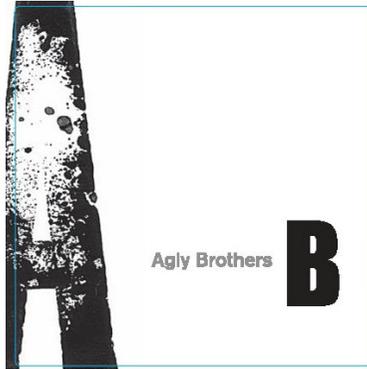


(Bio-Dynamic)



Agly Brothers + La Pleiade

www.jasperhill.com Roussillon, France — Heathcote, Australia

A chance meeting in the mid nineties was the start of a partnership between two influential winemaking families of modern times—The Laughtons and the Chapoutiers. A common belief in biodynamic farming and its expression of “true terroir” led to the forming of a common vision—to create wines that were from opposing sides of the world, old and new world, that were joined in the philosophy of their creation—as true expressions of their terroir.



Agly Brothers Cotes du Roussillon - Agly Brothers is nurtured biodynamically and made with simplicity from vines grown in the Southern French town of Latour de France, located in Corbières zone in the hills above the Roussillon plains. Literally translated as ‘The Tower of France’, this small village borders the ancient kingdoms of Catalonia and France. Mature vineyards lay abandoned in this area of steep, arid slopes due to the high cost of farming, thus it is the quest of the Laughton and Chapoutier families to rediscover and fully express these exceptional, low-yielding sites. The vineyards are located on the slopes in the upper reaches of the Agly valley. The plot planted with Carignan and Shiraz is on gneiss at an altitude of 250m, and faces north. The plot planted with Grenache is on south-facing slopes on an original soil made up of schists on a layer of limestone.

La Pleiade Heathcote Shiraz This dynamic partnership also yielded a Shiraz vineyard in Central Victoria’s Heathcote region, the home of Jasper Hill. Planted in the spring of 1998, this tiny vineyard was established on virgin red Cambrian soils and planted with un-grafted vines of both Australian Shiraz clones, selected by Ron, and French Syrah clones taken from the Hermitage hill in the Rhone Valley, imported by Michel. The label depicts ‘La Pleiade’ (The Pleiades, Seven Sisters), a small, wispy star cluster in the constellation of Taurus that can be viewed by the naked eye from both partners home vineyards in Tain l’Hermitage and Heathcote.



2014 Agly Brothers Cotes du Roussillon - *“the 2014 is shockingly good – it has incredible purity and elegance to go with lots of kirsch, black raspberry, violets, crushed rock and olive tapenade characteristics”* (94-97) Robert Parker Wine Advocate issue 218 Jeb Dunnuck

A blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Grenache, (no Carignan this time) grown in the hilly catchment of the Agly River around the little village of Latour de France. Behind the initial earthy minerality, which is typical of the regions schist and gneiss based soils, lies a beautiful, soft, balanced wine with floral notes, plummy red fruit, raspberry and coffee hints. Very elegant, full and mouth coating, with great acidity, fine tannins and length to the finish.

2013 Agly Brothers Cotes du Roussillon - (60% Syrah, 20% Carignan, 20% Grenache). The grapes are 100% destemmed and fermented in small concrete tanks. The wine is transferred to larger barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wines are then aged for 16-20months in oak, both new and old. *“Probably the greatest wine yet from this collaboration between Michel Chapoutier and Ron Laughton, the 2013 Cotes du Roussillon (60% Syrah and 20% each of Grenache and Carignan) was harvested on September 15 and sees only concrete-tank aging. It has the purity and focus of the vintage to go with superb notes of blackberry and black-cherry-like fruit, pepper, bouquet garni and incredible minerality. A big, rich, medium to full-bodied effort, it has great acidity, a silky, elegant texture and knockout length. It should be relatively accessible on release, yet benefit from short-term cellaring and have 10-15 years of overall longevity. Unfortunately, there were less than 300 cases produced.”* (94-96) erobertparker.com Apr ’15

2014 La Pleiade Shiraz - (100% Shiraz) The grapes are hand harvested, gently destemmed and then fermented in small concrete vats with indigenous yeasts for six weeks. The wine is very lightly pressed and aged for 14 months in French oak casks. *Creamy French oak comes through on the initial nose of this approachable and elegant version of Heathcote Shiraz grown on the regions now famous deep, basaltic, red Cambrian soil. Great depth of magenta colour, indicating a full wine to follow in the mouth, with spicy characters of cinnamon, nutmeg and licorice. The usual fabulous balance of ripe tannins and natural acidity, conferring longevity.*

2013 La Pleiade Shiraz - *“From a great vintage, has that typical Heathcote character of power coupled with elegance, in a crimson coloured, red berry and ripe plum scented wine with the earthiness and minerality of the underlying deep, red, Cambrian era basaltic soil. Fermented in a concrete tank as usual, then 12 months in new and newish French oak barriques, bottled under the best, hand selected cork.”* Ron Laughton