DOMAINE LAFAGE

Tessellae GSM Old Vines

For well over a decade we have worked with Jean-Marc Lafage at his estate in the Roussillon, and across the border in Spain where he consults on several projects. As good as his wines were, when we first met him, they only get better with each vintage. When we first made his acquaintance in Calatayud, he suggested we visit his estate in the Roussillon and the rest, as they say, is history.

Jean-Marc and Eliane Lafage farm 160 hectares of vines located just south of the capital of French Catalonia, Perpignan. Some of their vineyards are situated a few kilometers from the Mediterranean while others can be found in the foothills of the Pyrenees. This range of sites allow them to make both refreshing whites as well as concentrated reds and, this being the Roussillon, some fortified wines as well. Benefiting from a warm, dry climate, the estate is farmed organically. They grow primarily Grenache (Blanc, Gris & Noir), Syrah, Mourvedre, Carignan, Marsanne, Roussanne and Chardonnay with a significant proportion of the vines well over 50 years old. The soil, as you near the coast is weathered, alluvial gravel while in the higher elevation sites it is predominantly schist. They harvest by hand and the winemaking is surprisingly uncomplicated with stainlesss steel for the fresher whites but mostly concrete tanks for the rest with a small amount of French oak demi-muids.

A joint venture between Eric Solomon and Jean-Marc Lafage, Tessellae old vines is assembled from vineyards on schist that Jean-Marc Lafage farms near Maury in the Agly valley.

ACCOLADES

93 – 2015 Tessellae GSM – Wine Advocate

90 – 2014 Tessellae GSM – Wine Advocate

94 – 2013 Tessellae GSM – Wine Advocate

ORIGIN
France

APPELLATION
Côtes du Roussillon

SOIL
Schist

AGE OF VINES
65

ELEVATION
150-250 meters

VARIETIES
Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre

FARMING
Practicing organic

FERMENTATION
Hand harvested, 24 hour prefermentation maceration, fermentation in tank, 30 day maceration

AGING
12 months in concrete tanks

ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS