

LES TRAVERSES DE FONTANÈS CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2021/ \$19.99



DESCRIPTION

Cyriaque Rozier, the highly acclaimed winemaker, and vineyard manager at Chateau La Roque, makes his own wine under the label Chateau Fontanès in Pic St-Loup in the Languedoc, France. A charming man with a keen sense of vocation and relentless drive, Cyriaque often works sixteen-hour days between the two domaines. He first started his domaine in 2003 and undertook the ultimate labor of love in the Languedoc—planting a vineyard. For many years, this plot of land was best known for olive trees, until the great frost of 1956 decimated groves by the hundreds. The land is hard as a rock, quite literally, and composed primarily of limestone and clay. To plant a vineyard here is a game of patience and incredibly demanding work. Over the last few years, Cyriaque has been slowly building stone terraces to better protect this challenging terrain from erosion. In addition, he has taken to farming biodynamically, a noble task that forgoes the shortcuts that most vigneronns have at their disposal today in favor of producing organic grapes in a rich, healthy soil. In total, he works 4.5 hectares, which are planted with fifty-year-old Cabernet Sauvignon vines, as well as Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Carignan and Cinsault. He cannot help but love his plantings, as the original cuttings for his vines were all selected from his favorite domaines in Côte-Rôtie, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, and Bandol.

Though Cyriaque is within the boundaries of the appellation Pic St-Loup, the lion's share of his production is Cabernet Sauvignon, a grape varietal that is outside of the constraints set for the A.O.C. in the Languedoc. This means that in lieu of getting an A.O.C. cru status, he must take a Vin de Pays d' Oc designation. The trade-off for Cyriaque is that he gets to make his wines his way, and we, in turn, get an incredible price—a mutually beneficial trade-off. Being rebellious seems to come naturally to a man of such innate talent, and the elegance of his wines are proof enough in a region where bigger is often considered better.

Les Traverses de Fontanès Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

Cabernet Sauvignon is best known for making suave and courtly wines in Napa and Bordeaux, the best of which are renowned for their class and longevity. However, this red—made from 100% Cabernet—comes not from the left bank of Bordeaux but from Pic Saint-Loup in the Languedoc. Accordingly, it produces a vastly different bottle of wine, a country quaffer that is so lithe, pure, and unadorned you will have finished the bottle before even considering such matters as complexity, age-ability, or anything else serious. -Kermit Lynch Importer

Tasting Notes

NOSE:

A nose of freshly furrowed fields of wildflowers and earthy notes mingled with black currant and cherry aromas.

PALATE:

A full-bodied wine with herbaceous flavor with hints of tobacco, oregano, and dipping oil. Nice, long finish. A delightfully bright texture on the palate.

PAIRING:

Beef, Duck & Game Bird.

Fun Facts

A few minutes in the fridge will elevate the fruit and acidity of this red by drawing focus to the minerality.

WINERY WEBSITE: [Château Fontanès | Our Wines | Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant](#)

Pic-Saint-Loup A.O.P., Languedoc, France

