



KERMIT LYNCH WINE MERCHANT

KERMIT LYNCH BLENDS - LANGUEDOC

Country: France

Region: Rhône

Appellation(s): Languedoc

Producer: Jean-Claude Zabalía

Farming: Lutte Raisonnée

Website: www.kermitlynch.com



Over forty years of doing business in France and Italy have given Kermit Lynch a level of expertise that few in the wine industry can boast. Countless hours with growers in some of the most famous vineyards and cellars of Europe have offered more than just a casual look at what it takes to be a great grower, let alone a great winemaker. Kermit Lynch was the first to champion the benefits of unfinned and unfiltered wines, long before they had become fashionable. This belief is really a matter of taste, and the proof has always been in the glass, offering a purer expression of fruit and an unadulterated reflection of the *terroir*. Kermit's conviction has been so strong over the years that he has been able to persuade even the most hard-headed vigneron to test his theories.

Long-term relationships with vigneron in every major wine growing region offer a tremendous array of opportunities. Every year, Kermit enjoys a creative collaboration with some growers to find the best of their selections. Together, they work towards creating a final blend that showcases the region in all its glory at a price point that is difficult to match.

LANGUEDOC

The Kermit Lynch blend from the Languedoc, like our blends from other regions, is born from one of our longstanding relationships in the region. Our history with vigneron Jean-Claude Zabalía dates back to the early 1990s when he was the winemaker at St. Martin de la Garrigue, a standard-bearing winery in the Languedoc for many years. In 2012 he departed the domaine to start his own business, Château des Deux Rocs, which focuses on the high-elevation appellation of Cabrières.

Kermit's collaboration with Jean-Claude now brings us what most certainly is one of the great value reds produced in France today. The fruit is sourced from Jean-Claude's own holdings in two of the Languedoc's most up-and-coming *terroirs*—Cabrières and Terrasses du Larzac. These appellations are tucked away in the mountains of the Languedoc at over 1000 feet above sea level. The vines benefit from the long summer days but the elevation provides a much-needed cooling effect each night, thus giving the wines an uncharacteristic freshness for the region. Jean-Claude's concept is to allow these two great *terroirs* to complement each other, or as he puts it, "to see if one plus one could equal three."



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KERMIT LYNCH BLENDS – LANGUEDOC (continued)

<u>Wine</u>	<u>Blend</u>	<u>Vine Age</u>	<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Vineyard Area*</u>
Languedoc <i>Rouge</i> “Selected by Kermit Lynch”	Varies : Primarily Grenache, Syrah, Carignan, Cinsault	30 years average	70% Schist, 30% Clay-Limestone	3 ha
Languedoc Rosé “Selected by Kermit Lynch”	Varies : Primarily Cinsault, with Grenache and Syrah	25 years average	Schist	4 ha

* “ha”=hectares; one hectare equals roughly two and a half acres

VITICULTURE / VINIFICATION

Languedoc *Rouge* :

- Made by Jean-Claude Zabalía
- 2018 Blend: 55% Syrah, 30% Grenache Noir, 10% Carignan, 5% Cinsault (all grapes sourced from Cabrières, Schist soil)
- 2017 Blend: 40% Grenache, 35% Syrah, 20% Cinsault, 5% Carignan
- 2016 Blend: 40% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 20% Carignan, 10% Cinsault
- 2014 Blend: 60% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 5% Cinsault, 5% Carignan
- Grapes are sourced from Cabrières (Schist) and Terrasses du Larzac (clay-limestone)
- Fermentation in stainless steel tank, light pumpovers
- Each parcel and grape variety are vinified separately
- Aged in 70% stainless steel tank, 30% wood (*foudre, demi-muid*, barrel)

Languedoc Rosé :

- Grapes are vinified separately
- Cinsault is made by direct press, Grenache and Syrah have a light maceration
- Fermented and aged in cement and stainless steel tanks
- Wine does not undergo malolactic fermentation
- 2017 blend: 55% Cinsault, 30% Grenache, 15% Syrah