



## KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

### DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC

Country: France

Region: Languedoc

Appellation(s): Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile, Vin de Pays de l'Hérault, Languedoc, Languedoc Montpeyrroux

Producer: Sylvain Fadat

Founded: 1989

Annual Production: 11,000 cases

Farming: Organic

Website: [www.aupilhac.com](http://www.aupilhac.com)

Three generations of Fadats have farmed the large, eighteen-hectare *lieu-dit* known as Aupilhac, in the village of Montpeyrroux, across the river Hérault from Daumas Gassac and Grange des Pères. While the Fadats have farmed this land since the nineteenth century, and the vineyards date even farther back to the time of the Romans, it was not until 1989 that the current member of the Fadat family, Sylvain, finally registered the domaine as a *vigneron indépendant*. Aupilhac is a special parcel for many reasons. It sits at a high altitude, nestled below the ruins of the village's château, at almost 1200 feet above sea level on terraced land with southwest sun exposure. The soils are rich in prehistoric oyster fossils, which lend an incredible length and minerality to the wines. Sylvain is not one to shy away from hard work. In a volcanic amphitheatre comprised of marine fossils and raw limestone, called Cocalières, he has done what few *vignerons* dare to do nowadays: he's planted a vineyard on steep, extremely rocky terrain, and terraced the land himself. This is not only an enormous financial investment, but back-breaking work. This was the work done many centuries ago by the founders of France's great *terroirs* such as Savennières and Cornas, planting the best and most promising parcels irrespective of time and money.

Sylvain has also elected to have his fruit certified as organic in Europe, a mandatory three-year conversion process. For him, this is a choice both of conscience and pragmatism. He works the soil vigorously by plowing regularly. This forces the roots to dig deeper and deeper in the soil in search of cooler, humid subsoil, which protects the vines from drought and sun. Ultimately, his rationale centers on helping achieve a natural balance. In his words, "We believe that work in the vineyards has far more influence on a wine's quality than what we do in the cellar." What happens in the cellars is equally compelling. (See below for more technical information.) Domaine d'Aupilhac's wines find a terrific balance of ripe fruit and silky tannins, power and grace. When aged, these wines achieve a complexity rarely found in wines sold for many times the price, while their wildness and intensity makes them equally appealing young.



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## DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC (continued)

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile <i>Blanc</i>	33.3% Ugni Blanc 33.3% Grenache Blanc 33.3% Chardonnay	20 years	White shaley clay, pebbles	21.5 ha total
Languedoc "Les Cocalières" <i>Blanc</i>	25% Roussanne 25% Marsanne 25% Rolle 25% Grenache Blanc	10 years	Limestone, basalt	
Languedoc Montpeyroux Rosé	50% Mourvèdre 30% Cinsault 20% Syrah	N/A	Limestone, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)	
Languedoc "Lou Maset" <i>Rouge</i>	40% Grenache 40% Cinsault 10% Carignan 5% Syrah 5% Alicante Bouchet	20 years	Limestone	
Vin de Pays de l'Hérault "Les Servières" <i>Rouge</i>	Cinsault	Planted in 1900	Marl, clay, limestone	
Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile "Le Carignan" <i>Rouge</i>	Carignan	N/A	Limestone, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)	
Languedoc Montpeyroux <i>Rouge</i>	30% Mourvèdre 30% Carignan 25% Syrah 10% Grenache 5% Cinsault	35 years	Limestone, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)	
Languedoc "Les Cocalières" <i>Rouge</i>	40% Syrah 30% Grenache 30% Mourvèdre	10 years	Limestone, basalt	
Languedoc Montpeyroux "La Boda" <i>Rouge</i>	40% Mourvèdre 40% Syrah 10% Carignan 10% Grenache	N/A	Limestone, basalt, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)	

\* "ha"=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres

## VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

In 2007, Montpeyroux was granted its own denomination within the A.O.C. Coteaux du Languedoc. In addition, all wines designated as A.O.C. Coteaux du Languedoc have been changed to a new appellation, A.O.C. Languedoc. Growers have a period of time in which they must comply. Future vintages will thus read as A.O.C. Languedoc and A.O.C. Languedoc Montpeyroux.

- Grapes are harvested by hand, de-stemmed, and only indigenous yeasts are used
- Fermentation occurs in open-top *caves* of temperature-controlled stainless steel
- All parcels are vinified and aged separately
- Wines are unfiltered
- Wines are bottled in accordance with the lunar cycle and optimal atmospheric pressure



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### DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC (continued)

#### **Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile *Blanc* :**

- Fermentation takes place in oak, only 10% of which is new
- Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel
- Wine ages for 12 months in barrel

#### **Languedoc “Les Cocalières” *Blanc* :**

- Single vineyard “Les Cocalières” is situated at an altitude of 350 meters, with northwest sun exposure
- The land is on the site of an ancient lake formed after the eruption of a volcano, resulting in a geological phenomenon consisting of limestone and basalt
- Cocalières *Blanc* is blended before fermentation
- Wine is blended in older casks once its alcoholic and malolactic fermentation are completed—both the vinification and malolactic fermentation take place in casks and used barrels
- Wine ages for 13-14 months in older barrels

#### **Languedoc Montpeyroux Rosé :**

- Grapes are pressed by *saignée* and blended after pressing
- Ferments in temperature-controlled, stainless steel
- Undergoes a malolactic fermentation
- Ages in stainless steel for 8 months before bottling

#### **Languedoc “Lou Maset” *Rouge* :**

- Traditional vinification in stainless steel lasts for 10-15 days
- Ages for 6 months in barrel

#### **Vin de Pays de l'Hérault “Les Servières” *Rouge* :**

- Vines are well over one hundred years old!
- Vines enjoy southeast sun exposure on hillside terraces
- Grapes macerate for 20 days on the lees
- Aged for 9 months in barrel

#### **Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile “Le Carignan” *Rouge* :**

- Vineyard situated on hillside terraces
- Grapes macerate for 28 days, with frequent pump-overs
- Ages in barrel for 18-20 months

#### **Languedoc “Montpeyroux” *Rouge* :**

- Grapes macerate for 15-30 days, with frequent pump-overs



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### DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC (continued)

- Wine ages in barrel for 20 months

#### Languedoc “Les Cocalières” *Rouge* :

- Single vineyard “Les Cocalières” is situated at an altitude of 350 meters, with northwest sun exposure, allowing for a long, slow ripening of the grapes
- The land is on the site of an ancient lake formed after the eruption of a volcano, resulting in a geological phenomenon consisting of limestone and basalt
- Grapes are picked three weeks later than neighbors in the appellation
- Long maceration with regular pump-overs
- Ages in *cuves* and barrels for 15 months

#### Languedoc Montpeyroux “La Boda” *Rouge* :

- “La Boda” comes from the Spanish word for marriage; this blend is a union of *terroirs* merging the altitude of the Cocalières vineyard with the *terroir* of Aupilhac
- Long maceration with regular pump-overs
- Ages for 24 months in 300-L barrels