



# Mas Combarèla - Press Review **2024**

🇬🇧 **Jancis Robinson** (UK, [www.jancisrobinson.com](http://www.jancisrobinson.com)) (Dec. 2024)

Jancis Robinson

- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc 2023** 93/100 (=16.5/20)  
*“Grenache Blanc with some Carignan Blanc, Chenin Blanc and Rolle (Vermentino). A small portion possibly aged in barrique, like the 2022. Certified organic. Rather oily and herbal on the nose. Really mouth-filling and substantial in terms of flavour but not weight. A little chewy on the end at the moment but it promises well. Blossomy. **Much racier and more interesting than many Languedoc Grenache Blancs. Fun.** (2025-2028).”*
- **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge 2023** 93/100 (=16.5/20)  
*“Grenache with Carignan, Syrah and Cinsault. Olivier Faucon's red for early drinking. Unoaked. Certified organic. Bright mid garnet. Intense, ripe alluring nose. **Very smooth texture** with untrammelled maraschino-cherry fruit to the fore and just a little framework (Carignan?) on the end. **Very pleasing already** even if not the most complex wine. Well judged ... (2024-2028)”*
- **Le Clos Secret 2023** 93+/100 (=16.5+/20)  
*“100% Cinsault from a special enclosed plot of 50-year-old vines behind the winery. Délestage at the start of fermentation and afterwards daily remontage during fermentation. Then infusion. No pigeage. Long extraction. Faucon blends in some Cinsault from another plot. Matured in concrete eggs only. Certified organic. Completely transparent cherry red. **Very fruity with light, sandy tannins underneath.** Slightly more terroir-influenced than many Cinsaults. Dry finish. (2024-2030).”*
- **Les Vieux Mazets 2022** 93+/100 (=16.5+/20)  
*“From 100% Carignan bushvines, 75 years old, around the winery. Certified organic. Mid, shaded purplish crimson. Gamey, interesting nose. **Intense fruit with some spice** and none of the mean, acrid notes than can spoil Languedoc Carignan. Though it's a little pinched on the end and I'd keep it a while. For food. (2025-2031)”*
- **Ode Aux Ignorants 2022** 94/100 (=17/20)  
*“Mainly Syrah with Carignan and Grenache. Most of the fruit comes from Faucon's second, high Arboras site. Long élevage in 500- and 228-litre barriques, old and new, plus about 40% in concrete or tank. Certified organic. Mid, shaded garnet. Intense fragrance. More Languedoc than Syrah. Some garrigue overlays round, **seductive fruit within a strong structure and some freshness.** Very satisfying and just the sort of wine the Languedoc's best spots are capable of. (2024-2031)”*
- **Lueurs d'Espar 2022** 94/100 (=17/20)  
*“70% Mourvèdre – the maximum allowed in Terrasses du Larzac – plus 20% Carignan and 10% Syrah. Mourvèdre is called Espar in the Hérault and Gard departments. On 25- to 30-year-old Grenache roots, grafted in 2017. 2.5 years' élevage in quite a lot of new oak. Also a sandstone amphora. Certified organic. Shaded garnet. Meaty, gamey nose and lots of opulence. Unmistakeably Mourvèdre. Rich and long and ready to approach already. **Big wine but well balanced and rewarding.** (2024-2032)”*

- **L'éclat 2022** 93/100 (Highly recommended, Top 3 among 158 wines)  
*"Mas Combarela, L'Eclat, St-Guilhem-le-Désert 2022  
 EG 94 PC 93 JH 92  
 Honeyed floral aromas and soft peach fruit.  
 Balanced acidity on a palate that offers elegance and weight.  
 Refreshing crisp apple and a **gentle minerality linger on a long finish.**  
 Drink 2024-2035 Alc 12.5%"*



LANGUEDOC WHITES

# Languedoc whites

Its wide range of terroirs, grapes and resulting wine styles mean there's something for everyone to discover among this expansive region's wines

REPORT ELIZABETH GABAY MW

The wine-growing region of Languedoc is roughly zoned in length, arcing around the southern section of France's Mediterranean coastline. Diverse terroirs with schist, limestone, clay and sand can be found along the coastal plains and the southern foothills of the Massif Central. There's an Atlantic influence in the northwest, higher-elevation coolness in the foothills of the Pyrenees in the south, and cool air sweeping down the Rhône valley in the east. The resulting diversity can make it almost impossible to define a 'Languedoc style'. A long history of producing large volumes of cheap and cheerful wines has fired an image of the region for many consumers, but affordable land and free-minded attitudes have meant the Languedoc has, for a number of decades, also produced some stellar wines. Judge Justin Howard-Sneyd MW said: 'It was great to see the wines aspiring to price levels certainly not achieved 20 years ago, meaning the best are excellent value compared to wines of similar quality from Rhône, Burgundy or California.'

