

FELGARIA

Organic certified red Faugères AOP wine

The paradoxical association of Mourvèdre, mountain and schists in the same bottle!

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| Terroir | 100% schist rocks on upper hills of Faugères. |
| Varietals | A selection of the emblematic south-facing grape variety Mourvèdre (80%+) from "Les Crozes" parcel, and some north-facing Syrah. |
| Harvest | Handpicked in small crates. Selective picking in the vineyard at different and strategic times. Arrival by gravity in the custom-built cellar, dug in the rocks. Very small yields. |
| Vinification | Each section of a parcel is vinified separately. Indigenous yeast. No sulphite adding during the vinification. Soft pigeages. Controlled temperature. |
| Ageing | Ageing for 12 months in 500 liter barrels (of several years) or in amphorae and egg. Alcohol : about 14%. |
| Tasting | <p>This mountain Mourvèdre wine will already show itself, at the early stage of its ageing, with all the power of its fruit, all its aromatic complexity, richness and balance. And yet this early ability will not detract from its wonderful development during long years of ageing</p> <p>Delicate fruity and smoky aromas without flashy exuberance (raspberry, blackcurrant, dates, fresh figs), sweet spices, blond tobacco, fine scents of garrigue extending into a smooth, silky palate with rich, velvety tannins. Wild, very pure and polished. Very long.</p> |
| Pairing | Game birds, pheasants, pigeon or a beautiful piece of beef, fresh pasta with truffles... |
| Media | |
| Felgaria 2020 | Jancis Robinson MW 16,5++ « Mid crimson. Firm, dense and meaty nose with some real sweetness of fruit. Then on the palate the tannins and pepper of the Syrah curl round the edges and it's still quite dry on the finish. Definitely a food wine. A wine to pair with something quite substantial – a daube perhaps. It's easy to see a relationship between this wine and Bandol, French home of Mourvèdre » |
| Felgaria 2019 | <p>Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2023, la RVF 1 étoile 93 «L'association du Mourvèdre d'altitude et des schistes défend une identité complexe et racée. Malgré les tanins fondus, le vin demeure puissant, et devra s'assagir dans les dix prochaines années»</p> <p>Jancis Robinson MW 17 "A wine for the future" Deep, dark crimson. Extremely spicy and heady on the nose. Still with some tannin very much left to work its way through the fruit. A wine for the future. The schist of Faugères seems less obvious on this cuvée than on some others of Brigitte Chevalier's – perhaps because the fruit is so ripe and overwhelming. Nice saline touch on the end after the spice and tannin.</p> |
| Felgaria 2018 | <p>Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2022, la RVF 1 étoile 93 » On est bien sur le schiste : une texture onctueuse, des tanins fins et une fraîcheur épicée«</p> <p>Jancis Robinson MW 17,5 (TC) "Occasionally I'll taste a wine that, on the first sip, makes my eyes</p> |

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Haut-Terroir de Schiste

prickle with tears – before a single thought or word has even crossed my mind. An instant, sheer-emotion reaction. Almost a shock reaction. This was one of those wines... It glitters with schist minerality, which is wrapped in fruit that feels like black-silk ribbons and tastes like ink-dipped lavender and blueberries and blackcurrants ... It has the olive-green bitter resin of juniper needles, uneven crystals of black salt and the slow curlicues of a person who still writes their letters by hand, each word carefully, pensively pressed into beautiful, heavy-weave woven paper. A dusty finish that fills every corner with reverberations that go on, and on... (TC)

James Suckling 92 «Pretty full-bodied, with firm, creamy tannins framing the juicy berry fruit. Tightly wound and comfortably chewy”

Rosemary George MW « Medium colour. Quite firm, fresh red fruit, on the nose. And on the palate, quite tannic and structured with youthful ageing potential and underlying elegance. Brigitte considers that schist softens the tannins of the Mourvèdre”

Zeit Magazin, Gero von Randow « Den Höhepunkt markiert der Felgaria....erinnert an weißen Pfeffer, Cumin, Nüsse, hat auch Frucht, aber der vorwiegende Eindruck ist abstrakter, es ist die hinreißende Harmonie dieses Weines. Ein Wein zum Hinterhirsinnen.

