

Chardonnay



Other Wines by this Domaine

Chardonnay (2007)
 Chardonnay (2008)
 Grenache Noir (2007)
 Grenache Noir (2008)
 Hommage (2004) Prestige
 Hommage (2005) Prestige
 Merlot (2007)

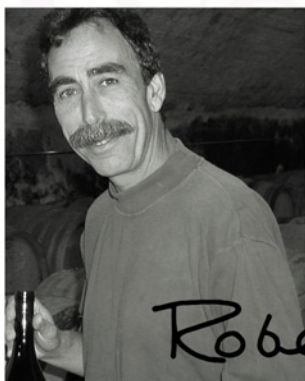
Domaine: Domaine de Gournier
Producer: Maurice Barnouin
Vintage: 2006
Variety: 100% Chardonnay
Country: France
Region: Costières de Nîmes

Background

This beautiful estate, owned by Maurice Barnouin, is located in the hills northwest of Nîmes, in the western Rhône Valley near the town of Uzes and the famous Pont du Gard. The viticultural area lies just outside the Costières de Nîmes appellation and is only entitled to label its wines as Vin de Pays des Cévennes. The wines of Domaine de Gournier however, aspire to greater stature than this simple designation. Being up in the hills, the microclimate is cool.

The Barnouin family were pepinierists by trade (vine rootstock and clone experts), and Maurice's father was a pioneer in the regions re-planting with low-yielding, intensely flavored varieties like Chardonnay, Sauvignon and Merlot. The Chardonnay vines at Gournier are pruned for hand-harvesting to ensure the most stringent selection of grapes for the best wine possible. Fermentation takes place both in barrel (60% in new oak) and in stainless steel tank, with the wine aged on the lees for six months before bottling. The flavors are rich and complex. Notes of fresh pear and a hint of butter fat mingle with scents of vanilla and smoke. This lovely, medium-bodied wine has a richness that is balanced by the clean, pure finish.

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