A distinctive feature of the tasting was the rich assortment of local white varieties. These included Clairette, Piquepoul, Terre Blanc and Gris, Carignan Blanc, Grenache Blanc and Riveyrene Blanc and Gris; some have been saved from obscurity, or even extinction. Rhône varieties such as Marsanne, Roussanne, Bourboulenc, Arzacqum and Viognier, as well as Vermentino (Italy's Rolle) and Macabeu (Viura in Spain), are also increasingly widespread. For Howard-Sneyd, 'the most successful wines were Mediterranean blends'. Since the 1980s, international varieties have been increasingly planted in Languedoc. Chenin Blanc was an early introduction in the area around Montpellier, appreciated for its

acidity, and can now be considered a local grape, especially in the Terrasses du Larzac area, a region that hopes to have whites approved for the AP soon.

Wines made from 100% Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc were excluded from the tasting. Newer international varieties such as Riesling, Petite Arvine, Colombard, Petit Manseng and Albariño do crop up, and can contribute freshness and acidity. Single-varietal Viognier performed well, but blends including a small percentage of it did not.

No every Languedoc appellation includes white wines, and those that do often produce just a small amount. This makes it more difficult to establish regional styles and Howard-Sneyd noted that whites under the large Languedoc AP struggle for identity, and this risks being a dumping ground for anything that doesn't have a more specific AP. Great freshness was found in maritime La Clape and the higher elevation and limestone soils of Terrasses du Larzac, but we were disappointed not to have found greater freshness in the wines from Limoux.

The best wines all had extended ageing in wood, concrete or tank, with a great balance of freshness and richness, complexity and power. Poppy de Courcy-Wheeler felt that the use of oak didn't always justify higher prices. The lowest-scoring wines were often marked down due to flatbiness and a lack of freshness or, conversely, by hard, unripe greenness and clumsier use of oak.

While there may not yet be clear regional Languedoc white styles, the range is still impressive: from rich, complex, oaked wines to lighter, fruity wines, with prices from below 10 to above 150. Clearly this is a region with opportunities for exciting discoveries.

**THE SCORES** 158 wines tasted  
 Exceptional 0 Outstanding 2 Highly recommended 30 Recommended 114  
 Commended 12

Entry criteria: producers and UK agents were invited to submit current-release still white wines from any of the APs within Languedoc, as well as IGP and Vin de France, but excluding AP Picpoul de Pinet and single-varietal Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines

## THE JUDGES



**Elizabeth Gabay MW** is a wine writer, educator, speaker and consultant, with a focus on rose and the wines of southern France, where she has lived since 2002. Her second book *Wines of Southern France* (E22 Amazon, 2022) was co-authored with her son Ben Bernheim



**Poppy de Courcy-Wheeler** is a wine buyer for Waitrose, focusing on rose, Burgundy and regional France, having previously worked for more than five years in roles including wine buying and head of trade sales at importer Charles Taylor Wines



**Justin Howard-Sneyd MW** is the *OWWA* Regional Chair for Languedoc-Roussillon. A former wine buyer in UK multiple retail, he is a wine trade consultant via his company The Hive Wine Consulting, a trustee of the Regenerative Viticulture Foundation, and produces wines at Domaine of the Bee in Rossillon

## Outstanding 95-97pts



**Mas Cal Demoura, Pares de Pierres, St-Guilhem-le-Désert 2022**

**Elizabeth Gabay MW 95**  
**Poppy de Courcy 95**  
**Justin Howard-Sneyd MW 95**  
 caldemoura.com  
 Isabelle and Vincent Goumard fell in love with this 16ha estate in the heart of the Terrasses du Larzac. In 2002 and took it over the following year, having studied winemaking in Dijon. In 2010, they obtained organic certification and the estate became biodynamic in 2019. The wines are made with minimal intervention from very low-yielding, mostly older vines on stony limestone terraces. A blend of Chenin, Carignan and Grenache Blanc, the wine spent

17 months maturing in 600-litre oak barrels.  
**Elizabeth Gabay MW** Soft fruits meld with salted honey notes from the oak. Powerful and long, a serious wine with the freshness of the varieties and terroir shining through.  
**Poppy de Courcy A** gently honeyed nose and rich, creamy, vanilla palate. Good flavour intensity and finish. Expert balance of power and restraint.  
**Justin Howard-Sneyd MW** Intriguing and complex style. Some subtle, classy oak influence adds burnish and opulence. Alcohol doesn't stand out, even though it's fairly high. Drink 2024-2035 Alcohol 14%



**Woillemont, Commanderie Saint Pierre la Garrigue, La Clape 2020**

**EG 95 PC 94 JH 95**  
**£31.67 Millaime**  
 East of Narbonne, this estate dates back to the 12th century and lay abandoned when Comte Jehan de Woillemont, eighth generation of the family to own the neighbouring Château des Marmorées, purchased it in 2005, instigating a 10-year renovation program from 2011. From its east- and south-facing vineyards, Bourboulenc, Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Marsanne are destemmed and begin fermentation in stainless steel vats before completion in French oak barrels of 225L and 500L over two months with

weekly lees stirring. After eight months of further ageing, the best barrels are selected and blended. Organic.  
**EG** Rich and buttery with good use of oak giving richness and structure. Long, citrus acidity, very much a classic style of big oaky white wine.  
**PC** Expressive vanilla peach nose. Excellent palate but with concentration and acidity to support. Standout wine if looking for a blockbuster.  
**JH** A gorgeously mature nose showing glorious cooked butter and radiant honeyed notes. A beautiful intensity and richness on the palate. This is fabulous. Drink 2024-2032 Alc 13.5%