Felgaria 2017

Nadine Franjus, les 5 du Vin : « La robe rouge sombre est encore violine, signe de la jeunesse. Au nez, il y a de la violette avec de la prune et puis des notes épicées, du poivre noir et de la tapenade. La bouche surprend par sa tenue à la fois souple et serrée. On pense à la minéralité, le feuilleté de schiste serré, la fraîcheur de la pierre et sa profondeur. Voilà une expression exemplaire du Mourvèdre sur schistes, sans concession mais avec douceur».

Michel Smith, les 5 du Vin «Tout est ici affirmé avec maîtrise : on retrouve au début toute la vibrante tannité du Mourvèdre, puis un élégant développement en bouche sur une finale au fruit rouge discret où l'on se réjouit enfin de la sage distinction des tannins du cépage, résultat d'un élevage bien dosé en pièces usagées de 500 litres. Assurément un vin de garde (encore au moins 10 ans) pour une bécasse, voire un perdreau. Tirage de 4.000 bouteilles environ et un prix à la hauteur du travail ».

Guide Meilleurs Vins de France 2021, RVF 1 étoile 93 « Intense, raffiné, il se révélera avec le temps»

La RVF avril 2021 Vins d'altitude 93/100 « La riche palette d'épices douces rappelle le Maghreb ! La bouche est marquée par le santal et a rose, avec une structure de moyenne puissance pour cette cuvée à majorité de mourvèdre et syrah plantés à 300 m. Sa structure fine bénéficie d'un bel appui de fruits rouges, de cade et de girofle. Saluons ce vin aux notes délicatement fumées, à la finale équilibrée et salivante ! »

La RVF fév 2022 Sophie de Salettes Les Dessous du Terroir – A déguster en priorité : Felgaria 2017, Les Bancèls 2019, A la Venvole 2020

Jancis Robinson MW 17,5 (TC) : » Deep and rich and pretty glorious. If black silk was liquid and could be tasted, this would be it. Lustrous, glowing and the very essence of black pepper. A wine that moves like silk in the mouth and yet whispers stories of rocks and dust and dry garrigue and cold winds and wide skies. Wild and polished. A bit of a jaguar” (TC).

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James Suckling 91 « A delicious and spicy Mourvèdre. Textured and juicy wit firm, grainy tannins and bright acidity. Vibrant and vivid finish with some wild blue and purple fruit”

Rosemary George MW “Good colour. More rounded nose and palate with some firm tannins and nicely balanced fruit. Again good ageing potential. The stalks can add some salinity.”

Alan March, Amarchinthevines “Felgaria, the flagship wine and a demonstration of the quality of Mourvèdre which makes up at least half of the wine along with Syrah and Grenache. Brigitte credits three factors for producing top quality Mourvèdre, the altitude, the schist soils and the old south facing vines soaking up sunshine. Most of her vines face north, including the Syrah and Grenache topping up Felgaria but Mourvèdre, and especially these very old vines, seems to enjoy a dry, warm situation. It also produces a vibrant red coloured juice and Felgaria is rich in colour with equally enticing aromas and flavours ranging from blackcurrant to citrus, spicy with hints of meatiness, leather and herbs. The 2017 we tasted was plummy, rich and still an infant. Felgaria demands patience and time for it to reach its peak”.

Felgaria 2016 Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2020, RVF 1 étoile Coup de cœur 16 « Ce 2016 va aller loin. Intense et charnu avec une belle puissance épicée»

Jeb Dunnuck 96 pts “An incredible wine and the finest wine to date from winemaker Brigitte Chevalier”

Jancis Robinson MW 17,5 (TC) “Complex and thought-provoking” (TC) Very appealing indeed with quite a bit of fine tannin on the finish but beautifully judged, opulent but not overripe. Very flattering with some real terroir grip on the end “. 17 (JR)

James Suckling 91”A pleasant lend of Mourvèdre and syrah with aromas and flavors of dried black cherries with lightly spicy, licoricy notes. Medium-to full-bodied with firm, velvety tannins and a clean finish. Despite the rather stern tannins, the fruit continues to push through.”

