



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

CLOS SAINTE MAGDELEINE

Country: France

Region: Provence

Appellation(s): Cassis

Producer: François Sack

Founded: 1860

Annual Production: 3,750 cases

Farming: Organic

Website: www.clossaintemagdeleine.fr



The ancient fishing village of Cassis has seen its fair share of visitors over the millennia. The Phoenicians first arrived in the sixth century B.C., and with them came the timeless Ugni Blanc grape and viticultural savvy. The Romans later made their way here, as well as their Barbarian successors, followed by the medieval Counts of Les Baux, all the way to tourists of the modern era looking to escape the cold, dark cities. Cassis is not only an active port, but what Kermit calls “an earthly paradise.” The vineyards of Clos Sainte Magdeleine are particularly stunning. They jut out on a private cape to meet majestic limestone cliffs, poised spectacularly above the sparkling, azure Mediterranean. With landscapes such as these, it is only fitting that writers and poets alike have found inspiration in Cassis. Only a handful of *vignerons* today are fortunate enough to produce A.O.C. Cassis, and the small quantities available are largely consumed locally with fresh fish—the best way to enjoy them. The Sack-Zafirooulos family has been making wine here for four generations and has continued to craft wines of grace and finesse, just as they were when founder Jules Savon won the Gold Medal for the domaine at the World’s Fair in 1900. That they share their limited quantities with us makes this long-term relationship all the more special.

Viticulture and vinification at Clos Sainte Magdeleine is under the direction of François Sack. The domaine bottles both a white and a rosé, the latter of which is especially limited. Sack just started the three-year long conversion to organic viticulture, a philosophic progression after years of sustainable farming. Clos Sainte Magdeleine’s success lies in an uncanny ability to capture a dichotomous nerve *and* sun-kissed unctuousness in their wines, making them both incredibly food-friendly and delicious entirely on their own.



CLOS SAINTE MAGDELEINE (continued)

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
Cassis Blanc	40% Marsanne 25% Ugni blanc 20% Clairette 5% Bourboulenc	20 – 30 years	Clay, Limestone	9 ha
Cassis Rosé	40% Grenache 40% Cinsault 20% Mourvèdre	15 – 40 years	Clay, Limestone	2.2 ha
Cassis Blanc “Bel-Arme”	60% Marsanne 15% Clairette 20% Ugni Blanc 5% Bourboulenc	40 years average	Clay, Limestone	1 ha

* “ha”=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres

VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

Cassis Blanc:

- All grapes are de-stemmed and crushed before pressing
- Juice is delivered by gravity to a temperature-controlled stainless steel *cuve*
- The lees are filtered off of the wine and then re-integrated back in before racking
- Wine is aged for 14 – 18 months in stainless steel
- The wine undergoes malolactic fermentation in most years

Cassis Rosé:

- All grapes are de-stemmed and crushed before pressing
- Juice is delivered by gravity to a temperature-controlled stainless steel *cuve*
- The lees are filtered off of the wine and then re-integrated back in before racking
- Wine is aged for 7 – 12 months in stainless steel
- Wine does not undergo malolactic fermentation

Cassis Blanc “Bel-Arme”:

- Vines planted on the terraced slope, below the Cap Canaille
- All grapes are de-stemmed and crushed before pressing
- Juice is delivered by gravity to a temperature-controlled stainless steel *cuve*
- The wine undergoes malolactic fermentation
- Wine is fermented and aged in concrete egg
- Aged in egg for 6 months on fine lees with bâtonnage once a week
- Wine is bottle unfined and unfiltered