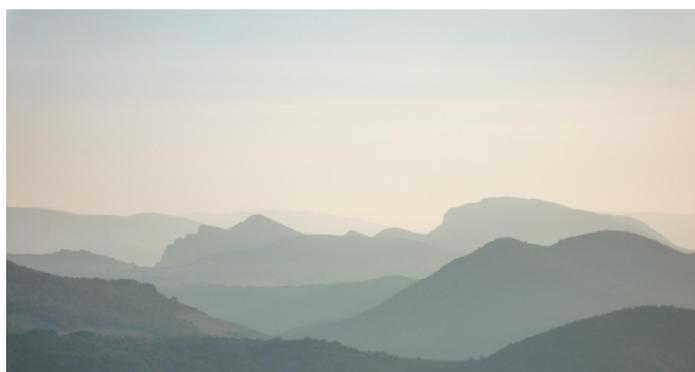




LE SOULA

Vin du Fenouillèdes - Terroir d'altitude



Revue de presse

2012

Chateau Le French Soula

Several known producers already represented in India-like Gerard Bertrand, Advini (Michele Laroche), Bernard Magrez, Daumas Gassac and Casetta were visible while many others hope to mark their presence in India soon. An interesting exhibit was from Le Soula, a South of France winery co-owned by Mark Walford who has been exporting wines to India through Brindco. Making a small entry into the market in France and UK, it was started in collaboration with Gerard Gauby, a well-known winemaker of the Roussillon region in 2001, it has established itself as a boutique organic winery located at high altitude in Roussillon region.

Le Soula is already selling in over two dozen Michelin starred restaurants in UK, France, Japan and Italy including the 3-starred The Fat Duck and The Waterside Inn in UK, Lamelois in France, and Michel Bras Troya in Japan. No relation to the Indian Sula, the French Le Soula is hoping to enter the Indian market soon, where the discerning restaurants ought to be looking at the high quality wines at affordable prices.

The Wine Gang

Tom Cannavan - Jane Parkinson - Anthony Rose - Joanna Simon - David Williams

March 2012

Tasting event: Richards Walford Portfolio Tasting

[...]

SLA0208A **Domaine Le Soula Rouge 2008**

£140 per 12 ibd

Vin de Pays des Côtes Catalanes (Roussillon), France

Dry Red (Cork), 14.0% abv

Roussillon wizard Gérard Gauby's project high up in the hills of the Fenouillèdes produces a magnificent, idiosyncratic white as well as this fine, slightly rustic red, produced from Carignan, Syrah and Grenache. We loved the wild herbal quality (all rosemary and thyme) that immediately suggests this part of the world, and which works beautifully with the vivid plum and dark berry fruit and the craggy structure.

92/100

[...]

The Financial Times

Jancis Robinson

26th October 2012

French fancies

[...]

Roussillon whites triumph. Not surprisingly, there was no shortage of Languedoc-Roussillon reds in the under £8 selection, given how many of them are available and at keen prices. Rather more surprising were the four white wines from the Roussillon and, in particular, my old favourite Le Soula Blanc, whose current 2008 vintage was the choice of no fewer than three top sommeliers: Isa Bal of The Fat Duck, Emily O'Hare of The River Cafe and Xavier Rousset of Texture and 28-50.

[...]

The Wall Street Journal

Will Lyons

25th October 2012

The wild beauty of France's Roussillon and its wines



Le Soula

Where are the world's most beautiful vineyards? It is a question I am often asked by readers planning their next gastronomic and vinous trip. The Western Cape in South Africa is certainly up there with the most picturesque. Traveling northeast out of Cape Town toward Stellenbosch, against a backdrop of Table Mountain and valleys peppered with Dutch homesteads, one is left in wonder at the landscape's natural beauty. New Zealand also boasts views of mountainous splendor, replete with striking geographical features. The foothills of the Andes provide a stunning backdrop to Chile's wine-growing valleys, while the fertile hills of Brazil's Serra Gaucha mountain range offer both a lush and unlikely vinuous experience.

