

PATRICK ALLEN SELECTIONS

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SUN & MOON CELLARS

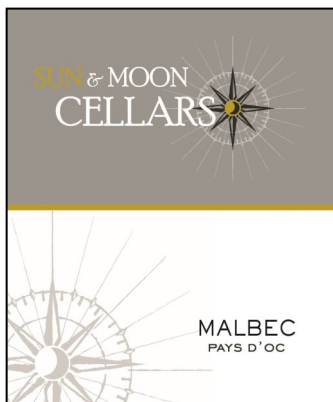
“The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.”

— Galileo Galilei

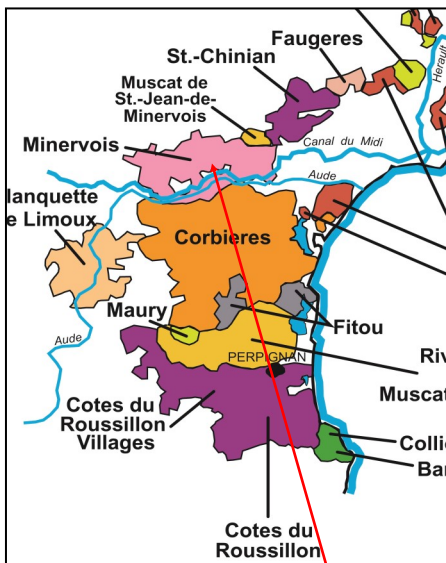
Sun & Moon Cellars are produced by a micro-négociant, owned by three friends who call themselves “The Wine Artisans”. The three friends: Sébastien Gimenez, Karine Ambrosini, and Frédéric Corpel met at oenology school, and now have a combined 40 years of experience in the wine industry. After working for large wineries and coops, making wine, working in sales, etc., they decided to work for themselves. Their current winery, at Domaine de la Baquière, located in Corbières near Carcassonne, is owned by Frédéric. Frédéric is also in charge of vinification, Sébastien is in charge of sales, and Karine is in charge of logistics.



Sébastien, Karine, and Frédéric



A brilliant idea: Working as oenologists, Sébastien, Karine, and Frédéric consulted with about 20 wineries. Each vintage, they observed that these wineries had excellent, surplus, wines that they just sold off in bulk. As a group, they came up with the idea of, not only working with these wineries, but bottling some of this “surplus” wine under their own label. Oddly enough, with all of the wine produced in the Languedoc, there is a lack of négociants of this size. They invested in modernizing their winemaking equipment, and bought a high quality bottling line. Rather than stocking all of the wine at their winery, which is too small, they stock the wine, in their own tanks, at the various producers they work with. Then, as needed, they transport the wine to their winery where it is conditioned and bottled. This allows them enormous flexibility, and the ability to maintain high quality standards.



Corbières

Sun and Moon Cellars - Malbec - Vin de Pays d'Oc 2016

Technical Notes: Although today, Malbec is often associated with Argentina, historically Malbec was one of the principal grapes of Bordeaux, providing color and fruit to the blend. After a severe frost in 1956 killed significant portion of the Malbec vines in Bordeaux, the vineyards were replanted, principally in Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Today, Malbec has regained its status in France, as the principal grape of Cahors, along with new plantings in the Languedoc. This wine, after undergoing fermentation, is assembled, then allowed to rest on its lees in stainless steel tanks before a light filtration and bottling.

Tasting Notes: This wine expresses the stony character of the terroir with its inky violet color, and spicy fruit aromas. Showing varietal character, this Malbec is full of blackberry, cassis, and espresso notes. While this wine is ideal with lean red meats like flank or skirt steak, it is also excellent with lamb and mushroom dishes.