

2-Pack: Southern French Reds and The Glory of Grenache

\$29 For the Pair (regularly \$18 & \$20 respectively)

Grenache is a grape that many wine drinkers overlook. Despite its dominance in the World-renowned red blends of Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Priorat, its singular excellence in the hands of Château Rayas, and its starring role in our favorite Provençal rosés, the grape remains an undeserved outlier. Grenache grape is the red heart of the Southern Rhone. Without its heat tolerance and ability to embody both elegance and power, the red wines of the Southern Rhone and much of the Languedoc-Roussillon regions would likely be overblown and flappy. The wines of these two Southern French regions are more often blends, Grenache leading the charge with support from Cinsault, Mourvèdre, Carignan, and Cinsault. The wines for this 2-pack represent a lovely, and delicious, exposé Grenache from two terroirs: mineral structure from the steep hills of Maury Sec to imminently quaffable juiciness of the rocky lowlands of the Southern Rhone. Cheers!



Domaine Cabirau “Serge & Marie” Maury Sec 2021 (regularly \$18)

Though often hyphenated, the Languedoc and Roussillon are two distinct regions. Maury sits within the upper Roussillon in the Agly Valley; approximately 37 miles from the Mediterranean and a stone’s throw from the Spanish border. The region is dominated by steep, windswept hills of schist and dark marl laced with gnarled, old-vine vineyards. Maury has historically been recognized for sweet Vin Deux Naturel; however, in 2011, a separate AOC was created for the dry, red wines of the region: Maury Sec. Consisting of 740 acres, Maury Sec is a tiny appellation, so finding wines from the region can be a bit difficult (lucky for us and y’all, we got our hands on this beauty). Wines from the Roussillon are having a bit of a moment – their uniqueness, freshness, and hints of rusticity harken back to French Wines of yore, before those triple digit price tags became the norm. British wine writer Andrew Jefford states that if the Roussillon is currently the most dynamic and exciting French region, then Maury is the epicenter, the “grand cru”; he likens it to Spain’s Priorat 30 years ago.

The 2021 cuvée Serge & Marie is comprised of 68% Grenache, hand-harvested from 60+ year-old vines, and 32% Carignan. The wine is matured in large, neutral oak barrels. The ripeness of the fruit is beautifully present while the acidity retained from the region’s cool nights that give the wine lift and energy; notes of garrigue and a lingering wet stone minerality complete the picture.

Cave des Vignerons d’Estézargues Côte du Rhone Villages 2022 (regularly \$20)

The co-op that produces this wine for Kermit Lynch has been around for generations and has been championing organic and sustainable agriculture and minimal intervention winemaking for the past sixty years, far longer than the practices have been deemed hip by the fickle world of wine experts. Just a thirty-minute drive from Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the old, gnarled vines of Estézargues are grown in the same *galets roulés* soil that impart such distinction to its famous neighbor. After vinification, the Grenache dominant – 56% – blend is filled out by Syrah, Cinsault, Carignan, and Mourvèdre and is aged for 10-12 months in concrete tanks. The resulting wine is exactly what one wants from a “humble, country” red wine from the Southern Rhône: “brambly, rustic, savory, and joyous”!