



© Château La Roque

2022 VIN DE FRANCE BLANC “MALVOISIE” CHÂTEAU LA ROQUE \$42

The picturesque landscape surrounding historic Château La Roque appears largely unchanged from how it must have been two thousand years ago. Ownership has changed hands many times since the Romans were first here, yet the soul of this special place remains intact. Winegrowing resumed in the 13th century when the de la Roque brothers planted new vines and Benedictine Monks created the sturdy vaulted-ceiling cellars that still house the bottles today. Château La Roque is now in the capable hands of Cyriaque Rozier, a vigneron skilled at capturing its unique terroir.

When this bottle of Malvasia Istriana arrived from the south of France, an air of intrigue swept our staff. Malvasia is one of those accessible-but-just-unusual-enough varieties that easily finds itself the object of ardent fandom. We are lucky to have multiple stunning iterations from our producers in northern Italy, but Cyriaque has been on the hunt for varieties unusual to the Languedoc that excel in warm climates. The results are imbued with desirable qualities from the area: garrigue, the aromatic scrub brush that dominates the land, asserts its presence among the vines. Tasting the bottle, one quickly sees Cyriaque’s assertion that Malvasia has “acclimated perfectly to the land of La Roque” is not an overstatement. The characteristic citrus peel nose takes on tropical notes and, as with Cyriaque’s bottling of Assyrtiko, the Languedoc rendition presents satisfying weight to a variety that’s often delicate-footed. His are original takes on exciting grapes. Cheers to innovative winemaking. —Allyson Noman

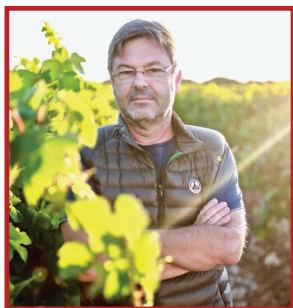


*Pairs well with crab cakes, summer squash tart, tuna sandwich, cucumber salad,
pad thai, or ham & melon.*

◆ ◆ ◆ KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT ◆ ◆ ◆

2022 CORSE FIGARI BLANC

CLOS CANARELLI \$64



Yves Canarelli © Clos Canarelli







Near the remote village of Tarabucetta, outside of Figari on the southern tip of Corsica, Yves Canarelli has made quite an impact not only in Corsica, but on mainland France as well. As a former student of economics who turned to enology, Yves strikes a fascinating balance between thoughtful intellectual and ardent traditionalist. Since taking over the family domaine in 1993, he has championed the restoration of native Corsican varieties. The appellation Corse Figari lies along a plateau just inland from the coast, where grapes have been farmed since the 5th century B.C. Though Figari is regarded as the most ancient growing region of Corsica, it has still taken pioneers like Yves having the courage to rip out entire vineyards of foreign grapes for Corsican wines to finally receive the recognition they deserve. While the INAO remains slow to approve bottlings of some of the oldest of these heirloom varieties, often reducing them to the inferior “Vin de France” appellation, Yves Canarelli defends the history of Figari’s terroir with passion, confidence, and conviction.

What we have here is Yves’s specialty, his bread and butter, old faithful: Corse Figari *blanc*. The wine that earned him the deserved nickname of “*Le Roi du Vermentinu*,” it displays the Canarelli signature tightrope walk between volume, richness, and a uniquely Corsican granite grain with summer *maquis* aromatics.

—Chris Santini



Pairs well with fresh tomatoes & burrata, frutti di mare, fried stuffed zucchini blossoms, shaved fennel salad, or grilled langoustine.

					
2022 VIN DE FRANCE BLANC “MALVOISIE” Château La Roque <i>Languedoc</i>	Malvoisie d'Istrie	Vines planted in 2016 Clay, limestone scree	Serve cold 48–52° F	Citrus, sage, guava Tropical, textured, deep	Drink now
2022 CORSE FIGARI BLANC Clos Canarelli <i>Corsica</i>	Vermentinu	Vines planted in 1997 Granite	Serve cold 48–52° F	Acacia, white plum, grapefruit Mineral, fresh, expressive	Drink now through 2028

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