



## BETTANE & DESSEAUME 2011 The Appellation of the Year THE TERRASSES DU LARZAC

### Thirty years' work. It was the imagination of the

'professionals in the profession' who gave birth to the Terrasses du Larzac denomination when it was decided to categorize certain deserving terroirs separately within the huge AOC Côteaux du Languedoc area. Too often this type of decision is dictated by political rather than truly qualitative considerations. But not here. **This very specific geological zone situated in the north of the Hérault between the Larzac plateau and the Mediterranean has unbelievable potential.** The famous Daumas Gassac proved this towards the end of the 1970s – although they never tried for AOC status. More recently thanks to other cult wines, both AOC and vins de Pays, it has become **obvious that this sector deserved to be in a category of its own.**



**One terroir, one intrinsic being.** Cultivating vines in the Languedoc is not a recent activity – it dates from the Gallo-Roman era. But quality has varied, plumbing the depths with mass production during the XIX century industrial revolution. Recognition of the area's huge quality potential dates from the early 1980s. Obviously 30 years is too short a time to analyse the quality of all the land parcels : it took the Burgundian monks a thousand years to do so, working on the basis of one trial per annum, at each harvest. **However, in the Languedoc progress is being made to map the best terroirs precisely.** The land falling down the steep slopes of the Massif Central, following the the Rhone south and stretching to the Cevennes has huge attributes : well exposed hills and terraces, diverse soil and sub-soil (clay and limestone, quartz rich sandstone, schist ...) and an average altitude which means cooler nights than in the heart of the Languedoc.

**Proof of talent.** A great terroir would be nothing without great wine makers. And there is no shortage of them in the area. Olivier Jullien is the quality veteran in the Terrasses. Those following in his footsteps include Vincent Goumard of Mas Cal Demoura, the Château de Jonquières, the Domaine du Pas de l'Escalette whose near mountainous site benefits from the cool air. Lower down is the Arboras plateau. The Terrasses includes many different wine styles. Mas Conscience, Mas Fabregous.... The sector around Aniane, first brought to life by Aimé Guibert of Daumas Gassac then Grange des Pères, has become a true reservoir of talent often overtaking the early masters : Montcalmès, Mas des Brousses, Mas Laval, Mas de la Séranne, Domaine Vaïsse, and many others in the Guide...

#### Champion de France 2008 de Dégustation RVF/Spiegelau-Jean-Luc Chauvet :

« I have rarely had such sensual pleasure from southern wines, not simply are they rounded and rich, but brilliantly harmonious and, remarkably, ready to drink immediately ».

#### L'express « spécial vin ». September 2008.

« The concentration of quality producers mean you must absolutely set out and discover the Terrasses du Larzac ».

#### Andrew Jefford – journaliste DECANTER 2009

« **Where is the greatest in Languedoc?** You could make a case for Faugères, for Pic St Loup, for parts of St Chinian, for Minervois La Livinière, maybe for La Clape, but **after my trip I have to say** that if you were to write me out a cheque for a million euros and tell me to go to find **somewhere to make great red wine, I would look most closely of all at Terrasses du Larzac.** " »

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