Rosemary George MW “Medium colour. The nose is beginning to develop some tertiary aromas, with some leathery notes. Red fruit and spice and quite firm tannins. A balance of ripe fruit and tannins. Youthful balance and a long finish”

Felgaria 2015 Jeb Dunnuck (TWA) (94-97) “Deep, rich, concentrated, incredibly layered and seamless, it has no hard edges, impeccable balance and a killer finish. Wow, what a wine!”

Jean-Marc Quarin

226 16,75 //93 “Superbe découverte. Un des meilleurs vins du Sud que je connaisse “ Pour mémoire, Felgaria est le meilleur de la production de ce domaine.

Le ressenti de la précision de son fruité et de sa texture est toujours aussi émouvant. Et cette longue finale qui enchante... A goûter et à garder avant 2040 «

275 16.75 //93 Coup de cœur « Couleur sombre, intense et vive. Nez très aromatique, pur, fin, subtil et noble. Très belle entrée en bouche ample où le vin se développe fondant, pulpeux, noble au toucher, avec beaucoup de goût. Il fond en finale, complexe, profond, comme minéral et surtout incrachable. Superbe découverte. Un des meilleurs vins du Sud que je connaisse ». 2020-2040

Jancis Robinson MW 17,5 (TC) “Stunning. Long and vibrant and elegant and fabulous. One of the best

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wines in this Sud de France Top 100 line-up" (TC). "Masses of vibration and tension and unusual persistence" 17 (JR)

Guide 2019 des Meilleurs vins de France, la RVF coup de cœur 15.5 pts « la rencontre du mourvèdre et du schiste est très réussie : notes poivrées, tanins fondus, persistance épicée »

Le Rouge & le Blanc 14/20 "Bouche charnelle, veloutée - vin salivant" #133

L'Express Nov 2018 – Coups de cœur de l'Express « Une superbe expression du cépage Mourvèdre. Le terroir de schistes apporte tension et droiture, la date de récolte, appropriée, permet au cépage d'être épice, mais pas trop tannique et l'ensemble jouit d'un équilibre subtil ».

Le Monde des Vins janv 2018 – Supplément Bio « Quel bonheur de sentir le mourvèdre traité avec tant de délicatesse! Il y a beaucoup d'équilibre, de subtilité dans ce vin. On ressent une grande pureté en le buvant. D'autant qu'il recèle des arômes très fruités, et une bouche gourmande. Un appel au«reviency»!

Le Rouge & le Blanc été 2019 « Nez crémeux et concentré qui s'ouvre sur le laurier, les épices douces, les fruits noirs. Bouche charnelle, veloutée, élégante. Finale resserrée. « Vin salivant ». 14 / 20

Felgaria 2014

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA) 94 "Possessing full-bodied richness, an utterly seamless texture with building fine tannin, this is a killer little Faugères".

Gold Medal / Médaille Or Decanter DWWA 2017 Score 95/100

Jancis Robinson MW 16.5+ (TC) "There's some lovely fruit closed up in there, but for the moment it's struggling to break through" (TC) Tasting date 2017

Jean-Marc Quarin # 226 16,50 //92 Coup de cœur " Couleur sombre, intense. Nez très intense, fruité, épicé, avec une touche de poivre blanc. Moelleux à l'attaque, fondant au développement, rappelant la saveur de l'Ermitage, ce vin se développe suave et très bien construit. Il s'achève conquérant en finale, séveux dans sa texture, avec un goût de cerise et des tannins fins. 2018-2035. ".

Le Rouge & Le Blanc 14.5 « bouche élancée, gourmande, très belle tonicité » #133

Guide 2018 Les Meilleurs vins de France, la RVF 13/20

Le Rouge & le Blanc été 2019 «

Nez concentré et riche sur les petits fruits noirs, les herbes aromatiques, les baies sauvages. Notes empyreumatiques. Bouche élancée, gourmande. Très belle tonicité. Vin d'une grande digestibilité et bien équilibré. ». 14,5/20

Felgaria 2013

Guide 2018 des Meilleurs vins de France, la RVF Coup de Cœur 16 pts « le finesse de ce corps élancé, la saveur pointue et racée de la chair sont admirables. C'est un Faugères de grande distinction »

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Guide Hubert 2017 - Ténor de l'année 18/20