## Highly recommended 90-94pts



**Château de Lascoux, Les Pierres d'Argent, Languedoc 2019**

**EG 94 PC 92 JH 92**  
 chateau-lascoux.com  
 Creamy, lemony citrus with pineapple, green apple and floral notes. Showing complexity, like a bowl of stone fruit. Generous and rich with a refreshing finish. Drink 2024-2031 Alc 13.5%



**Hegarty Chamans, Les Nomes, Minervois 2019**

**EG 92 PC 93 JH 95**  
 E21.50 Wanderlust Wine  
 Subtle aromas of hazelnut and peach. Rich, ripe banana and vanilla oak palate, slight oxidative notes with an enjoyable texture. Long and fresh, with good minerality on the finish. Drink 2024-2030 Alc 14%



**Mas Combarela, L'Eclat, St-Guilhem-le-Désert 2022**

**EG 94 PC 93 JH 92**  
 mas-combarela.com  
 Honeyed floral aromas and soft peach fruit. Balanced acidity on a palate that offers elegance and weight. Refreshing crisp apple and a gentle minerality linger on a long finish. Drink 2024-2035 Alc 12.5%

'The best wines are excellent value compared to wines of similar quality from the Rhône, Burgundy or California'

Justin Howard-Sneyd MW

## 🇬🇧 **Rosemary George MW** (UK, www.rosemary-george-mw.com) (Nov. 2024)

*"Olivier Faucon had just finished the harvest, literally the morning of our visit in the afternoon of 1st October. It had been fairly drawn out with the first grapes picked on 25th August, but he was happy about the vintage. It is un joli millésime, with balance and freshness, and slightly lower alcohol levels, the result of the sunshine, and some rain. First we had a look at his cellar. He has concrete vats, fibre glass vats and stainless steel vats as well as barriques and amphorae made of sandstone, and some concrete eggs. Olivier explained how he has altered the composition of his vineyard, some grafting, of Mourvèdre on to Grenache in 2017, and then Carignan Blanc, Chenin Blanc and Vermentino in 2018, also on to Grenache, for a first harvest in 2020. He obtained his cuttings from Cal Demoura. We tasted his current wines.*



- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc 2022**, St Guilhem le Désert  
70% Grenache Blanc, 15% Carignan Blanc, 10% Vermentino, 5% Chenin Blanc. 90% in stainless steel, and 10% in oak barrels for 10 months. A little colour. A lightly honeyed nose. Quite rounded with good acidity, **saline notes and a fresh finish**.
- **L'éclat 2022**, St Guilhem le Désert  
A blend of Carignan Blanc and Chenin Blanc, aged in barrels and amphorae. Chenin Blanc is not included in the Languedoc appellations for white wine, but things will change, and rightly so, when the Terrasses du Larzac becomes an appellation for white as well as red wine, with the putative appellation including Chenin Blanc, which has in any case been grown in the region for a number of years.  
Light golden colour. Dry honey on the nose and palate, with a touch of well integrated oak. A mere 12.5% but **very satisfying mouthfeel and texture**.
- **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge 2022**, Terrasses du Larzac  
50% Grenache, with Carignan and Syrah and smaller amounts of Cinsault and Mourvèdre. Kept in stainless steel. A short cuvaision with the **aim of fruit, and easy drinking**. Medium colour. A touch of liqueur cherries on the nose and palate, balanced with a streak of tannin, with ripe fruit. A modest 13.5%
- **Le Clos Secret 2022**, St. Guilhem-le-Desert  
Pure Cinsault and 50 year old low-yielding vines, from a small vineyard that is surrounded by woods, rather than a wall, to make it a clos. It is like a secret garden, that you approach along a narrow path through the trees. Medium colour. Perfumed fruit. Very fragrant red fruit on both nose and palate. Some depth and length on the finish. Medium weight. And **very elegant and appealing**.
- **Les Vieux Mazets 2022**, St. Guilhem-le-Desert  
From old Carignan, a 75 year old vineyard by the cellar, which is off the road from Montpeyroux to St. Jean de Fos. Deep colour. Quite a firm nose and a firm structured palate with red fruit and tannin. **Youthful and fresh**. Aged in a large foudre for 24 months. Carignan needs to breathe.
- **Ode Aux Ignorants 2021**, Terrasses du Larzac  
50% Syrah, with Grenache and Carignan and a little Mourvèdre. Two thirds of the blend is aged in barrel and the rest in a concrete egg and also a stainless steel tank. Quite a deep young colour, with firm peppery fruit on both nose and palate. Medium weight with **youthful tannins and pleasing fruit**.
- **Lueurs d'Espar 2021**, Terrasses du Larzac  
75% Mourvèdre - Espar is an old synonymy for Mourvèdre - with some Carignan and Syrah. Thirty months ageing in new wood and a small percentage in amphorae. A percentage of each wine will always be unoaked. Very deep colour. Firm rich nose and palate. Ripe black fruit, with firm tannins **good length**. Sturdy and youthful with a certain **freshness of the finish**. But also quite powerful at 14.5%.



