

PATRICK ALLEN SELECTIONS

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Le Grand Clos IGP Cité de Carcassonne

The Domaine at-a-glance

Owners: Henri & Jean-Luc Sarraill
Winemakers: Henri & Jean-Luc Sarraill
Soil: Clay, Limestone, and Alluvial Deposits
Size: 100 Ha **Location:** Cazilhac, France
Appellations Produced: IGP Cité de Carcassonne

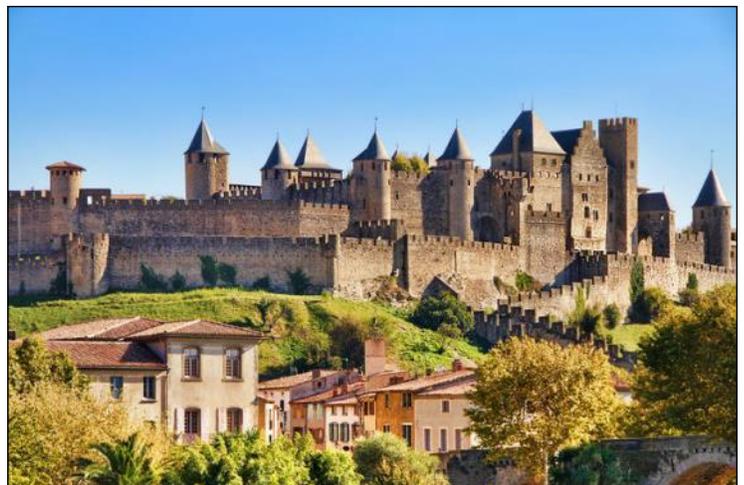


Jean-Luc & Henri Sarraill

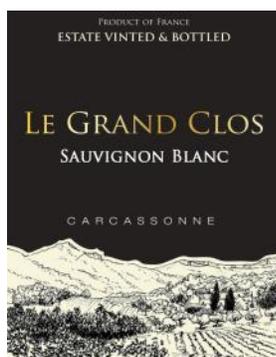
After a long search, Henri Sarraill found the vineyards that make up Grand Clos. He believed that this vineyard had an untapped potential, and in 1980 he purchased the vineyard and winery. In 2000 Jean-Luc Sarraill joined the team at the winery to help his father in his pursuit of making exceptional wines from their terroir. Facing the Pyrenees, surrounded by vineyards, and hillsides speckled with pine trees and flowers, this is truly a magical place. Le Grand Clos is located near the world famous medieval city of Carcassonne. Exceptional climate conditions and terroir allow them to produce high quality wines. From the very beginning Henri's philosophy has been "To channel our passion, combining tradition and modernity, in order to create exceptional wines, with the utmost respect of our terroir".

About Carcassonne:

Know as "La Cité" of Carcassonne, it is the largest, standing, fortified city in Europe. Beginning as a Roman fortress in 100 B.C., succeeding generations added layer upon layer of fortifications, until it grew to its present size. In the 12th century, Carcassonne was a stronghold for the Cathars, until in 1209 Papal crusaders forced them to surrender. From 1247 until the treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659, Carcassonne was of vital strategic importance to the French, as it marked the border between France and the Kingdom of Aragon (Spain). After 1659 Carcassonne lost its military significance and fell into disrepair. In 1849 the fortress was in such a bad state that the French government ordered it to be demolished. However, public outcry was so great that in 1853 restoration of the city began. Though the restoration is not 100% historically accurate, Carcassonne is still considered one of the great marvels of Europe.



"La Cité" of Carcassonne



100% Sauvignon Blanc

Le Grand Clos - Sauvignon Blanc 2015

Technical Notes: The grapes are harvested at the peak of ripeness, then are immediately taken to the winery, where they are sorted, and are vinified under neutral (nitrogen) gas to prevent oxidation. The wine is then fermented and aged in temperature controlled tanks. The wine is lightly fined before bottling.

Tasting Notes:

Le Grand Clos - Sauvignon Blanc is a wonderfully aromatic wine with notes of white flowers, boxwood, and lime zest in the nose. In the mouth, the wine is full of rich citrus fruit, and flinty minerality. The "sur lie" aging, adds additional flesh and weight to the wine, balancing out the Sauvignon Blanc's natural, crisp acidity. This is an ideal wine for most fish and shellfish dishes, or chilled down as an aperitif on a hot day.