

TRIENNES

In the late 1980's Jacques Seysses, founder of Domaine Dujac, and Aubert de Villaine, co-owner of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, began searching for a vineyard in the south of France. The two icons of Burgundy, along with good friend Michel Macaux, were convinced that great wines could be produced in the Var, an area better known for quaffable rosés than complex, world-class reds and whites.

In 1989, they purchased an existing 46-hectare estate in Provence, northeast of Marseille and due east of Aix-en-Provence. The three amigos were impressed by the site's southern exposure and clay and limestone soils, which in some areas resembled the great terroirs of Burgundy and in others the top coteaux of St. Emilion.

The estate, which shows evidence of settlement and culture since Etruscan times, is located between 370-410 meters above sea level on a gently sloping hillside between the mountain ranges of Monts Aurelien and Sainte Baume. The climate is the classic warm days and cool nights that most exceptional appellations enjoy. The unusually long growing season virtually guarantees consistently ripe fruit with good acidities and great complexity.

As evidenced by the rave reviews from the press and trade their efforts have been successful. Over the years, Triennes has been transformed from a neglected parcel in an obscure, little regarded region into one of the top wine producing estates in Southern France.

The trio started by building a new winemaking facility that was harmonious with its surroundings and equipped with all the high-tech and low-tech tools needed to produce first-class wines. They grafted most of the existing Cinsault vines over to Viognier, Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot, and Syrah. Then they radically pruned the vines (reducing canes by 50% in length) to lower yields and raise quality. Finally, ground cover was planted between every two rows, to further control vigor, reduce surface water, and fix organic matter into the soil. Triennes employs sustainable farming methods to preserve the character and integrity of the land. To orchestrate the entire winery and vineyards respected local enologist Rémy Laugier was hired in 1997 to continue the winery's pursuit of quality. Current plantings 38ha.

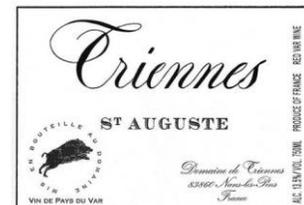
Among friends, trying to name a wine can be a circuitous romp of interconnecting ideas. Here is how this story goes:

There are many Roman vestiges all over Provence. It is important to remember that the name Provence derives from the Latin Provincia, meaning province. Provence was the first Roman province in Gaul. The vineyards of Triennes are planted on the slopes of the Mont Aurélien, named after

Aurelius Augustus, the roman emperor. He commissioned the famous Via Aurelia to be built, which goes all through Provence, passing at the foot of the mountain named after him. Triennes has its share of Roman ruins, with an underground aqueduct and water basin.

To the names...The first red wine produced was a blend of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Making a reference to Triennes' location, they called the wine Les Auréliens. Later a reserve version was produced only to discover the word "reserve" is not allowed for Vin de Pays. So the name had to change. It felt natural that the counterpart to Les Auréliens should be Auguste (remember Aurelius *Augustus*). The friends opted for Saint Auguste because the celebration of St Auguste is on February 29th (think leap year).

Now, if you are going to name the red wine Saint Auguste, you might as well name the white wine Sainte Fleur, Fleur for the floral aromatics of the viognier grape. Why not?



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St. Auguste- Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah Blend
Ste. Fleur- Viognier
Rosé