**A very well thought out range of red wines, each showing the characteristics of the dominant grape variety. ”**

## Les 5 du Vin

*Budd-Franjus-Lalau-Deyrieux-Vanhellemont*

### • Lueurs d'Espar 2021, Terrasses du Larzac

**"Coup de Coeur = Favorite"**

*"Black fruit, black olive, black earth... but this somewhat austere beginning turns into generosity. Let's listen to the most inspired of our tasters: "sophisticated minimalist design".*

***"When elegance transcends rigor and power..."** And we're not talking about painting, but about wine! As for me, more prosaically, I liked its liveliness and the liquorice juice on the finish.*

*Lueurs d'Espar is the estate's grand cuvée, Espar being one of the old names of Mourvèdre, which makes up 70% of the blend. 30 months of aging in demi-muids.*

*It was in 2016 that Olivier Faucon and his wife, coming from marketing and communication, set up shop near Saint Jean de Fos, where they now work 16 hectares of vines."*

## Notre marathon en Terrasses du Larzac (4): les 2021

LE 13/11/2024 / PAR LESSDUVIN / DANS LANGUEDOC

*Nous poursuivons le marathon entamé voici deux semaines, avec une sélection des 2021 – pas moins de 34 cuvées nous étaient proposées, dont nous avons retenu toute juste la moitié. Pas mal, pour un millésime réputé sévère, et alors que bon nombre des vins sont actuellement en phase de fermeture.*

*Ont participé à la dégustation : Johan De Groef, Hervé Lalau, Daniel Marcil et Marc Vanhellemont.*

### Mas Combarèla Lueurs d'Espar 2021

*Fruit noir, olive noire, terre noire... mais ce début un peu austère se mue en générosité. Écoutons les plus inspirés de nos dégustateurs: «Une épure». «Quand l'élégance transcende la rigueur et la puissance...» Et on ne parle pas de peinture, mais de vin ! Quant à moi, plus prosaïquement, j'ai aimé sa vivacité et le jus de réglisse en finale.*

*Lueurs d'Espar est la grande cuvée du domaine, espar étant un des anciens noms du Mourvèdre, qui entre à concurrence de 70% dans l'assemblage. 30 mois d'élevage en demi-muids.*



*C'est en 2016 qu'Olivier Faucon et son épouse, venus du marketing et de la communication, ont posé leurs valises près de Saint Jean de Fos, où ils travaillent aujourd'hui 16 ha de vignes.*

Coup de ❤️

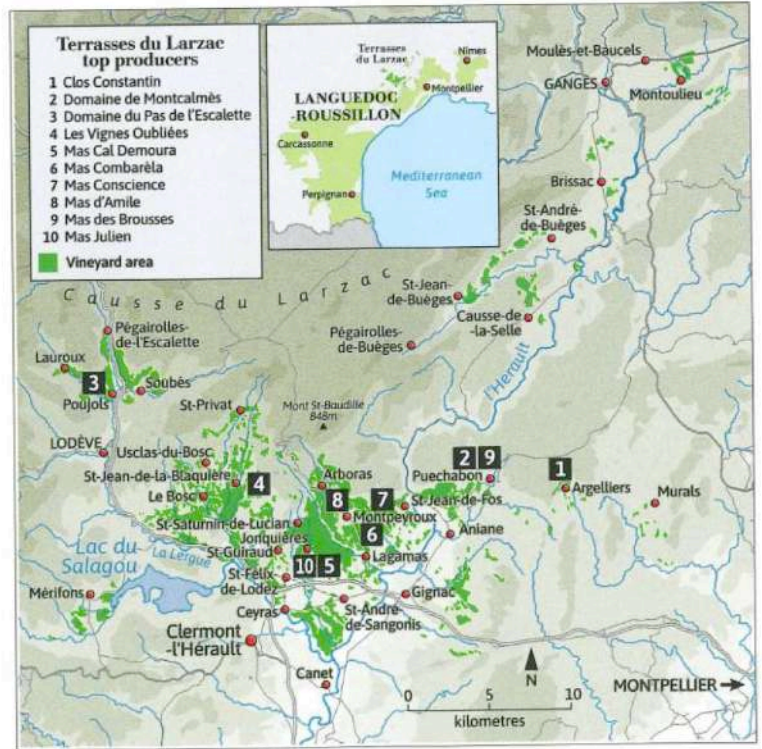
[www.mas-combarela.com/](http://www.mas-combarela.com/)

