

Domaine de Barroubio

Saint-Jean de Minervois & Minervois



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The Domaine at-a-glance

Owner: Raymond Miquel
Winemaker: Raymond Miquel **Year Est:** 1400ish
Soil: Limestone and Sandy Clay
Size: 34Ha **Location:** Barroubio, Languedoc-Roussillon
Appellations Produced: Saint-Jean de Minervois, Minervois



Marie-Thérèse Miquel

The vineyards surrounding the Domaine de Barroubio look like a lunar landscape. Covered with broken-up, chalky (limestone) rocks on the spinal crest of a hill, the vineyards line a road that seems to lead to nowhere. The domaine and the tiny hamlet of Barroubio have been in the Miquel family since the 15th century. The current generation, Raymond Miquel, took over the operation of the domaine from his mother. Today they own 25 hectares in the very small A.O.C Muscat St Jean de Minervois. They also have 9 hectares of Minervois (red), which has some plantings of vines that are over 110 years old.

Minervois, which owes its name to Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, has been known for producing fine wine since the time when the Romans first settled here. **AOC Saint-Jean de Minervois** is located at the far northeastern corner of Minervois. It is one of the few appellations where one can see exactly where the appellation begins and ends with the naked eye. The appellation



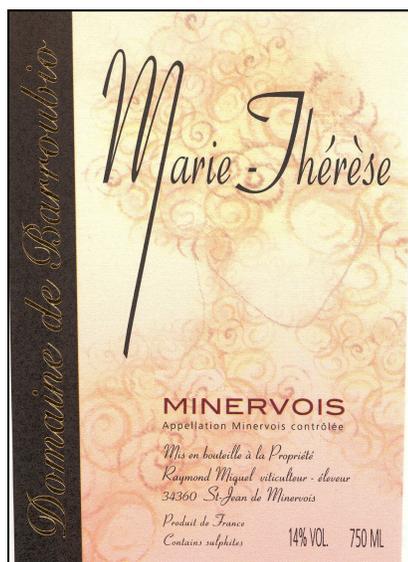
consists of a very defined strip of bright white limestone where the Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains is the only grape variety permitted. Within the space of a few feet one can see the soil change dramatically from white to red, which denotes the boundary of the appellation. The more sandy, clay-rich red soil is where the red grapes that produce **AOC Minervois Rouge** grow. In Saint-Jean de Minervois, the extremely chalky soil and high altitude (Barroubio's vineyards are at 300 meters above sea level) produce an exceedingly complex and structured Muscat. Maximum yields for the Muscat are 28 hectoliters per hectare, although Domaine de Barroubio's miniscule yields are often half of that. There are only six private producers in this tiny appellation. The one cooperative still produces 75% of the wine in Saint-Jean de Minervois.

"Cuvée Marie-Thérèse" - Minervois

Technical Notes: This red Minervois is produced from Syrah and Grenache grapes. Cuvée Marie-Thérèse is made from a blend of 80% barrel-aged wine (new and old barrels), and 20% tank-aged wine. This combination of barrel and tank ageing adds complexity while at the same time preserves the fresh fruit flavors in the wine.

Tasting Notes: Cuvée Marie-Thérèse is made with a higher percentage of Syrah than is usual for Minervois, a region which is more often associated with Grenache and Carignan. Barroubio's vines are among the highest altitude vineyards planted in Minervois. Thanks to the altitude, the vines are exposed to bright sun throughout the day, tempered by cool nights. The result is a rich, complex, and balanced Syrah, with intense cassis fruit and firm, ripe tannins. Whether it is the terroir, or the vines themselves, in many ways the Cuvée Marie-Thérèse tastes more like a Northern Rhône wine than a Minervois.

The cuvée Marie-Thérèse is a special wine named for Raymond Miquel's mother Marie-Thérèse (pictured above). She is an impressive woman who, for 12 years following her husband's death, ran the winery by herself. She is truly one of the early pioneers of Minervois, bottling her own wine, and promoting quality in the region.



Syrah 90%, Grenache 10%