



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

## DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC

Country: France

Region: Languedoc

Appellation(s): Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile, Vin de Pays de l'Hérault, Languedoc, Languedoc Montpeyroux

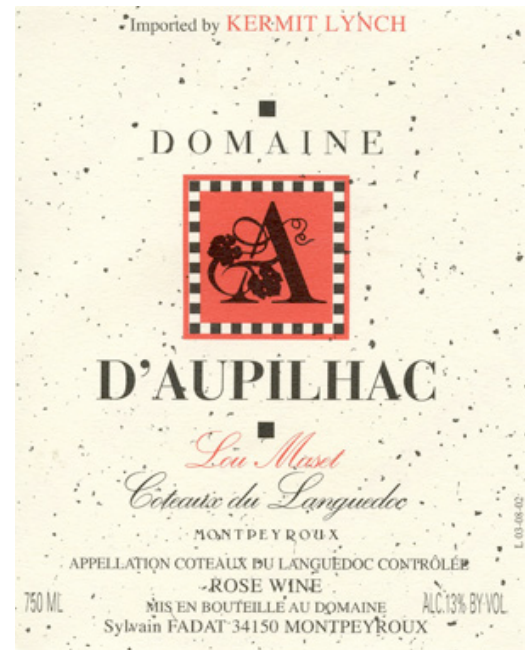
Producer: Sylvain Fadat

Founded: 1989

Annual Production: 11,000 cases

Farming: Organic (certified), Biodynamic (certified)

Website: [www.aupilhac.com](http://www.aupilhac.com)



Three generations of Fadats have farmed the large, eighteen-hectare *lieu-dit* known as Aupilhac, in the village of Montpeyroux, across the river Hérault from Daumas Gassac and Grange des Pères. While the Fadats have farmed this land since the nineteenth century, and the vineyards date even farther back to the time of the Romans, it was not until 1989 that the current member of the Fadat family, Sylvain, finally registered the domaine as a *vigneron indépendant*. Aupilhac is a special parcel for many reasons. Nestled below the ruins of the village's château, these terraced vineyards of limestone scree and marl enjoy perfect southwest sun exposure, giving dense, chewy wines loaded with Mediterranean soul. Sylvain is not one to shy away from hard work. In an ancient volcanic amphitheatre littered with marine fossils and big chunks of limestone, he has done what few *vignerons* dare to do nowadays: he spent years clearing the land of boulders and shrubbery before finally planting a vineyard. The white and red produced in the stunning Cocalières site benefit from high elevation—the parcel lies well above the village at 350 meters above sea level—and cooler, northern exposure, yielding wines of incredible purity, finesse, and electrifying minerality. This was not only an enormous financial investment, but also back-breaking labor. The same work was done many centuries ago by the founders of France's great *terroirs* such as Savennières and Cornas, planting the best and most promising parcels irrespective of time and money.

Sylvain has also elected to have his fruit certified as organic in Europe, a mandatory three-year conversion process. For him, this is a choice both of conscience and pragmatism. He works the soil vigorously by plowing regularly. This forces the roots to dig deeper and deeper in the soil in search of cooler, humid subsoil, which protects the vines from drought and sun. Ultimately, his rationale centers on helping achieve a natural balance. In his words, "We believe that work in the vineyards has far more influence on a wine's quality than what we do in the cellar." What happens in the cellars is equally compelling. Domaine d'Aupilhac's wines find a terrific balance of ripe fruit and silky tannins, power and grace. When aged, these wines achieve a complexity rarely found in wines sold for many times the price, while their wildness and intensity makes them equally appealing young.



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## DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC (continued)