• **Mas Combarèla** Among the Terrasses du Larzac **10 top producers**

**“Terrasses du Larzac**

story : Natalie Earl

In the decade since it was officially recognised, this wild, other-worldly corner of Languedoc has been garnering increasing attention, both from winemakers keen to set themselves up in the region, and from wine lovers attracted by its fresh, highly drinkable wines. (...) Ten years since itself becoming an independent AOP (Appellation d’origine Protégée, as the designation has been known since early 2016), **Terrasses du Larzac has quickly established itself as one of the most exciting and dynamic areas in this vast region.** Identified as a denomination of the wider Languedoc in 2004, this is one of the rare regions that gained its appellation status quickly; usually the process takes many years. In Rosemary George MW’s 2001 book *The Wines of the South of France*, Terrasses du Larzac hardly gets a look in. ‘I gave it little more than a cursory mention’, she acknowledges in her 2018 book *Wines of the Languedoc*, yet **it ‘has attracted enormous interest over the past 20 years’. And for good reason.**



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**LAY OF THE LAND**

(...) The region’s climate, which is heavily influenced by the proximity of the Larzac plateau, is a unifying factor in an appellation with a huge diversity of soils, exposures and elevations. This is one of the most northerly vineyard areas of Languedoc, scattered across 32 villages and communes that hug the foothills of the Causse and fan out along the geological terrasses that stretch to the confluence of the Hérault and Lez rivers at Canet, forming a rough ‘V’ shape (see map).

Vines are planted between 40m and 450m. Hillsides and valleys cut like notched into the landscape, creating a wealth of different exposures. This, combined with the northerly latitude and more inland location, means that there’s a significant diurnal temperature range, ‘at least 20°C difference between night and day in the summer months’, says Loïc Benezeth, fourth-generation winemaker at Domaine La Rouquette. This helps to preserve freshness and acidity, but also provide ‘a bigger aromatic revelation’ says Vincent Goumard, owner and winemaker of Mas Cal Demoura.

**GRAPES & STYLES**

Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan are the key varieties in this red-only appellation, with Cinsault, Counties, Lledoner Peut, Morrastel and Terrell Noir as secondaries. A blend of at least three varieties is required (see the facts box, p66).

As in other Languedoc regions, a renewed appreciation of once-maligned Carignan is helping to save old vines and bring fresh acidity to blends. Syrah, on the other hand, is suffering across Languedoc due to its sensitivity to drought, but here it’s less aggrieved, thanks to the fresh climate. Cinsault plays an increasingly important role here, lending blends an ethereal, floral, juicy

quality. I also love **pure Cinsault** - of course it's not permitted under the appellation rules, but a few producers bottle one as Vin de France or IGP, so it warrants a mention here. **Try examples from Mas Combarèla**, Le Clos Riviera, Domaine du Pas de l'Escalette, Le Clos Rouge and Mas Conscience. Although it's hard to generalise about the style of a large region with such variable geology, there are four striking things about the wines : their freshness, drinkability, aromatic display and tannic finesse. Generous, dark brambly fruit is often tempered and lifted by red fruit undertones. Notes of garrigue - sage, thyme, juniper - are infused into the very core of the wines' being. Many are moreish, delectable and succulent, boasting suave tannins with the texture of fine, wet clay. Some are also elevated by a stony, iodine, mineral quality. It's when these elements come together that the vigneron has succeeded in sharing their place with the drinker. (...)

REGIONAL PROFILE: TERRASSES DU LARZAC



THE PLACE TO BE

The Terrasses du Larzac region is incredibly dynamic, having a combination of long-standing, native producers (such as Mas Jullien, Mas des Chimères and Domaine de Montcalmès, which all helped to create the reputation of the appellation) and a steady stream of newcomers who have arrived in a relatively short space of time (40 new wine-growers since 2014).

‘With this mix, it could have been two worlds that coexisted but didn’t acknowledge each other, but that’s not at all what happened’, says Sébastien Fillon, president of the appellation and winemaker at Le Clos du Serres.(...)

The wines, with their fluidity and delicate structures, could strike a chord with new drinkers discovering wine for the first time, as well as seasoned wine lovers looking for wines with a southern soul but also balance and finesse. **In the mighty tome that is the Languedoc, Terrasses du Larzac might be the most compelling chapter.”**

## Terrasses du Larzac: the facts

**Producers** 96 independents, 3 cooperatives; 4 négociants

**Area planted** 747ha (AP)

**Production (2023)** 2.7m bottles

**Average yield (2023)** 27.1hl/ha

**Grapes** Principal Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, Carignan; Secondary Cinsault, Cunoise, Lledoner Pelut, Morrastel, Terret Noir

**Blends** At least three varieties, of which

two must be principal varieties; principal varieties at least 75% of the blend; no single variety more than 70% of the blend; Carignan maximum 50%, Cinsault maximum 25%; secondary varieties (other than Cinsault) max 10% **Organic producers (2023)** 79% certified or under conversion (92% if including HVE or Terra Vitis certification)

[SOURCE: AP TERRASSES DU LARZAC]

## Producers to know in Terrasses du Larzac

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clos Constantin</li> <li>• Domaine de Montcalmès</li> <li>• Domaine du Pas de l'Escalette</li> <li>• Les Vignes Oubliées</li> <li>• Mas Cal Demoura</li> <li>• Mas d'Amile</li> <li>• Mas des Brousses</li> <li>• Mas Combarèla</li> <li>• Mas Conscience</li> <li>• Mas Jullien</li> </ul> | <p><b>New &amp; noteworthy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domaine de l'Accent</li> <li>• Domaine Flo Busch</li> <li>• Les 8 Sarments</li> <li>• Le Clos des Combals</li> <li>• Mas Lasta</li> <li>• Mas Origine</li> </ul> |
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🇫🇷 **Bettane + Desseauve 2025** (Sept. 2024)

