

Domaine La Croix Gratiot

Picpoul de Pinet



The Domaine at-a-glance

Owner / Winemaker: Anaïs Ricome **First Vintage:** 2004
Soil: Clay / Limestone soil
Size: 30Ha **Location:** Montagnac, Languedoc
Appellations Produced: Picpoul de Pinet

The Ricome family has been farming the land around Pinet for generations. In 1982 Anaïs' father, Yves, took over the family domaine. Their principal business is the cultivation of the famous southern French melons (similar to small, very sweet cantaloupes). However, they also own 30



hectares of vineyards. During the 1990s they refurbished the vineyards and replanted with new, better, grape varieties. Of the 30 hectares, 25ha are planted in white grapes, of which 5.5ha are A.O.C.. Picpoul de Pinet in the commune of Mèze. Until 2004 all of the grapes were sold off in bulk.



Anaïs Ricome and her father Yves

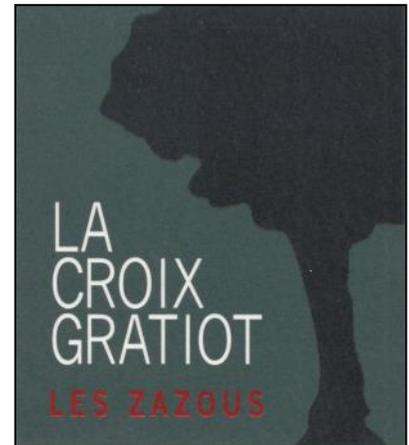
In 2004 the family built a winery and began producing their own wine at the domaine. With aptitude and interest in winemaking, Anaïs studied viticulture and oenology. In 2006 she began to work at the family winery. Today she is solely responsible for all aspects of the winemaking at the domaine. Anaïs continues to learn as much as she can, studying with different winemakers, including working two harvests in New Zealand.

A line of hills protects the appellation of Picpoul de Pinet from the northwestern winds, while the coastal winds from the Mediterranean temper the summer heat.



The winery at La Croix Gratiot

The appellation includes six communes: Mèze, Montagnac, Pinet, Florensac, Pomérols, and Castelnau-de-Guers. The vineyards face due south towards the Bassin du Thau. The Bassin du Thau is a large saltwater inlet from the Mediterranean, famous for the cultivation of mussels and oysters, which are fortunately a perfect food pairing for Picpoul de Pinet.



100% Pinot Noir

La Croix Gratiot, Les Zazous 2012 - Pinot Noir 100%

Technical Notes: The grapes are all harvested by hand, 100% destemmed & crushed. After a long, slow fermentation, the wine spends 10 months in a combination of newer and older oak barriques.

Only 416 cases produced

Tasting Notes: Upon discovering the wines of Burgundy, Anaïs immediately fell in love with Pinot Noir. Not long after leaving oenology school, she decided to plant some Pinot Noir of her own. Pinot Noir is very delicate, and difficult to grow. With all of the extra attention it demands, this wine is truly a labor of love for Anaïs. Delicate and balanced, with ripe cherry fruit in the nose, Les Zazous is an exceedingly quaffable Pinot Noir. Bright plum and black cherry notes in the mid-palate lead to soft, ripe, tannins in the finish. Anaïs' Les Zazous has the characteristic flavors of a classic Pinot Noir, and therefore this wine from the Languedoc, pairs very well with classic Burgundian dishes. But don't mention this to anyone in Burgundy—Sacré Bleu!