

# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024



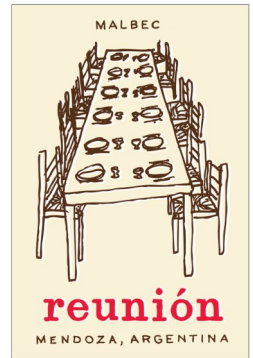
*WINE: Reunion Malbec 2023*

*VARIETALS: Malbec*

*Viticulture Area: Mendoza, Argentina*

**Bottle Price: \$15.99**

**Case Price: \$172.69 plus tax**



## INTRODUCTION

“RJ Viñedos” was founded in 1998 by Raúl Jofré. The driving forces behind his creation were his life’s two biggest passions: wine, which he learned to love at a young age being the grandson of a grape grower and the legacy of a 19th century wine-producing French family, and his daughters, looking to create a different way of life for him and his “four stars”, as he so frequently called them.

The story begins in the 19th century with Raul’s great grandparents who dedicated themselves to viticulture in the South of France. In 1918, his grandfather immigrated to Argentina. As the first male grandchild Raul quickly developed a sincere interest in the grapevine and the production of wine. Years later, Raul had a very successful international business career and in 1996 decided to reconnect with his family’s roots. In 1998 he founded Bodega RJ Viñedos, with the simple hope of creating a family winery that produced high quality wines to share with his daughters, the other great passion of his life.

Since then, “Bodega RJ Viñedos” developed and grew into a family winery that produces high quality wines with a distinctive style and strong personality.

## REGION:

**Mendoza Province** is Argentina's most important **wine region**, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the country's entire wine production. Located in the eastern foothills of the Andes, in the shadow of Aconcagua, vineyards are planted at some of the highest altitudes in the world, with the average site located 600–1,100 metres (2,000–3,600 ft) above sea level.

The principal wine producing areas fall into two main departments- Maipú and Luján, which includes Argentina's first delineated appellation established in 1993 in Luján de Cuyo. The pink-skinned grapes of Criolla Grande and Cereza account for more than a quarter of all plantings but Malbec is the region's most important planting, followed closely by Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo and Chardonnay. Mendoza is considered the heart of the winemaking industry in Argentina with the vast majority of large wineries located in the provincial capital of Mendoza.



## PRODUCER

Malbec

- Sourced from a single vineyard in Los Sausas, a subregion of Tunuyan
- Calcium carbonate, sandy and stony soils
- Hand harvested
- Fermented in a combination of stainless steel and concrete tanks
- Aged for 6 months in 70% French 30% American oak



The most emblematic brands produced by the winery are “Joffré e Hijas (Joffré and Daughters)” and “Pasión 4 (Passion 4)”, and they are intimately related to the inspiration, history, and reason behind the project. They effectively convey the family’s commitment to the consumer, intending to demonstrate the winery’s promise and passion for providing wines that are produced with absolute dedication and artisanal care. After various years of small vinifications, in 2005 RJ Viñedos began to export wine as well as sell their product domestically.

Currently the winery exports to 15 different countries on the international market.

It’s what happens when you open a bottle of wine with friends, family, loved ones, and even sworn enemies. You know you’ll all agree on at least one thing; great wine brings us together. Reunion Malbec is handcrafted in the family tradition by a father and his four daughters, using only a state grown, Sustainably farmed grapes from Tunuyan, Valle de Uco. This full bodied yet approachable wine is meant for all occasions.

## Tasting Notes:

Deep, concentrated red color with purple hints. It is a very expressive wine with ripe, fruity aromas of plum and cherry, as well as notes of chocolate.

*Our aim is to establish a lasting relationship and for this reason we are committed to ensuring that our wines will be able to accompany you in exquisite delight whenever you choose them!*

## Food Suggestions:

Malbec's bold flavors complement the richness of meats like steak, grilled pork, and burgers. The wine's fruity notes and smooth tannins also enhance the flavors of lamb, especially if it has a rich and slightly gamey flavor. Malbec pairs particularly well with barbecued meats, bringing out their smoky and spicy flavors.

***Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to!***  
***CHEERS!!!***

## Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mendoza\\_wine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mendoza_wine)  
[https://www.rjvinedos.com/vinedos\\_terroir.php](https://www.rjvinedos.com/vinedos_terroir.php)

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# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024

## **WINE: La Chapelle Du Seuil Rosé 2023**



**VARIETALS:** 35% Grenache, 25% Cabernet,  
15% Syrah, 15% Rolle, 10% Grenache  
**Viticulture Area:** Aix-En-Provence



**Bottle Price: \$15.99 Case Price: \$172.69 plus tax**

## INTRODUCTION

The Château du Seuil sits on the Puyricard plateau at an altitude between 350 and 450 meters, the highest site in Aix-en-Provence. Its towers date to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century and it is classified on the list of French historic monuments. While the estate's grounds cover nearly 340 hectares, only 62 hectares are planted to vines while another portion is dedicated to olive oil production. Owners Agnès et Robert Dausu are completely renovating the old Château and updating the cellar, as well as converting to organic farming. Sitting on an ancient fault line, the terroir is incredibly complex: clay, chalk, and rocks, with layers of iron-laden calcaire, and big galet. The vineyards benefit from the dry hot climate which is moderated by the Mistral wind. Enologist Pierre Guerin, who works also at Chateau Peyrassol, vinifies and ages the wine in tank.

## REGION

**Aix-en-Provence** : or simply Aix is a city and commune in southern France, about 30 km (20 mi) north of Marseille. A former capital of Provence, it is the subprefecture of the arrondissement of Aix-en-Provence, in the department of Bouches-du-Rhône, in the region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Provence (Provençal) wine comes from the French wine-producing region of Provence in southeast France. The Romans called the area provincia nostra ("our province"), giving the region its name.

Just south of the Alps, it was the first Roman province outside Italy. Wine has been made in this region for at least 2,600 years, ever since the ancient Greeks founded the city of Marseille in 600 BC. Throughout the region's history, viticulture and winemaking have been influenced by the cultures that have been present in Provence, which include the Ancient Greeks, Romans, Gauls, Catalans and Savoyards. These diverse groups introduced a large variety of grapes to the region, including grape varieties of Greek and Roman origin as well as Spanish, Italian and traditional French wine grapes.

Today the region is known predominantly for its rosé wine, though wine critics such as Tom Stevenson believe that region's best wines are the spicy, full-flavoured red wines. Rosé wine currently accounts for more than half of the production of Provençal wine, with red wine accounting for about a third of the region's production. White wine is also produced in small quantities throughout the region with the Appellation d'origine contrôlée (AOC) region of Cassis specializing in white wine production.

The Côtes de Provence is the largest AOC followed by the Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence. The Bandol region near Toulon is one of the more internationally recognized Provençal wine regions.



## PRODUCER

Blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Grenache, Cinsault, Rolle and Sauvignon blanc. The highest vineyards in Aix-en-Provence at 350-500 meters above sea-level. Soil is clay-chalk-rock mix, remarkably complex due to its situation on an ancient fault line. Plates form layers of iron rich calcaire, clay/calcaire, galet, and marneux. Vines have an average age of 30 years-old. Fermented and aged in stainless steel tank.

- Certified organic
- 35% Grenache, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Syrah, 15% Rolle, 10% Grenache
- From the highest altitude vineyards in Aix-en-Provence
- 30+ year old vines
- 350-500m altitude
- Clay-limestone soil
- Direct press rosé
- Fermented and aged in stainless steel



## Tasting Notes:

A buttoned up rose with fresh fruit, roses, watermelon, strawberry, and red cherry. Soft and creamy with medium acidity making this an ideal aperitif. The style of rose that has made Provence the worlds benchmark for light and fresh rosé.

## Food Suggestions:

Pork, Shellfish, Vegetarian and Poultry dishes.



