

Domaine de Barroubio

Saint-Jean de Minervois & Minervois



The Domaine at-a-glance

Owner: Raymond Miquel
Winemaker: Raymond Miquel **Year Est:** 1400ish
Soil: Limestone and Sandy Clay
Size: 34Ha **Location:** Barroubio, Languedoc-Roussillon
Appellations Produced: Saint-Jean de Minervois, Minervois



Raymond Miquel

The vineyards surrounding the Domaine de Barroubio look like a lunar landscape. Covered with broken-up, chalky (limestone) rocks on the spinal crest of a hill, the vineyards line a road that seems to lead to nowhere. The domaine and the tiny hamlet of Barroubio have been in the Miquel family since the 15th century. The current generation, Raymond Miquel, took over the operation of the domaine from his mother.

Today they own 25 hectares in the very small A.O.C Muscat St Jean de Minervois. They also have 9 hectares of Minervois (red), which has some plantings of vines that are over 110 years old.



Minervois, which owes its name to Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, has been known for producing fine wine since the time when the Romans first settled here. **AOC Saint-Jean de Minervois** is located at the far northeastern corner of Minervois. It is one of the few appellations where one can see exactly where the appellation begins and ends with the



100+ year old Carignan vine

naked eye. The appellation consists of a very defined strip of bright white limestone where the Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains is the only grape variety permitted. Within the space of a few feet one can see the soil change dramatically from white to red, which denotes the boundary of the appellation. The more sandy, clay-rich red soil is where the red grapes that produce **AOC Minervois Rouge** grow. In Saint-Jean de Minervois, the extremely chalky soil and high altitude (Barroubio's vineyards are at 300 meters above sea level) produce an exceedingly complex and structured Muscat. Maximum yields for the Muscat are 28 hectoliters per hectare, although Domaine de Barroubio's miniscule yields are often half of that. There are only six private producers in this tiny appellation. The one cooperative still produces 75% of the wine in Saint-Jean de Minervois.



Syrah 35%
Grenache 35%
Carignan 30%

Domaine de Barroubio, Minervois 2005

Technical Notes: The grapes used to produce the Domaine de Barroubio Minervois come from south-facing vineyards with very clay-rich, chalky soil. These vineyards are at a relatively high altitude (300 meters above sea level), which helps moderate the normally hot climate of Minervois. This wine is aged exclusively in tank and spends no time in oak. 1600 cases produced.

Tasting Notes: As a blend of almost equal parts of three grapes, this wine exhibits traits that are characteristic of each variety. The Syrah contributes aromas and flavors of black fruit and spice; the Carignan adds exotic spices, sandalwood and black pepper; while the Grenache gives forth red fruit, leather and garrigue (scrub-brush of wild rosemary, thyme, juniper, sage and other aromatic herbs.) At first glance this wine may just appear to be an easy-drinking, simple wine. With further study, this wine reveals its complexity. These grapes combine in such a way to make this wine a well balanced sum of its parts.