



IPO WINES

COUNTRY

France

REGION

Rhône

APPELLATION

Côtes-du-Rhône

SOIL TYPE

sand

VARIETAL(S)

20% Mourvèdre

20% Syrah

60% Old Grenache

FARMING

Organic

WINEMAKER

Marie and François Giraud



2019 Domaine Giraud Lirac "Les Sables d'Arène"

IMPORTED BY European Cellars (Eric Solomon)

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

The "domaine" saw the light of day thanks to Pierre and Mireille Giraud's zeal and two families coming together. The story begins in 1974 when Pierre and Mireille, as their parents did before them, took on 4 hectares (10 acres) of vines. Little by little the Domaine has grown through years exclusively on the appellation. In 1998, Pierre was ready to pass on his love of the vine and wine to his children. Marie and François took on the estate hand-in-hand. Under their parents' watchful eye, they devoted themselves to tending vines and winemaking. They focused their efforts on selecting parcel by parcel, doing minimal treatments, upgrading their cellar to make finer and finer wines while respecting family traditions. François tries hard to tend each parcel and variety respecting the "terroir" as much as possible, that alchemy nature provides us with, to fully express our grapes' full character. Renowned late Rhône enologist Philippe Cambie consulted for the Domaine.

WINE NOTES

Once coming entirely from Grenache planted around 1950 in a sandy part of Lirac, the former Côtes-du-Rhône Les Sables d'Arène would be a standout Lirac if it wasn't for the fact that mono-varietal wines were not permitted according under current AOC rules. Starting with the 2018 vintage, Les Sables d'Arène is now officially a Lirac since an elderly and heirless neighbor in Lirac was so impressed with François organic farming that he has leased his old vines of Syrah and Mourvèdre to Domaine Giraud. Depending on yields Sables d'Arène is about 2/3 Grenache with the remainder equal parts Syrah and Mourvèdre. It retains its characteristic bright floral and bright cherry aromas with touches of bay laurel and peppery tannins.

This wine is produced from 60% old Grenache, (average 60 years of age) planted in combined with hints of licorice and 20% syrah and 20% mourvèdre. The palate is fresh and smooth with refinement and aromas of red fruit, bay leaves, licorice and violets.

91-93 points, "Readers looking for a hidden gem should snatch up the 2019 Lirac Les Sables D'Arènes from the team at Giraud. Coming from just across the river from Châteauneuf du Pape and mostly Grenache, it offers a terrific perfume of spiced red fruits, loamy soils, Provençal herbs, and garrigue. Medium-bodied, seamless, and beautifully textured, it has sweet tannins and is already impossible to resist. It's a smoking bottle of wine in the making." - Jeb Dunnuck