Pork



Shellfish



Vegetarian



Poultry

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**CHEERS!!!**

<https://www.skurnik.com/producer/chateau-du-seuil/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aix-en-Provence>

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# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024

*WINE: Domaine de Marrans Fleurie 2022*

*VARIETALS: 100% Gamay*

*Viticulture: Appellation Fleurie Contrôlée*



**Bottle Price: \$24.99 Case Price: \$269.89 plus tax**

## INTRODUCTION

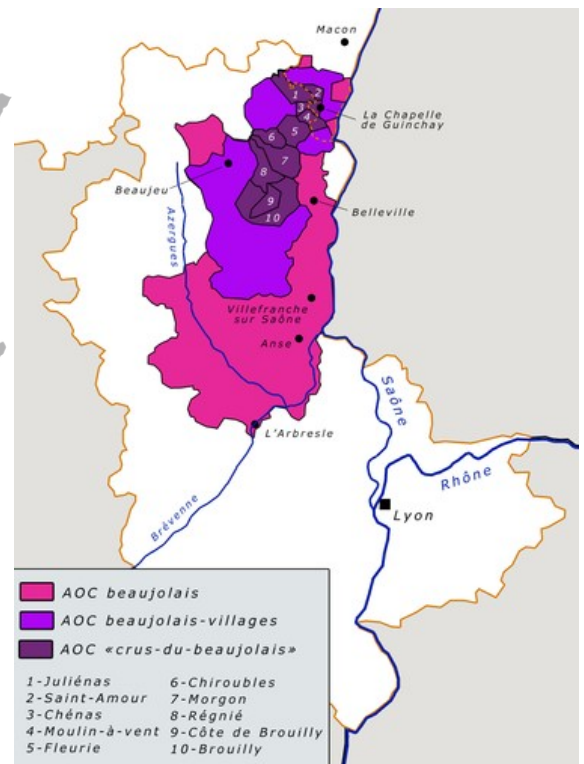
Domaine des Marrans is located in Fleurie, in the heart of the northernmost section of Beaujolais. Founded in 1970, the current proprietor is the young and talented Mathieu Mélinand, who joined the family domaine in 2008. With old vines and crystalline granite sites, Mathieu is growing some of the most pristine Gamay.

## REGION

Beaujolais is a French Appellation d' Origine Contrôlée (AOC) wine generally made of the Gamay grape, which has a thin skin and is low in tannins. Like most AOC wines they are not labeled varietally. Whites from the region, which make up only 1% of its production, are made mostly with Chardonnay grapes though Aligoté is also permitted until 2024 (on condition the vines were planted before 2004).



Beaujolais tends to be a very light-bodied red wine, with relatively high amounts of acidity. In some vintages, Beaujolais produces more wine than the Burgundy wine regions of Chablis, Côte d'Or, Côte Chalonnaise and Mâconnais put together. The wine takes its name from the historical Province of Beaujolais, a wine-producing region. It is located north of Lyon, and covers parts of the north of the department of Rhône, the Rhône-Alpes region and southern areas



of the department of Saône-et-Loire, in Burgundy. While administratively considered part of the Burgundy wine region, the climate is closer to that of the Rhône, and the wine is sufficiently individual in character to be considered apart from Burgundy and Rhône. The region is known internationally for its long tradition of winemaking, for the use of carbonic maceration, and more recently for the popular Beaujolais nouveau.

## PRODUCER

The vines are pruned in the traditional Gobelet vine training method and the harvest is done only by hand, using small crates to minimize oxidation. In the cellar, vinification is old school, with semi-carbonic maceration using whole clusters, minimal intervention, and only indigenous yeasts used. The wines are then aged in large older barrels for 10 months before bottling. This lineup is remarkably pure and fresh.

100% GAMAY Single Block, Unfiltered Red Wine

Practicing organic | 100% Gamay | From the lieu dit "Les Marrans" in the heart of Fleurie | 45+ year old vines  
| Pure pink granite soil | Southern exposure | Traditional semi-carbonic maceration | Whole cluster  
| Indigenous yeast | Aged in large older barrels for 12 months

Energetic, mineral-accented aromas of fresh-picked red berries, smoked meat, blood orange, and a hint of allspice. Silky, juicy and layered on the palate with flavors of red currant, Bing cherry, boysenberry, and fresh black pepper.

A succulent and lifted wine that is endlessly charming yet complex. Aromas of strawberries and raspberries with fresh, fruity and balanced flavors.

