 Bandol Rouge

"This has a dark leathery frame but remains sleek and pure overall, with a dense core of currant preserves, steeped plum and lightly mulled blackberry fruit, studded with dried anise and singed juniper notes. A bolt of iron is buried deeply on the finish. Best from 2017 through 2025. 93 points. #94 Top 100 wines of 2015" Wine Spectator Oct 2015

2011 Bandol Rouge

"Both of the reds are brilliant and most likely the wines of the vintage, the 2011 Bandol comes from 30-year-old vines and is a blend of 80% Mourvedre, 15% Grenache and 5% Cinsault. Aged 18 months in foudre, it's a dense, concentrated 2011 that offers notions of black cherry, blackberry, earth and ground herbs on the nose. This flows to a full-bodied, gorgeously put together palate that has considerable structure, superb purity of fruit and a knockout finish. Give it another 2-3 years in the cellar and enjoy it over the following 15 years or more. 94" Jeb Dunnuck erobertparker.com Feb 2014

2011 Bandol Rouge "cuvee Antoinette"

"Also gorgeous, yet slightly more elegant and polished, the 2011 Bandol Cuvee Antoinette, which is named after winemaker Alain Pascal's mother, is comprised of 90% Mourvedre and the balance Cinsault and Grenache. It exhibits impressive amounts of red and black fruits, sweet spice, smoked earth and dried flower notions as well as building richness and depth on the palate. Full-bodied, elegant, seamless and silky, with fantastic polish to the tannin, it's reasonably approachable now, yet should be better in another year or three, and have 15-20 years of ultimate longevity. 94" Jeb Dunnuck erobertparker.com Feb 2014