• **Mas Combarèla ★★★**

*“Olivier Faucon keeps surprising us with his wonderful reds, ethereal, with a rare intensity, impressive by their **delicacy and their saline finishes**. Since its first vintage, this 11-hectare estate has continued to draw closer to the big names and fully deserves its third star granted after only three vintages produced”*

- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc 2022** 90/100  
(=15/20)
- **Les Vieux Mazets 2021** 92/100  
(=16/20)
- **Le Clos Secret 2023** 93/100  
(=16.5/20)
- **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge 2022** 91/100  
(=15.5/20)
- **L'éclat 2022** 89/100  
(=14.5/20)



**Mas Combarèla**  
★★★

Olivier Faucon ne cesse d'étonner avec ses rouges magnifiques, aériens et d'une rare intensité, impressionnants par leur finesse de grain et leurs finales salines. Depuis son premier millésime, ce domaine de 11 hectares n'a cessé de se rapprocher des grands et mérite amplement la troisième étoile attribuée en 2022 après seulement trois millésimes produits.

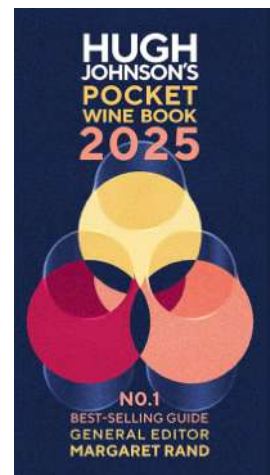


🇺🇸 🇬🇧 **Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2025** (USA, UK...) (Sept. 2024)

• **Mas Combarèla**

*Among the 15 Terrasses du Larzac recommended estates*

**Terrasses du Larzac Ldoc ★★★(★)** One of Ldoc's best terroir, nw of Montpellier. High AOP on limestone with cold nights makes poised, complex reds. Attracts innovative growers, small plots of vines; 50%+ organic/bio. Try CH de Jonquières; DOMS DE LA RÉSERVE D'O, de Malavielle, de Montcalmès, du Pas de l'Escalette; La Peira, Le Clos du Serres, L'Écriture, Mas Cal Demoura, Mas **Combarèla**, Mas Conscience, Mas d'Agamas, Mas des Brousses, MAS JULLIEN. Neighbouring AOP LDOC St-Saturnin: DOMS Archimbaud, Virgile Joly.



 **Guide Hachette des Vins 2025** (Sept. 2024)



• **Ode Aux Ignorants 2021** ★

*“Matured for 24 months in barrels and concrete eggs, a 2021 expressive on the nose, in a relatively wild and animal register. The red fruit and liquorice express themselves much more freely in a powerful, broad, but elegant palate, served by nicely extracted tannins. **Intensity, finesse and balance** (2025-2030)”.*



 **La Tulipe Rouge** (Sept. 2024)

- **Le Clos Secret 2022** 90/100 (=15/20)  
*“A lovely nose of ripe red fruits, garrigue and spices introducing a balanced, pulpy, tannic palate, which retains tone and juicy on the finish: this wine, a bit extracted, is full of charm! Delighted to see this young estate, founded 8 years ago, in our list.”*



 **VertdeVin Magazine** (Sept. 2024)

- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc 2023** 88/100 (=14.5/20)

*“The wine has a straw yellow color. The nose is fruity with discreet notes of lemon and apple. The second nose has a slightly smoky side. We find notes of apple and ripe lemon. The palate is fresh and fruity with notes of mirabelle plum, apple and lemon. The finish is mineral, saline and salivating.”*

- **L'éclat 2023** 91-92/100 (=15.75/20)

*“The wine has a beautiful lemon, almost golden color. The nose is discreet with notes of yellow peach. The second nose opens with a hint of minerality, apple as well as a smoky side. We also have a nice minty freshness with a sunny side. The palate is fresh with a nice acidity. We have fruits like yellow peach and pear but also buttery and lightly toasted. We perceive touches of pine sap as well as fresh herbs. The palate is more expressive than the nose and ends with white fruits.”*



### Mas Combarèla Terrasses du Larzac Des Si et Des Mi 2023

<https://www.jamessuckling.com/tasting-notes/267471/mas-combarela-terrasses-du-larzac-des-si-et-des-mi-2023>

★★★★★ Score: 92 Points

11 Jul, 2024 – An attractively fruity and supple red that has notes of cherries, red plums, lavender and sweet basil on the nose. It's medium-bodied, soft and very drinkable. Grenache, carignan, syrah and cinsault. From organically grown grapes. Delicious now.