Drinking Now



But from the northern hemisphere, all these destinations are a long-haul flight; what if you want somewhere a little closer to home? In Europe, we are spoiled for choice. All of our major wine regions offer a variety of viticultural backdrops, from the splendor of Bordeaux to the ancient, cypress-lined hills between Florence and Siena. In Germany, the village of Bernkastel makes an ideal base for exploring the steep slopes along the Mosel river, home to some of the world's greatest Riesling. And next month's Hospices de Beaune auction, which takes place on the third

Sunday of November, offers a chance to visit Burgundy's Côte de Beaune and the beautiful medieval city of Beaune itself.

But for those looking for a slightly wilder experience, one region that feels unspoiled and, in some places, untamed is the Roussillon, home to France's most southern vineyards. I have just returned from a short trip to this magical corner of Europe, in the northern foothills of the Pyrenees, and was overwhelmed with the dramatic beauty of the region. Roussillon sits to the west of Perpignan but culturally, it lends itself more to Catalonia than France. Indeed, we opted to drive around the Pyrenees from Barcelona on the easy-to-navigate E15 motorway, stopping off in Girona, where the local houses are bedecked with yellow-and-red-striped banners—the colors of Catalonia. Once west of Perpignan, the landscape starts to resemble parts of New Zealand, with crystal-clear, robin-egg-blue skies and snow-covered peaks. On the drive up the Agly Valley, the mountain of Canigou, which stretches to a height of more than 2,500 meters, dominates the skyline on one side, while on the other side lie the ruins of Château de Quéribus. This is country where the local scrub of wild olive, thyme and holm oak give it a Spaghetti-Western feel.

“This is country where the local scrub of wild olive, thyme and holm oak give it a Spaghetti-Western feel.”

It is also an exciting place to make wine. The combination of the soil, dry heat and altitude give the wines a lifted texture, purity of fruit and obvious finesse. Gérard Gauby is the leading viticulturalist in the region. His estate, Domaine Gauby, is based just outside the small village of Calce, at the foot of a remote—some may say inhospitable—road that weaves precariously through the valley.

In 1985, Mr. Gauby inherited his grandfather's vines, and since then has busily set about expanding the estate and producing wines of remarkable depth and flavor. Grenache, Carignan, Mourvèdre and Syrah thrive in this rain-starved region on soils so complex one could devote an entire column to them. The land combines limestone, clay-limestone, slate and, further west from Mr. Gauby's estate, decomposed granite. This diversity helps produce truly great wines that rival those found in grander appellations and will cellar well, providing enjoyment for many years. The reds have incredible finesse, richness and purity of fruit, and a wonderful saline tang at the end. They compete with the best being produced in the Rhône's distinguished Hermitage appellation.

About an hour's drive west from Domaine Gauby lies one of the region's other rising stars, Le Soula, part owned by Mr. Gauby and now run by winemaker Gérald Stanley. Their whites are a joy. A blend of five different varieties offers a straw-colored wine with intriguing notes of apricot, herbs and lemon. One sip is enough to be convinced that this is a region well worth discovering.

Write to Will Lyons at william.lyons@wsj.com

Chance to win French Wines With Style

Retailers have the chance to win a selection of 12 wines chosen from the French Wines With Style campaign's Absolutely Cracking range.

Leading British wine writers selected their favourite French wines available in the UK to join the line-up.

Sommeliers were also invited to take part and offer their choices, including award-winning Gerard Basset OBE, the UK ambassador for French Wines With Style.

Between them the group came up with 156 wines, and at the Absolutely Cracking tasting in October the OLN commercial team chose 12 of their favourite wines for the competition.

To win the case, simply answer the following question: Who is the UK ambassador of the French Wines With Style campaign?

Send your answers to frenchwineswithstyle@offlicencenews.co.uk.

