



Syrocco, Zenata

100% Moroccan Syrah

from

Spectacular Rhone Winemaker Alain Graillet

Alain Graillet founded his Rhone domaine in 1985. Today his wines from Crozes Hermitage and St. Joseph are among the most sought after in the world. Alain stumbled upon some beautifully exposed vineyards while bicycling in the Zenata region of Morocco, and ended up starting a relationship with the domaine who owned it (Domaine des Ouled Thaleb). Alain is in charge of making the wine, which he has crafted into a fruit-forward but definitively Old-World style (i.e. modestly extracted, balanced, aromatic). This new project called “Syrocco” well-utilizes Graillet’s vast knowledge of Syrah and creates a world class wine from an unlikely place.

Graillet’s Rhone wines are structured, fine, and full of finesse. They are bottles meant for the cellar and to be enjoyed over the years for their fine complexity. His Moroccan Syrah however, sings a different tune. This wine is fruit forward, rich, and plummy. Dark berry fruit leads the way to a velvety palate with notes of figs and licorice. On first taste you just can’t believe how good this stuff is.

Syrocco is 100% Syrah grown primarily around the winery, which is located near the village of Ben Slimane (40 km from the ocean between Casablanca and Rabat). The wine is crafted from young vines, using traditional farming methods to maintain the integrity of the variety. All vineyards are ploughed and weeded by hand, and no herbicide or fungicide treatments are used.

The grapes are 100% de-stemmed and fermented in closed concrete vats. Daily pump-overs were done, and maceration was completed in 10 days. The wine was aged for half the time in tanks, and finished in 225L barrels from François Freres in Burgundy; half of the barrels were new, the other half were a year old. Total elevage lasted 15 months, and the wine was lightly filtered prior to bottling.

Morocco is located northwest corner of Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The capital is Rabat and has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and warm winters.

Morocco has a quality system, appellation d'origine garantie, that is based on the French system. Wine grapes are grown in seven regions of Morocco and within these seven regions there are fourteen Appellation d'Origine Garantie (A.O.G's) and one Appellation d'Origine Controlee (A.O.C.) quality wine.



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