## Tasting Notes:

**JAMES SUCKLING** Score 91 Points Date 2024-03-14: "A crunchy and fruity red showing aromas of raspberries, wild strawberries, lemon zest and chopped herbs. It's medium-bodied, zesty and tight. Drink now or hold."

## Food Suggestions:

Pairs well with white meats, fish, and cheese.

### Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beaujolais>

<https://www.westernreservewines.com/domaine-de-marrans-fleurie-les-marrans-2022-beaujo.html>

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# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024



**WINE:** *Lieu Dit Chenin Blanc 2021*

**VARIETALS:** *100% Chenin Blanc*

**Viticulture Area:**

*Santa Ynez Valley, California*

**Bottle Price: \$24.99 Case Price: \$269.89 plus tax**



## INTRODUCTION

### ***Unified by the mysteries of wine***

Lieu Dit is a partnership of longtime friends Eric Railsback and Justin Willett. The two met in Santa Barbara while Eric was finishing college and Justin was just beginning his career in winemaking. They were among a small group of young winemakers and restaurateurs in Santa Barbara unified by a common interest in wine and all its mysteries. After countless bottles shared together and many trips to France, Railsback and Willett decided to found Lieu Dit in 2011 and focus it solely in the varieties indigenous to the Loire Valley, now grown in Santa Barbara County. The varied micro-climates and marine based soils of Santa Barbara County are ideally suited to this set of grapes. Lieu Dit centers on Sauvignon Blanc as well as limited bottlings of Melon de Bourgogne, Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc and Rosé of Pinot Noir. Each vintage, the quest for purity, elegance, and balance in every wine is paramount.

## REGION

The Santa Ynez Valley AVA is an American Viticultural Area located in Santa Barbara County, California and was established on May 16, 1983 by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). It is part of the larger Central Coast AVA, and contains the greatest concentration of wineries in Santa Barbara County. The valley is formed by the Purisima Hills and San Rafael Mountains to the north and the Santa Ynez Mountains to the south creating a long, east-west corridor with very cool temperatures on the coast that become progressively warmer inland. The Santa Ynez River flows east to west on the valley floor toward the Pacific Ocean. As of 2021, the Santa Ynez Valley contains four other



established viticultural areas: Sta. Rita Hills on its western boundary; Ballard Canyon and Los Olivos District occupying the center region; and Happy Canyon on the eastern border. Chardonnay is the most planted grape variety in the cooler, western portion of the valley while Rhône varieties thrive in the eastern locales.



## PRODUCER

Justin Willett was born and raised in Santa Barbara, CA. After receiving his B.A. from UCSB, he got his start in the wine world working as the assistant at Arcadian Winery. In 2005 he went on to start Tyler Winery to focus on small production Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. In addition to being the owner and winemaker of Tyler Winery, Justin is now the consulting winemaker for a dynamic new planting of pinot noir and chardonnay in the Santa Rita Hills called Wenzlau Vineyard.

Eric Railsback's emergence in the wine industry began taking shape in Santa Barbara nearly a decade ago. After stints at the Wine Cask and the Hungry Cat, Railsback furthered his exposure to different regions and producers at Osteria Mozza and running the wine program at Gordon Ramsey in Los Angeles. Eric has a strong connection to the wines of France. Fluent in French and working harvests all over Europe, Eric brought his talents to Michael Mina's RN74 – a premiere Burgundy-inspired restaurant in San Francisco. There, he led a team of sommeliers for over three years before bringing it back full circle to Santa Barbara with the opening of Les Marchands Wine Bar & Merchant.

At Lieu Dit we focus on varieties indigenous to the Loire Valley. That means they are...The varied micro-climates and marine based soils of Santa Barbara County are ideally suited to this set of grapes.



## Tasting Notes:

"The Lieu Dit Chenin Blanc is soft, open-knit and delicious." – Antonio Galloni (Vinous)

## Food Suggestions:

It pairs beautifully with creamy chicken or pork dishes, meatier flaky fish, and rich seafood.

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**CHEERS!!!**

### Sources:

<https://www.skurnik.com/sku/chenin-blanc-santa-ynez-valley-lieu-dit-2-2-2-2/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa\\_Ynez\\_Valley\\_AVA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Ynez_Valley_AVA)

<https://www.visitsyv.com/traveling-safely-in-the-santa-ynez-valley/>

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# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024

**WINE: Buglioni (I'M) Perfetto Valpolicella Classico 2021**



**VARIETALS: 50% Corvina, 25% Rondinella,  
20% Corvinone, 5% Croatina**

**Viticulture Area: Veneto, Italy**

**Bottle Price: \$24.99 Case Price: \$269.89 plus tax**



## INTRODUCTION

The Buglioni family has been making wine since 1993, when they purchased an old farmhouse surrounded by vineyards and olive groves in Corrubbio di San Pietro in Cariano in the heart of the Valpolicella Classico region. Alfredo, his wife, Gabriella, son Mariano, and Mariano's family, had been living in a larger village, and were ready to move to the more-relaxing countryside in Corrubbio di San Pietro in Cariano, one of five villages that comprise the Valpolicella Classico region. After only two months in the Buglioni's new home, and without any knowledge of how to prune, harvest or store the precious wine grapes surrounding their farmhouse, the vineyards were ready to be harvested. Initially, each vintage was a joyous event shared with friends and collaborators, but soon the Buglioni's vision and passion allowed them to dream that they could become "real" winemakers.



*"Wine is more of a passion for us. You have to follow nature, and you must touch everything".*

**Mariano Buglioni**



## REGION

Among the ranks of Italy's quintessential red wines, Valpolicella literally translates to the "valley of cellars" and is composed of a series of valleys (named Fumane, Marano and Negrare) that start in the pre-alpine Lissini Mountains and end in the southern plains of the Veneto.

Here vineyards adorn the valley hillsides, rising up to just over 1,300 feet.

The classification of its red wines makes this appellation unique. Whereas most Italian regions claim the wines from one or two grapes as superior, or specific vineyards or communes most admirable, Valpolicella ranks the caliber of its red wines based on delimited production methods, and every tier uses the same basic blending grapes.



## PRODUCER

The 2021 vintage was a good harvest with ideal conditions. Rainfall was even and well timed. The temperatures were not extreme. Warm days and cool nights in August and September allowed for perfect ripening of the grapes.

**GRAPES:** 50% Corvina, 20% Corvinone, 25% Rondinella, 5% Croatina

**APPELLATION:** Valpolicella Classico Superiore

**PH:** 3.3

**ACIDITY:** 5.9 g/l

**ABV:** 12.9%

**RESIDUAL SUGAR:** 2 g/l

100% estate fruit, from Valpolicella Classico Superiore DOC

Certified organic, with grapes that are hand-selected and harvested

**AGING:** The wine is aged in tonneaux and 50 hl casks for 6/8 months. It is then left to mature further 9 months in the bottle before sale.

Today, Buglioni owns 46 hectares (114 acres) of vines planted to the traditional indigenous varieties of Corvina, Corvinone, Rondinella, Molinara, Oseleta, Croatina and Garganega. The 14 hectares (34.6 acres) of vineyards planted near the winery are trained using the double pergola system, while the remaining vineyards in Sant'Ambrogio and San Pietro in Cariano are trained using the guyot system. The lightly textured, gravelly, dark alluvial soil, meticulous vine pruning, and scrupulous control techniques Buglioni employs ensure the production of high-quality grapes.

*Wine made with hand-picked organic grapes typical of Valpolicella, same fresh grapes mixed with slightly dried ones.*

## Tasting Notes:

91 Points Wine Enthusiast

"This Valpolicella opens with lifted aromas of fresh and macerated cherries, tobacco, licorice and vanilla. The rounded palate is full of black-raspberry jam flavors spiked with wild thyme, violets and sweet baking spices finishing with supple tannins and bright acidity". Neutral Oak. Drinks fresh despite earthy character.

## Food Suggestions:

Pair with charcuterie, dishes with porcini mushrooms, grilled red meats and lamb. Unmissable with fresh pasta with tomato sauce or swordfish parmigiana for sea lovers.

Source:

<https://www.kobrandwineandspirits.com/release/buglioni-im-perfetto-valpolicella-classico-doc-2021/>

<https://www.westernreservewines.com/buglioni-imperfetto-superiore-valpolicella-classic.html>

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# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024

## WINE: *Domaine Marion Pral Beaujolais Rosé 2023*



**VARIETALS:** 100% Gamay

**VITICULTURE AREA:**

*Mont Beaujolais region of Pierres Dorees*

**Bottle Price: \$19.99 Case Price: \$215.89 plus tax**



### INTRODUCTION

In the heart of the Pays des Pierres Dorées in the southernmost tip of the Beaujolais region, Domaine Marion Pral practices ecological farming on their 45 acres of vines. The estate is located in the hamlet of La Roche in Saint-Laurent-d'Oingt, 10 miles from Villefranche, capital of the Beaujolais. Pascal Chatelus, his wife Marion Pral, and their family have been farming the estate for several generations. All vineyards are located on granite-based south and southwest-facing hillside soils. Harvests are done by hand.

This small production rosé, handcrafted by environmentally conscious winemaker Pascal Chatelus, is made from older vines growing on the slopes of the Mont Beaujolais region of Pierres Dorees.

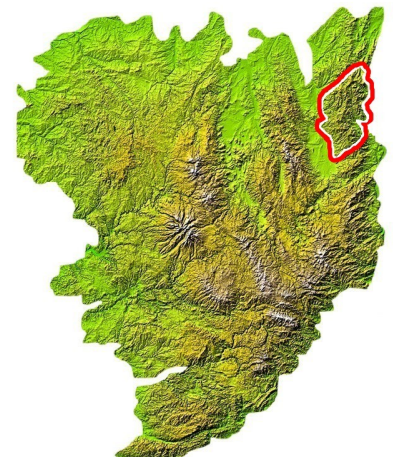


### REGION: The "Land of Golden Stones"

The Beaujolais des Pierres Dorées, or "golden stones" region, is a lively area in south Beaujolais, France, near Lyon. It's known for its villages built from yellow ochre stones that reflect sunlight, giving the area the nickname "little Tuscany". The stones are used to construct houses, castles, churches, washhouses, wells, and low walls. The area and its villages have been awarded the Vignobles et Découvertes (Vineyards and Discoveries) quality label.

Golden stones, also called Couzon stone, are limestones widely used for construction in an area northwest of Lyon ( France ) called "Land of Golden Stones", but also in the Monts d'Or and in Beaujolais .

These are Aalenian limestones with entroques, tinted by iron oxides .  
The entroques, debris of crinoids ,



**Location of Beaujolais on the map of the Massif Central .**

## PRODUCER

Winery: Domaine Pral

Grapes: Gamay

Region: France / Beaujolais

Wine style: French Rosé

Alcohol content: 12.5%

Allergens: Contains sulfites



## Tasting Notes:

100% Gamay, hand harvested, it has an elegant light rose color, aromas of white flowers, rosehips, and red fruits. On the palate, it is fresh with a silky mouth feel and has a fruity, mineral finish.

## Food Suggestions:

Grilled or roasted vegetable dishes such as ratatouille, salads with fruit, and grilled seafood such as salmon or tuna.

### **Sources:**

<https://www.westernreservewines.com/domaine-pral-beaujolais-rose-2023-france.html>

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierres\\_dor%C3%A9es](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierres_dor%C3%A9es)

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# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024

## Round Pond Kith & Kin Cabernet Sauvignon



*VARIETALS: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
9% Petit Verdot, 6% Malbec*

*Viticulture Area: Napa Valley California*

**Bottle: \$49.99 | Case: \$539.89 plus tax**



## INTRODUCTION

### History

Round Pond Estate, owned and operated today by the second generation of our family, is a 468 acre Rutherford farm and winery that specializes in the creation of pure, expressive wines, artisan foods and unforgettable experiences—all from the heart of Napa Valley. In addition to a state-of-the-art winemaking facility and 362 acres of Rutherford vineyards, our estate includes 5 acres of gardens, 12 acres of olive orchards, and one of only two olive mills in the region. The family also owns a special 10 acre vineyard in the famed Oakville bench.

### Grape Growing

Our Rutherford estate spans 362 acres of vineyards, primarily planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. With over 30 years and two generations of winegrowing experience, we are farmers first and believe great wine starts in the vineyards. To promote natural balance and vineyard health, we have dedicated ourselves to the principles of sustainable winegrowing.

## REGION

### VINTAGE & VITICULTURE

The 2021 vintage was marked by a second season of drought. The temperatures remained relatively mild, however the dry conditions resulted in smaller, more concentrated grapes with lighter yields and one of the earliest harvest windows to date. Our Cabernet Sauvignon and other red varieties are planted on loose, alluvial soils derived from the volcanic Vaca Mountains and our "California sprawl" trellis systems provide excellent vine balance and diverse sun exposures.

**WINEMAKERS:** Jeff Plant & John Wilson

**CONSULTING WINEMAKER:** Thomas Rivers Brown

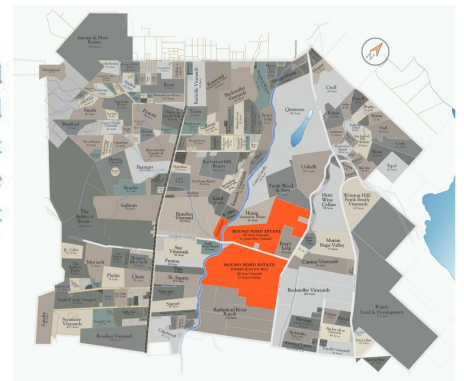
**VARIETALS:** 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Petit Verdot, 6% Malbec

**AGING:** 14 months in 40% new French oak barrels

**RELEASE DATE:** January 2023

**SRP:** \$50.00

**HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:** Vegan Friendly, Gluten Free, Sustainably Farmed



### 92 points, Wine Enthusiast

"Big and rich, this deeply saturated and mouth-filling wine overflows with ripe, plump blueberries, black currants and black cherries accented with mint and dark chocolate. It's delicious enough to drink young." - **Jim Gordon, Wine Enthusiast**



## PRODUCER

Since purchasing our first Rutherford vineyard here in 1983, our approach to sustainable winegrowing has made our Cabernet Sauvignon prized by numerous esteemed wineries. Today, our vineyard represents 12% of all Cabernet Sauvignon grown in Rutherford, and we continue to sell the vast majority of our grapes to over 20 wineries in the Napa Valley.

In 2002, our family made its first barrel of estate Cabernet Sauvignon. Crafted from select blocks of our best estate vineyards, our wines embody the essence of a terroir-inspired, Napa Valley winemaking philosophy. Today, as winemakers our goal is simple – to allow each wine to find its own expressive voice.

Kith & Kin, Old English for “Friends & Family”, is a Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from all corners of the Napa Valley but with its heart rooted in Rutherford. This wine is approachable in its youth, with balanced tannins and a fruit-forward character. The vast majority of fruit comes from our estate, supplemented by a limited amount from Napa Valley growers.

Vineyard: The 2021 vintage was marked by a second season of drought. The temperatures remained relatively mild, however the dry conditions resulted in smaller, more concentrated grapes with lighter yields and one of the earliest harvest windows to date. Our Cabernet Sauvignon and other red varieties are planted on loose, alluvial soils derived from the volcanic Vaca Mountains and our “California sprawl” trellis systems provide excellent vine balance and diverse sun exposures.

## Tasting Notes:

Tasting Notes: Beautifully complex and rich aromatics of bright cassis and ripe red fruit jump out of the glass upon the first encounter. This wine opens with bright raspberry, softening through the mid-palate with notes of toffee, cocoa, and crème brûlée. The soft and smooth mouth feel paired with fine-grained tannins effortlessly round out this young and serious, yet remarkably approachable Cabernet.

## Food Suggestions:

Steak, burgers, lamb, eggplant parmesan, mushroom risotto, smoked tofu, bacon-wrapped dates, cheese platter.

