



2018 Pays d'Oc IGP Collection 19 heart-stirring wines

The 2018 Collection unveils a selection of 19 creative wines labelled Pays d'Oc IGP (Protected Geographical Indication). This year, prior to the final stage of tasting by the International Grand Jury chaired by Dominique Laporte, the French Sommelier Association for Languedoc-Roussillon and the Southern Rhone Valley was tasked with pre-selecting the wines. The event's overriding ambition is to offer consumers some heart-stirring gems where they least expect to find them.



In a bid to promote excellence, the Pays d'Oc IGP designation is renewing its Collection for the 12th consecutive year, selected by a panel of international experts.

Every year, this Collection range of wines endeavours to captivate the expertise of Pays d'Oc winegrowers. In 2018, 19 wines were chosen to represent the creativity of this quality-driven designation, with 58 grape varieties listed in its specifications.

For the 2018 selection, the 260 entries were pre-selected during a tasting by the French Sommelier Association for Languedoc-Roussillon and the Southern Rhone Valley. The sommeliers selected 60 wines in their preliminary tasting, which then went on to be assessed in a final tasting by the International Grand Jury.

"I suggested to the association's tasters that they should select wines that spark emotion and offer enjoyment", explains Philippe Nusswitz, chairman of the French Sommelier Association for Languedoc-Roussillon and the Southern Rhone Valley.

For the renowned sommelier, the criteria were chosen in response to consumer expectations for these characterful wines. "We wanted to favour the offbeat gems in a bid to continue to raise the bar for Pays d'Oc IGP wines through the Collection accolade".

Philippe Nusswitz, Chairman of the French Sommelier Association for Languedoc-Roussillon and the Southern Rhone Valley



19 iconic wines in the final tasting

"The quality of the Collection's award-winners is consistent from one year to the next. They show great diversity due to the number of permitted grape varieties, offering myriad combinations of single varietals, dual varietals and blends and characters that run the gamut depending on vineyard sites. The achievements of Pays d'Oc IGP winegrowers over the past thirty years have been rewarded with high quality wines", says Dominique Laporte, chairman of the 2018 Collection Grand Jury and France's 2004 Best Sommelier



Creativity the key criterion for this year's Collection



The level of quality has been exemplified over the years through the awards for iconic estates such as Domaine Gayda, which won two awards this year for its 2015 red blend 'Chemin de Moscou' and its 100% Cabernet Franc 'Figure Libre Cabernet Franc'.

Award-winning wines are divided between whites and reds and one rosé. There are some exciting discoveries: single varietals included a stellar Gewurztraminer (the 2017 'Conseil' label by Domaine Serre de Guéry), a Rolle straight from the mountainous area of the Cévennes just north of Montpellier (the 2017 white

'Premier Rolle' by Domaine d'Aigues Belles), a refined, elegant Pinot noir unanimously acclaimed by the panel (the 2016 red Domaine de la Métairie d'Alon), and some unexpected dual varietals, such as a Malbec-Petit Verdot for the 2017 red Domaine de la Provenquière.

The 2018 Pays d'Oc IGP Collection wines successfully combined quality, originality and creativity. Their ever-changing diversity aligns with consumer expectations and also demonstrates the pledge by winegrowers and the Pays d'Oc IGP designation to deliver outstanding craftsmanship.

2018 Pays d'Oc IGP Ambassador wines

WHITES

- Serre de Guéry - « Conseil » Gewurztraminer - 2017
- Domaine d'Aigues Belles - « Premier Rolle » - 2017
- Fortant de France - « Fortant de France Terroir Littoral Sauvignon blanc » - 2017
- Les Vignerons du Sommièrois - « Viognier » - 2017
- Haut-Blanville - « Grande Réserve » Chardonnay/Roussanne - 2016
- Domaines Paul Mas - « Vignes de Nicole » Chardonnay/Viognier - 2017
- Domaine Grand-Chemin - « Anthus » - Assemblage - 2017

SWEET WHITE

- Les Vignes de l'Arque - « Saveur d'Automne » - Viognier - 2016

ROSÉ

- Calmel & Joseph - « Villa Blanche » - Grenache Noir/Grenache Gris - 2017

REDS

- Domaine Gayda - « Figure Libre Cabernet Franc » 2016
- Domaines Paul Mas - « Paul Mas Estate Mourvèdre » - 2017
- Domaine Mas Belles Eaux - « Domaine Mas Belles Eaux » - Petit Verdot - 2017
- Domaine de la Métairie d'Alon - « Pinot Noir La Métairie » 2016
- Castel - « Maison Castel Grande Réserve Syrah » - 2016
- Domaine Les Yeuses - « Syrah Les Épices » - 2016
- Domaine Saint Martin des Champs - « Hermitage du Domaine » Cabernet-Sauvignon/Merlot - 2016
- Domaine La Provenquière - « P Malbec/Petit Verdot » - 2017
- Domaine Les Yeuses - « Ô d'Yeuses » - Marselan/Cabernet Franc - 2016
- Domaine Gayda - « Chemin de Moscou » - blend - 2015

Members of the 2018 Collection International Grand Jury



Dominique Laporte (France) - Chairman of the Grand Jury and France's 2004 Best Sommelier and Best Craftsman

Philippe Nusswitz (France) - chairman of the Pre-selection - France's 1986 Best Sommelier & chairman of the French Sommelier Association for Languedoc-Roussillon and the Southern Rhone Valley

Paolo Bouca Nova (France) - Sales and purchasing director for 'Repaire de Bacchus'

Anne Serres (France) - Wine writer for 'V&S News', 'Terre de Vins' and 'Meininger'

Olivier Dauga (France) - Wine consultant

Marie Laurens (France) - Sommelier at the Hôtel de La Poste in Châteauneuf de Randon

Sylvie Tonnaire (France) - Editor-in-chief of 'Terre de Vins'

Gérard Garroy (Belgium)

Sommelier at Bernard Poulet SA - Belgium's Leading Sommelier (1990)

Verena Herzog (Germany) - Sommelier

Peter Klosse (Netherlands) - Gourmet food lecturer

Esmee Langereis (Netherlands) - Wine writer for 'Elle Eten'

Dominique Rizzi (Luxembourg) - Master Sommelier & 1992 Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Best Sommelier Deputy key account catering manager for the European Court of Justice

Patrick Schmitt MW (Great Britain) - Editor-in-chief of 'Drinks Business Magazine'

Kohei Shindo (Japan) - Owner and head sommelier of the 'Bon Pinard' restaurant in Tokyo