[Check Price](#) · [Download Shelftalker](#)

### Mas Combarèla Terrasses du Larzac Ode Aux Ignorants 2021

<https://www.jamessuckling.com/tasting-notes/267713/mas-combarela-terrasses-du-larzac-ode-aux-ignorants-2021>

★★★★★ Score: 90 Points

9 Jul, 2024 – Cured meat, white pepper, black cherries and baked herbs. Good depth of fruit on the palate, with a medium body, medium acidity and firm, nicely chewy tannins. Supple black fruit with dark earth and dark spices in the finish. Carignan and grenache. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.

[Check Price](#) · [Download Shelftalker](#)

### Mas Combarèla Terrasses du Larzac Lueurs d'Espar 2021

<https://www.jamessuckling.com/tasting-notes/266804/mas-combarela-terrasses-du-larzac-lueurs-despar-2021>

★★★★★ Score: 91 Points

4 Jul, 2024 – A textured, velvety and refined blend of mourvedre, carignan and syrah. Earth, undergrowth and meat on the nose. Medium-bodied with fine tannins. Textured with a linear development on the palate and a flavorful finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

[Check Price](#) · [Download Shelftalker](#)

### Mas Combarèla Saint-Guilhem-Le-Desert Les Vieux Mazets 2021

<https://www.jamessuckling.com/tasting-notes/266803/mas-combarela-saint-guilhem-le-desert-les-vieux-mazets-2021>

★★★★★ Score: 91 Points

4 Jul, 2024 – A fruity, juicy and well-rounded carignan with dark cherries, grilled meat, dried herbs and earth on the nose. Medium-bodied with fine tannins. Juicy and velvety with plenty of pulpy fruit in the flavorful finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink or hold.

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### Mas Combarèla Saint-Guilhem-Le-Desert Des Si et Des Mi Blanc 2023

<https://www.jamessuckling.com/tasting-notes/266802/mas-combarela-saint-guilhem-le-desert-des-si-et-des-mi-blanc-2023>

★★★★★ Score: 91 Points

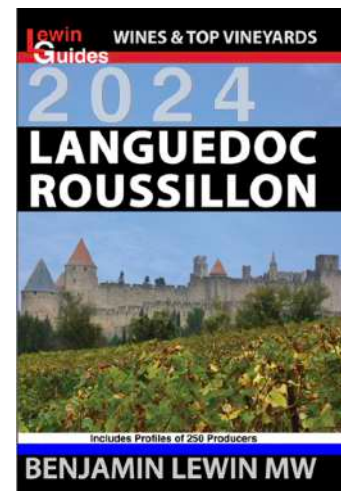
4 Jul, 2024 – A flavorful, textured and vivid blend of grenache blanc, carignan blanc, chenin blanc and rolle. Baked lemons, peaches and sweet spices on the nose, following through to a medium body with a delicious and juicy character. Succulent finish. From organically grown grapes. Drink now.

[Check Price](#) · [Download Shelftalker](#)

🇺🇸 🇬🇧 Lewin Guide - 2024 Languedoc Roussillon (June, 2024)

Mas Combarèla	
1833 Route de Montpeyroux, 34150 Saint-Jean-de-Fos	+33 6 19 42 07 00
📧 <a href="mailto:contact@mas-combarela.com">contact@mas-combarela.com</a>	👤 Olivier Faucon
🌐 <a href="http://www.mas-combarela.com">www.mas-combarela.com</a>	📍 IGP Pays d'Hérault <a href="#">[map]</a>
🍷 🌿 🍇	12 ha; 40,000 btl

After a career in marketing, Olivier Faucon decided to become a winemaker. He qualified in oenology in Beaune, worked at A. F. Gros in Pommard, then at Mas Cal Demoura in the Languedoc, and purchased vineyards in the Terrasses du Larzac, founding the domain in 2016. Des Si Et Des Mi is an entry-level range in all three colors. Under IGP St.-Guilhem-le-Desert there are varietal Cinsault and Carignan, and also the white blend of Carignan Blanc and Chenin Blanc. Terrasses du Larzac offers Ode Aux Ignorants, a blend of 50% Syrah with Carignan and Grenache, and Lueurs d'Espar (introduced in 2021 as a blend of 70% Mourvèdre with Carignan and Syrah and small amounts of Grenache and Cinsault, aged for 30 months in new 500-liter barrels).



 **VertdeVin Magazine** (June. 2024)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants 2021** 94/100 (=16.75+/20)



### Mas Combarèla - Ode Aux Ignorants 2021 Terrasses du Larzac

(Organic AB) The nose is fresh, racy and offers a discreet hint of spices and noble varietal. There are notes of Boysen blackberry, fleshy small red fruits and small notes of chocolate, touches of laurel berries, sage as well as slight hint of varietal freshness, iodized and a hint of pepper. The mouth is fruity and offers minerality, freshness, suppleness, fat, roundness, gourmandize and a beautiful definition. Full of balance. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of unctuous cassis, creamy small fruits and small notes of cherry, bright sage associated with touches of tonka beans, black olive as well as hints of sage, nutmeg, almond and slight sappy, iodine and toasted hints. Sappy and gourmand tannins. Beautiful chew in the background/persistence. Good length. Beautiful freshness that carries. Beautiful energy.

Score : 16.75+/20 (94/100)

 **Gault & Millau 2024** (Guide + Web) (Apr. 2024)

- **Lueurs d'Espar 2020** 92/100 (=16/20)

*"The nose is seductive, with woody notes of black fruit and cocoa, and on the palate, the aromas are still discreet due to its youth, but the mouthfeel is captivating. Velvety and rich in texture, this is a wine for laying down, to be enjoyed next autumn with game."*


A screenshot of the Gault & Millau website showing the wine page for "Lueurs d'Espar". The page features a search bar at the top, navigation tabs for "NEWS", "RESTAURANTS", "WINES", "CHAMPAGNES", "HOTELS", "ARTISANS", "RECIPES", and "PEOPLE". The main heading is "Lueurs d'Espar" with "Millesime : 2020" and "from the winery Mas Combarèla" below it. A bottle of the wine is shown with a "92 / 100" score badge. To the right, there is a "GAULT & MILLAU'S REVIEW 2024" section with a descriptive paragraph and a "CARACTÉRISTIQUES" section listing the wine's details.

**GAULT & MILLAU'S REVIEW 2024**

The nose is seductive, with woody notes of black fruit and cocoa, and on the palate, the aromas are still discreet due to its youth, but the mouthfeel is captivating. Velvety and rich in texture, this is a wine for laying down, to be enjoyed next autumn with game.

**CARACTÉRISTIQUES**

Marque: Mas Combarèla  
Couleur: Rouge  
Cépages (%): • Carignan noir : 20 %  
• Mourvèdre : 70 %  
• Syrah : 10 %

 **The Financial Times** (FT Magazine, Jancis Robinson, Feb. 2024)



## A cellar's market

A non-comprehensive selection of superior producers with sensible prices

### LANGUEDOC


- **Clos Perdus**
- **Dom de Cébène**
- **Mas des Brousses**
- **Mas Combarèla**
- **Ch La Négly**
- **Roc d'Anglade**



FT Magazine Jancis Robinson  
How to build a cellar: a guide to affordable bordeaux

The [Languedoc](#) to the west of the southern Rhône is home to hundreds of ambitious wine producers, but it also churns out oceans of very ordinary wine. I know from spending summers there how well the reds can age, but far too few have an international reputation, meaning that, with a handful of exceptions, these wines are bargains. It's almost as though the wine importers of the world have decided that the region is too complex to get to

grips with, which is a great shame. In the UK, Stone Vine & Sun takes Languedoc more seriously than most. In very general terms, head for a family-run estate based in a particular appellation. Faugères, St-Chinian and Terrasses du Larzac benefit from higher elevations and therefore tend to produce wines with more subtlety than most. Wine magazine La Revue du Vin de France and my website can provide useful pointers.

 **The Buyer** (Languedoc, Rupert Miller, March 2024)



<https://www.the-buyer.net/insight/why-the-languedoc-is-a-region-rooted-in-resilience-and-re-invention>



## The Languedoc: a region rooted in resilience and re-invention

To fully understand Languedoc's position in the French wine industry you need to take a journey back through what has been a turbulent history that has seen it go from producing 40% of the country's wines in the mid 19th century, to having to constantly re-invent itself to the position it is in today as a respected source for quality, premium wines capable of providing wines for all areas of a wine list. In the first of two detailed reports, Rupert Millar, charts the ups, downs, ins and outs of this fascinating and beguiling wine region.

•**Mas Combarèla**  
“(still more newcomers)... Or there is Olivier Faucon who now owns **Mas Combarèla** in Terrasses du Larzac. Originally from Lille where he worked in marketing, his dream of owning a winery was stoked by reading the bande dessinée ‘Les Ignorants’ about an illustrator who goes to learn how to run a vineyard.” ...




Oh there is Olivier Faucon who now owns **Mas Combarèla** in Terrasses du Larzac. Originally from Lille where he worked in marketing, his dream of owning a winery was stoked by reading the bande dessinée ‘Les Ignorants’ about an illustrator who goes to learn how to run a vineyard.

 **Sommeliers International** (Selection Millésime Bio, Feb. 2024)

• **Mas Combarèla**


“(Hérault)... *Domaine de la Réserve d’O 2019, 2020, 2023 and Frédéric Chauffray, Domaine de Montcalmès 2021 and Frédéric Pourtalé, Mas Cal Demoura 2022 and Vincent Goumard, Mas Combarèla 2020, 2022 and Olivier Faucon, Alain Chabanon Les Boissières 2020 and Saut de Côte 2019, all these masters set a great example in this rising appellation of Terrasses du Larzac, with superb blends of grape varieties mixed with modern, fresh, and impeccably sharpened results.*”...



 **La Revue du Vin de France** (Jan. 2024 - Millesime Bio, Organic Gems Best Deals)

- **Des Si et Des Mi - Rouge 2022** 90/100 (=15/20)  
*“The mouth vibrates with a clean and balanced tannin. Red with potential on a juicy mass and a beautiful complexity.”*



 **2024 Challenge Millésime BIO** (Organic wines world's largest trade fair contest - Jan. 2024)

- **Le Clos Secret 2022** **Bronze medal**

