

PATRICK ALLEN SELECTIONS

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Domaine de la Biscarelle Châteauneuf du Pape

The Domaine at-a-glance

Owner / Winemaker: Jérôme Grieco **First Vintage:** 2009
Soil: Galettes Roulées, Red Clay, Gravel, and Sandstone
Size: 22Ha **Location:** Orange, Rhône Valley
Appellations Produced: Châteauneuf du Pape, Côtes du



Jérôme Grieco

Domaine de la Biscarelle was born when, in 1984, Gérard Bouyer decided to leave his family domaine and create his own winery. Through hard work and determination, he was able to build a domaine with beautiful vineyards filled with old vines. Domaine de la Biscarelle is located in the prestigious area of Les Grès, within the commune of Orange. The vineyards consists of 22 hectares of vines, 5 of which are appellation Châteauneuf du Pape, in the lieux-dits of Palestor and Cabrières. Domaine de la Biscarelle's Châteauneuf vines range in age from 30 to 100 years old, with several parcels that were planted in 1904. The remaining 17 hectares are split between two different terroirs in appellation Côtes du Rhône Villages. The Côtes du Rhône Villages vineyards are comprised primarily of 40 to 80 year old vines. The oldest of these Côtes du Rhône Villages vineyards, was once within the boundaries of Châteauneuf du Pape, but was later reclassified as Côtes du Rhône Villages when the boundaries were redrawn in 1936. Until the 2009 vintage Gérard sold all of his grapes and wine to top négociants in the Rhône Valley.

Today Gérard's son-in-law, Jérôme Grieco, is now in charge of the winemaking, and vineyards at the domaine. Jérôme has worked with Gérard at the domaine since 1996. However, until recently, he kept his day job at the Autoroutes du Sud de la France. In 2004 Jérôme decided that he wanted to make the domaine his full-time career. Thus began a long transition, which finally culminated with Jérôme's first vintage in 2009. The first, and most important change, that Jérôme made was the decision to start bottling their own wine. Jérôme, in opposition to modern winemaking trends, neither de-stems his grapes, nor does he oak age his wines. The wines, however, are astonishingly elegant and balanced. Jérôme's philosophy is to make his wine in the vineyard, rather than making corrections in the winery. He wants as little as possible to come between the flavors and aromas of his great terroir, and the final consumer.



At Domaine de la Biscarelle plow horses are used to work the densely planted old vines



89% Grenache, 5% Syrah, 3% Cinsault,
2% Mourvèdre, 1% Terret Noir

Domaine de la Biscarelle - Châteauneuf du Pape

Technical Notes: Jérôme has chosen a non-interventionist, and perhaps even post-modernist way to vinify his wines. The grapes are harvested by hand, (they are not de-stemmed), and are then fermented and aged exclusively in lined concrete tanks. The wine undergoes a 4 to 6 week maceration, with regular délestages and pump-overs. The wine is then aged in tank for 6 to 9 months. It is lightly filtered, but not fined, before bottling. **Only 433 cases produced**

Tasting Notes: The nose of this wine is dominated by black cherry and black raspberry aromas. On the palate, garrigue spice and black pepper mingle with the intense cherry fruit flavors. Beneath the dark fruit in the wine are earthy *sous bois* (forest floor) and licorice notes, reminiscent of freshly raked autumn leaves, which add depth and complexity to this wine. The finish is long and balanced. This is an elegant and complex Châteauneuf du Pape with a lot of character. Though this wine is in no way a "modern" style wine, it is however surprisingly polished.