

PATRICK ALLEN SELECTIONS

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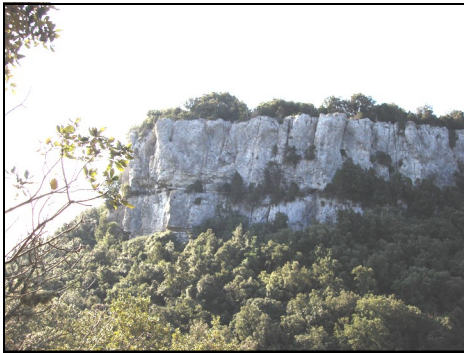
Domaine de Barroubio Saint-Jean de Minervois & Minervois

The Domaine at-a-glance

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



Raymond Miquel



Limestone cliffs at Barroubio

The vineyards surrounding the Domaine de Barroubio look like a lunar landscape. Covered with broken-up, white, chalky 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, has recently taken over the operation of the domaine from his mother. Today they own 25 hectares in the very small A.O.C Muscat de 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 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 altitudes (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 producers that estate-bottle in this tiny appellation. The one cooperative still produces 75% of the wine in Saint-Jean de Minervois.



The chalky, white vineyards of Barroubio in AOC St-Jean-de-Minervois.

Domaine de Barroubio - Muscat Sec

Technical Notes: Produced from 100% Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains. These are the same grapes used to produce Domaine de Barroubio's sought-after dessert wines. However, this wine is fermented dry, in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks. The wine undergoes a light fining and filtration before bottling. Since dry wines are not allowed in the appellation of Saint Jean de Minervois, this wine has to be declassified to a Vin de Pays d'Oc.

Tasting Notes: Like most wines made from Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains, Barroubio's Muscat sec has an intensely perfumed nose. This floral, almost candied nose, gives the impression that the wine is going to be sweet. However, the wine is bone-dry, and very mineral. In the mouth, stone fruit flavors mix with pear, and orange blossom. In the intensely mineral finish, citrus fruits fuse with the floral notes to create a very unique and refreshing wine.

Food Note: Dry Muscat is one of the few good matches for foods that are difficult to pair with wine like: asparagus, artichoke, and salads.



100%

Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains