

Syrah/ Grenache

Domaine: Mas Carlot

Producer: Nathalie Blanc-Marès

Website: <http://www.mascarlot.com/>

Variety: 60% Syrah 40% Grenache

Country: France

Background

Constructed around the seventeenth century, this old Provençal

Mas was brought back to life by the Blanc family, who purchased the estate in the Sixties. Located on the western edge of the Rhône River, in the village of Bellegarde, southeast of the city of Nîmes, the vineyards are in the heart of the appellation's cailloux-based soil. In the old Provençal dialect, "Mas" means farm, and Nathalie Blanc-Marès is beautifully managing this 75 hectares farm with the aid of her husband Cyril Marès, owner of the neighboring property Mas des Bressades (yes, she married the boy-next-door). They are a great Provençal family - young and energetic with great vision and talent.

The vineyards were planted in the 1950's and 1960's to the current varieties. The vines are trained using a system called Cordon de Royat, which helps maintain lower fruit production. Mas Carlot limits yields to around 45hl/ha, which is one-third below what the appellation allows. Nathalie likes to wait during harvest - picking late to obtain the maximum maturity for each grape varietal.

