

# PATRICK ALLEN SELECTIONS

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## 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.” Yves owns 25 contiguous hectares of hillside vineyards. This vineyard was truly a find for Yves. It would have been almost impossible to own or buy a similar vineyard in almost 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 since they require so much work. But for Yves Falmet, whose family comes from the Côtes de Barre 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 - late winter*

### Domaine des Terres Falmet - Vin de France 2016 - 100% Cinsault

**Technical Notes:** The grapes for this wine are 100% hand-harvested. Yves' Cinsault comes from a plot of 50+ year old Cinsault vines planted on beautiful hillside vineyards in Saint-Chinian. The wine is vinified and aged in tank. There is no oak ageing.

**About Cinsault:** In the South of France Cinsault has been traditionally used as a blending grape, and is rarely taken seriously by wine producers, and generally made into Rosé. Cinsault's light body and moderate alcohol levels have been used to soften more powerful grape varieties like Syrah and Grenache for centuries. However, this grape variety is rarely seen on its own (with the exception of an occasional rosé).

**Tasting Notes:** Cinsault is an undeservedly disparaged grape variety. Luckily, Yves Falmet has the unbiased foresight to see the beauty in this grape variety. Yves has old vines and great hillside vineyards. His Cinsault is unusually concentrated and balanced. From these grapes he is able to produce a silky, medium bodied red, with hints of raspberry and blueberry flavors. This wine also has the rare combination of black pepper and garrigue spices, with very soft tannins. This is easily one of the most versatile food wines that we import. It is a perfect match for pork, tuna, and salmon. We love this wine's ability to perfectly compliment turkey and stuffing at the Thanksgiving table.