

ROUSSILLON

DOMAINE DU CLOS DE L'OU
BÉLESTA

OVERVIEW | The Roussillon may well be the most dynamic region in France today, home to scores of younger producers recreating the wines of this region with a polish and elegance not historically associated with the Roussillon. The key to this revival is the high altitude terroirs of Schist, Granite and Gneiss, together with some old vines and meticulous viticulture.

VINEYARD AREA: 15 hectares

ANNUAL PRODUCTION: 2500 cases

SOIL TYPES: schist, granite, gneiss

GRAPE VARIETIES: carignan, grenache, syrah.

Winemaking couple Eric & Lèia Monné are rising stars in the Roussillon. They purchased vineyard land there in 1995, at first producing fruit which they sold off to the local co-op. Eric worked at regional superstar, Clos des Fées, and in 2001, the couple started to produce their first wines bottled under their own label, Clot de L'Oum (Valley of the Elms) from 15 hectares of vines split up among 33 different parcels in the communes of Maury and Belesta, northwest of Perpignan.

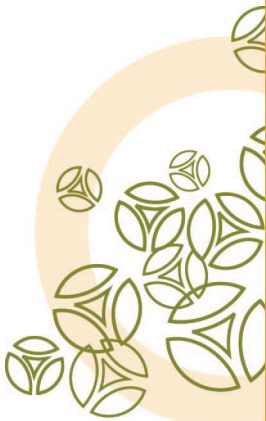
VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES | Eric & Lèia have strong beliefs in organic and sustainable stewardship of their vineyards and the wine they desired to produce and to consume, their conversion to organic production in the vineyard, shunning the use of herbicides, insecticides and chemical fertilizers, certainly ran counter to the accepted practices at that time. Their conversion to organics in addition to meticulous vineyard practices which reduce yields (15-20 hl/ha ave.), promote maximum maturation and health of their fruit, thereby greatly reducing the need of sulfite treatments, has resulted in delivering pristine fruit to their cellar door which, as they have witnessed in recent vintages, appears to be ripening weeks ahead of fruit on adjacent parcels. And the effect of the relatively high altitude vineyards (600 meters for their highest parcel of Syrah) has served only to enhance the intensity and freshness of the fruit, while at the same time retaining acidity.

The wines are all about fruit and terroir - minerality, freshness, and fruit. The vineyards are between 400 and 600 metres high and on granite-based soils. "Granite is unusual in France", says Eric. But there's another famous vineyard area with granite, apart from Eric's Belesta, and that's Hermitage!

WINES |

Le Compagnie des Papillons Cotes du Roussillon Villages - Named in honor of a game the family children invented after noting the return of the butterflies to the vineyards. 45% carignan, 45% grenache, 10% syrah. Matured for approximately 12 months in oak barrels of 2-3 years in age. Bottled without filtration.

Saint Bart Vieilles Vignes Cotes du Roussillon Villages - Named after a small chapel near the parcel of 100 year old Carignan. 1/3 each Syrah from Schist soils, Grenache (Lladoner Pelut) from the best parcels of granite and 100 year old Carignan from high altitude gneiss. Matured for approximately 15 months in oak barrels of 2-3 years in age. Bottled without filtration.



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