

## RHÔNE VALLEY

ORATOIRE SAINT MARTIN  
CAIRANNE

**OVERVIEW** | Proprietor-brothers Frédéric and François Alary are cousins of Denis Alary. Together they represent the two reference point growers in the Cairanne appellation in Rhone. This did not happen overnight. In fact, they are the tenth generation of winemakers to tend this estate in the Côtes-du-Rhône over the last 300 years (the family history goes back to 1692). They succeeded their father in 1984, and cultivate 25HA of some of the best plots in Cairanne. The two Alary domaines split in the early 90's, with Oratoire getting most of the vineyards, and Denis the family winery (and a few vineyards).

**VINEYARD AREA:** 20 hectares

**ANNUAL PRODUCTION:** 8300 cases

**SOIL TYPES:** clay, limestone

**GRAPE VARIETIES:** grenache, mourvedre, syrah, marsanne, roussanne, others

Cairanne is considered at the top of the several villages allowed to use the "Cotes du Rhone Villages" classification. (The other top CDR villages include Rasteau and Seguret.) Cairanne is a picturesque hilltop village, in the southern Rhone Valley. Generally speaking, a "Cotes du Rhone Villages" -- particularly from these three communes -- has more class, complexity, and concentration than a straight Cotes du Rhone appellation and stricter standards prevail in terms of lower yields and alcoholic minimums. The best Cairanne wines (like the ones from Oratoire) can rival nearby Chateauneuf du Papes -- at half the price.

Robert Parker wrote that this domaine "is one of the southern Rhône Valley's most conspicuous overachievers, making wines that are far above their humble appellations.... This is the type of estate that brings smiles to consumers who happen upon their wines. They are reasonably priced and qualitatively equivalent to wines selling at two or three times the price."

**VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES** | Vineyard work is organic, although the Alary brothers may prefer the term traditional, since they just continue to plow as their father did, and use no pesticides, herbicides or chemical fertilizers. They plow every other row to deepen the root system, and the second row is sown with grass that competes with the vines and reduces their vegetation.

The Alarys farm a patchwork of vineyards in both Red and White grapes. Given the diversity of the soils and expositions, different varietals are matched with the optimum terroirs. These parcels are vinified separately, and raised in a variety of vessels, from Barriques (mostly used), to medium-sized demi-muids, to larger glass-lined tanks. These are later blended to make the various cuvées of the estate.

**WINES** | Cairanne Blanc Reserve des Seigneurs - roussanne, clairette, viognier. Aged six months in large vats.

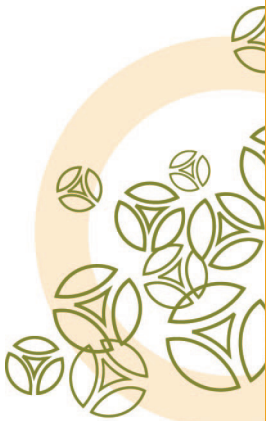
Cairanne Blanc Haut Coustias - 50% marsanne, 40% roussanne, 10% viognier. Aged 10 months in barrel with batonnage on the lees.

Le P'tit Martin - grenache & cinsault.

Cotes du Rhone Rouge - 80% grenache, 20% syrah. Aged six months in vats, bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Cairanne Rouge Reserve des Seigneurs - 60% mourvedre, 20% grenache, 20% syrah. Spends 2 years in oak, bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Cairanne Rouge Haut Coustias - 60% mourvedre, 20% grenache, 20% syrah. Spends 2 years in oak, bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.



## trriage wines

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