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>	
Languedoc <i>Blanc</i> "Aupilhac"	40% Ugni Blanc 40% Grenache Blanc 20% Clairette	20 years	White shaley clay, pebbles	21.5 ha total	
Languedoc <i>Blanc</i> "Les Cocalières"	30% Roussanne 30% Vermentino 20% Grenache Blanc 20% Marsanne	10 years	Limestone, basalt		
Languedoc Rosé "Lou Maset"	80% Mourvèdre 20% Cinsault	8-15 years	Limestone, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)		
Languedoc <i>Rouge</i> "Lou Maset"	40% Grenache 40% Cinsault 10% Carignan 5% Syrah 5% Alicante Bouchet	20 years	Limestone		
Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile <i>Rouge</i> "Le Carignan"	Carignan	Up to 70 years	Limestone, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)		
Languedoc Montpeyroux <i>Rouge</i>	30% Mourvèdre 30% Carignan 25% Syrah 10% Grenache 5% Cinsault	35 years	Limestone, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)		
Languedoc "Les Cocalières" <i>Rouge</i>	40% Syrah 30% Grenache 30% Mourvèdre	10 years	Limestone, basalt		
Languedoc Montpeyroux <i>Rouge</i> "La Boda"	40% Mourvèdre 40% Syrah 10% Carignan 10% Grenache	N/A	Limestone, basalt, clay, scree, blue marl (with fossil deposits)		
Languedoc Montpeyroux <i>Rouge</i> "Le Clos"	40% Mourvèdre 40% Carignan 20% Syrah	30-70 years	Blue marl		.8 ha

\* "ha"=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres



## DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC (continued)

### VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

In 2007, Montpeyroux was granted its own denomination within the A.O.C. Coteaux du Languedoc. In addition, all wines designated as A.O.C. Coteaux du Languedoc have been changed to a new appellation, A.O.C. Languedoc. Growers have a period of time in which they must comply. Future vintages will thus read as A.O.C. Languedoc and A.O.C. Languedoc Montpeyroux.

- Grapes are harvested by hand, de-stemmed, and only indigenous yeasts are used
- Fermentation occurs in open-top *cuvées* of temperature-controlled stainless steel
- All parcels are vinified and aged separately
- Wines are unfiltered
- Wines are bottled in accordance with the lunar cycle and optimal atmospheric pressure

#### Languedoc *Blanc* “Aupilhac”:

- Primary fermentation, malolactic fermentation, and aging take place in one 40 hL *foudre* and two 600L *demi-muids*
- Wine ages for 12 months

#### Languedoc *Blanc* “Les Cocalières”:

- Single vineyard “Les Cocalières” is situated at an altitude of 350 meters, with northwest sun exposure
- The land is on the site of an ancient lake formed after the eruption of a volcano, resulting in a geological phenomenon consisting of limestone and basalt
- All the different grapes are harvested and vinified all together
- Both vinification and malolactic fermentation take place in casks and used barrels
- Wine ages for 13-14 months in older barrels

#### Languedoc *Rosé* “Lou Maset”:

- Mourvèdre juice is obtained by direct press; Cinsault juice is obtained by *saignée*
- Ferments in temperature-controlled, stainless steel
- The wine undergoes a malolactic fermentation
- Ages in stainless steel for 8 months before bottling

#### Languedoc *Rouge* “Lou Maset”:

- Traditional vinification in stainless steel lasts for 10-15 days
- 50% ages for 6 months in *foudre*, 50% ages 6 months in stainless steel



## DOMAINE D'AUPILHAC (continued)

### **Vin de Pays de Mont Baudile Rouge “Le Carignan”:**

- Vineyard situated on hillside terraces
- Grapes macerate for 28 days, with frequent pump-overs
- Ages in barrel for 18-20 months
- Labeled as IGP Mont Baudile in some vintages

### **Languedoc Rouge “Montpeyroux”:**

- Grapes macerate for 15-30 days, with frequent pump-overs
- Wine ages in barrel for 20 months

### **Languedoc Rouge “Les Cocalières”:**

- Single vineyard “Les Cocalières” is situated at an altitude of 350 meters, with northwest sun exposure, allowing for a long, slow ripening of the grapes
- The land is on the site of an ancient lake formed after the eruption of a volcano, resulting in a geological phenomenon consisting of limestone and basalt
- Grapes are picked three weeks later than neighbors in the appellation
- Long maceration with regular pump-overs
- Ages in *cuves* and barrels for 15 months

### **Languedoc Montpeyroux Rouge “La Boda”:**

- “La Boda” comes from the Spanish word for marriage; this blend is a union of *terroirs* merging the altitude of the Cocalières vineyard with the *terroir* of Aupilhac
- Long maceration with regular pump-overs
- Ages for 24 months in 300-L barrels

### **Languedoc Montpeyroux Rouge “Le Clos”:**

- Whole cluster fermentation in open vats with regular punchdowns
- Ages for 25 months in barrels and 5 months in *foudre*