

Domaine des Terres Falmet

Saint-Chinian



The Domaine at-a-glance

Owner/Winemaker: Yves Falmet
Soil: Very rocky, Clay-Limestone **Year Est:** 1996
Size: 25 Ha **Location:** Cebazan, Languedoc-Roussillon
Appellations Produced: Saint-Chinian

The first time we met Yves he quickly took us out to see the most important component of his wines—his vineyards. We drove down a small road into a beautiful valley and looked across at a sweeping hillside of vineyards. We asked which plots were his. He proudly said to our amazement, “The whole hillside.” He owns 25 hectares of contiguous vineyard plots with excellent exposure to the sun. This vineyard was a find. It would have been almost impossible to own or buy a similar vineyard in any other wine region in France.

The other vigneron in the area, who sell to the local cooperative, had no interest in these steep hillside vineyards because they require too much work. But for Yves Falmet, whose family comes from the Côtes de Bar in Champagne, tending to steep hillside vineyards is just a way of life. To own an entire hillside of prime vineyard property was a dream come true for Yves, and the Languedoc was the region where it became possible. Yves is a young, tall, man who thrives on the hard work required of him. He has a poetic, philosophical, and worldly approach to working his vines and making wine. Yves has learned by working as an oenologist in many different areas of the world. He worked for Marris Wines in Australia, Mantanzas Creek in California, and Neudorf Winery in New Zealand. He has quite simply learned that good wine comes from good grapes. Yves thinks it is important to step back and look at his vineyards and his wine to learn from afar. With this objectivity he will only continue to improve the quality of his already delicious wines.



Yves Falmet



Yves' hillside vineyards in the autumn.

About Carignan

For years the French government encouraged growers to dig up and replant their Carignan with other grape varieties. Sadly, this means it is very difficult to find good, old-vine Carignan. Most of it has already been ripped out to liberate the land for more popular grape varieties. When allowed to overproduce, Carignan will yield high quantities of uninteresting wine. However, when kept in check, old vine Carignan can produce wines of deep concentration and complexity.

Carignan - Vin de France 2014 (100% Carignan)

Technical Notes: The grapes for this wine are 100% hand-harvested. The vines are 40 to 80 years old, and are all planted on a single hillside in the appellation of St. Chinian. The grapes are crushed, destemmed, then undergo a long maceration in tank. The wine is vinified and aged in tank, and there is no oak ageing.



Carignan grapes

Tasting Notes: This wine is a beautiful example of Carignan. Grown on Yves' clay-limestone, hillside, vineyards, the grapes are very ripe and concentrated. However, the resulting wine is not at all aggressive. In the mouth, blackberry and black raspberry fruit lead to an exotically spiced finish. For all of its richness and concentration, this wine remains incredibly approachable. This is a great match for many barbeque dishes and game dishes.