### **Sources:**

<https://www.westernreservewines.com/round-pond-kith-kin-cabernet-sauvignon-2021-napa-v.html>

<https://kithandkincellars.com/tradetools/>

*Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to!*

*CHEERS!!!*

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# WESTERN RESERVE WINES CLUB JUNE 2024

## WINE: Chateau de Pibarnon Bandol Rose 2023



VARIETALS: 65% Mourvèdre, 35% Cinsault

Viticulture Area: Bandol, France



Bottle Price: \$49.99

Case Price: \$539.89 + tax

### INTRODUCTION

“Run by Eric de Saint Victor, who is aided by assistant winemaker Marie Laroze, Chateau de Pibarnon fashions some of the top wines from this incredible appellation. Any reader wanting to taste the best expression of Bandol should get on this estate’s bandwagon, as the price has yet to catch up to the quality.”

— The Wine Advocate

Since purchasing the estate in 1975, Eric de Saint-Victor has been producing some of the most seductively aromatic and nobly structured wines in all of Southern France. Perched atop the highest and northernmost part of the appellation, the Château commands sweeping vistas of the amphitheater of vines and the Mediterranean Sea.



### REGION

Bandol is a commune in Var department, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, southeastern France. Bandol and the seat of its eponymous commune, was founded in 1595 and built around a small military fort.

The Bandol wine region, located near the coast east of Marseille and Cassis, is one of Provence's most internationally recognized wine regions. Built around the village of Bandol, west of Toulon, the Bandol AOC covers the production of 8 communes with silica & limestone soils. Those soils and the warm, coastal climate are ideally suited for the late ripening Mourvèdre grape which is the major variety of the region.

For both the red and rosé wines, Mourvèdre must account for at least 50% of the blend, though most producers will use significantly more, with Grenache and Cinsaut usually filling out the rest of the wine's composition.



Provence-Alpes-Cotes d'Azur region  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandol>

## PRODUCER

The restanques, or terraces were carved into the hill to minimize erosion and maximize water absorption, which is of the utmost importance in a hot, dry terroir such as this one. The soil at Château de Pibarnon is unique, differing from that of its neighbors further down the slope. As a result of a geological anomaly purported to have taken place at the end of the Mesozoic Era, Pibarnon's soils contain large quantities of blue marl and limestone, as well as fossil material which is 150 million years older than that found in other parts of the appellation. The dearth of nutrition provided by these stony, fossil-studded soils ensures that the vines achieve maximum vigor through their daily struggle to survive.

While Pibarnon's flagship cuvée is a classic vin de garde which can take as many as ten years to begin to show all its glory, 'Les Restanques', made with 70% Mourvèdre and 30% Grenache, is styled for a lush texture and more immediate approachability. Not to be missed are the Bandol Rosé and rare Blanc which are also considered benchmarks for quality.

### FARMING PRACTICES

- Certified Organic by Ecocert SAS
- No herbicides or pesticides used
- 100% Hand-harvested

The terraced vineyard faces the sea on the top of a hill that reaches 300m, forming a great natural south-east-facing bowl

Fermented at low temps slowly for 20 days  
Indigenous yeast

Aged in stainless steel for 6 months

### TERROIR // VINE AGE // SOIL TYPE

- Highest elevation domaine in Bandol
- 300m+ altitude
- Terraced vineyards that face the sea
- South-east facing amphitheater
- Cooler micro-climate in the Bandol region

## Tasting Notes:

Always one of the great rosés of France, this age-able and complex beauty shows mineral accented flavors of raspberry, blood orange, red currant and nectarine. Balanced, textured and seamless - a showstopper rosé.

## Food Suggestions:

Bandol rosé is a versatile wine that pairs well with a variety of foods due to its well-balanced acidity, freshness, and aromatic complexity. Here are some food pairings that go well with Bandol rosé: Salmon, tuna, grilled shrimp, lobster, and langoustines; Grilled vegetables: Ratatouille, grilled vegetables, and grilled meats like lamb leg or shoulder; Summer dishes: Summer salads, vegetarian soups, and couscous and meat or fish tajines; Other dishes: Bouillabaisse, baked cod provençal, beef carpaccio, salmon croquettes, shrimp remoulade, country pâté, strawberry tomato salad, tomato garlic monkfish, pork chops and apples, beets with yogurt, and bourride.

*Remember We Taste The Bad Ones So you don't have to! CHEERS!!!*

**Sources:** <https://www.westernreservewines.com/chateau-de-pibarnon-bandol-rose-wine-2023-france.html>

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