

LES VIGNERONS D'ESTEZARGUES



One of France's most ground breaking co-ops, Les Vignerons d'Estezargues turned the grower/co-op relationship on its head in 1995 when it began vinifying and bottling wines from each grower separately. Estezargues do not use cultured yeasts, fining, filtration or enzymes in production and the majority of the vineyards in the co-operative are farmed organically or biodynamically. Denis Deschamps, their maverick winemaker, is rightly regarded as one of the Rhone Valley's finest.

REGION

The Cotes du Rhone AOC is France's second largest after Bordeaux AOC. Estezargues is located on the "wrong" side of the Rhone River in the Gard. Unlike on the right bank of the river the vineyards here are more dispersed and tend to be located in smaller pockets, often within individual clos, and surrounded by woodland. Rather than the mono-culture of the plains to the east, the terrain here is more undulating with some moderate slopes. Whilst it is possible to find the typical *galets* of the region, the soils here are made up more of red clay and pebbles.

WINES

Cotes du Rhone Rouge AOC (Syrah/Grenache)