In Vino Veritas 2016 « Les schistes canalisent la puissance de ce cépage dans une matière à la fois pleine et dynamique, aux tannins fins et racés, aux arômes de fruits – framboise, cassis-, d'épices douces, au toucher soyeux. Un beau vin de garde, même en 2013. »

Vinum, Thomas Vaterlaus 17.5 Punkte „Brigitte Chevalier hat in Faugères nordorientierte Lagen mit alten Reben gesucht, bei denen der pure Schiefer bis zur Oberfläche reicht. Die Cuvée aus Mourvèdre (75%) und Syrah zeigt, welche filigrane Eleganz der Mourvèdre im puren Schiefer zeigt. Florale Note, rote Beeren, im Gaumen pure Finesse“ 2017 bis 2030

Gault & Millau automne 2017 Yohann Castaing «Du charme, de l'élégance, de la douceur aussi. Bouche soyeuse, légèrement poivrée, hyper précise. Un must have » 16.5

Decanter Feb 2017 (Simon Woolf) 93 « Extraordinarily elegant rendition of Mourvèdre, with the complex, dark fruit you'd expect, plus delicate orange zest and redcurrant aromas and silky structure”

Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 (TC) “Comforting wine that reminds me of an armchair you curl into by the fire” (TC) | “This really does smell like Mourvèdre! But mountain Mourvèdre ... Much lighter than most wines from this variety. Delicate and, again, incredibly persistent” 16,5 JR.

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #224) 92 “It's one of the few wines from this estate that's vinified and aged in demi-muids. Black raspberries, cassis, crushed rock and damp earth all emerge from this medium to full-bodied, fresh, elegant effort, and it has good acidity and ripe tannin. It should be at its best from 2018-2025 “

Decanter 2017, Simon Woolf 93 « Extraordinarily elegant rendition of Mourvèdre (50% of the blend), with the complex, dark fruit you'd expect, plus delicate orange zest and redcurrant aromas and silky structure. Most of the blend was whole-bunch fermented. Drink 2018-2025”

Felgaria 2012

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA # 218) 92 « Chevalier's Felgaria cuvee is based mostly on Mourvèdre, and is the richest, most structured wine in the lineup. It's also aged 10 months in new oak. Big, rounded, supple and mouth filling, with lots of minerality in its black and blue fruits, wild herbs, licorice and underbrush aromas and flavors, it covers the palate in fruit, has medium to full-bodied richness and tons of character. It should have no problems continuing to knock your socks off through 2022”

Jancis Robinson MW 17 (JH) “There's a wilder, darker hedgerow fruit character here, thanks to the two varieties. A smoky stony quality too. The most amazingly silky tannins – so much so that you almost miss them, but the wine lingers with a savoury quality that will surely become more meaty with age. Extreme subtlety”. (JH)

Wine & Spirits June 2016 “The 2012 Felgaria needs lots of air to open up, the schist tannins clamping down on the black fruit. With time in the lass, it gets juicier, meatier and earthier, with savory black pepper and leather notes that bring a seared steak to mind. Leave it in the cellar for a few more years.”

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Felgaria 2011

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #212) 94 "One of the most impressive wines in the appellation, the 2011 Faugeres Felgaria is a blend of equal parts Mourvedre and Syrah that spent 11 months in 500-liter demi-muids. Decadently rich and layered, with thrilling notes of spiced raspberries, licorice and crushed rock-like minerality, this full-bodied, sweetly fruited and voluptuous Faugeres has a rock star texture and a gorgeous finish. Hard to resist now, it should evolve gracefully for upwards of a decade. Don't miss it! I was blown away by these efforts from oenologist Brigitte Chevalier. Creating this domaine in 2006, she has a bevy of old vines located in the cooler, higher elevation and more northern portion of the appellation. She fashions ripe, yet polished and beautifully balanced wines that savvy readers need to seek out!"

Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 "Bright crimson. Very rich and lively – a wonderfully gentle hand here. Reminds me just a little of Isabelle Ferrando's Châteauneufs. Big but delicate. Bravo! Tannins well managed. Hugely hedonistic".

Decanter, sept 2013, Andrew Jefford MW 17.5 (91) "This Mourvèdre-rich cuvée from Brigitte Chevalier's outstanding Cébène is one of Faugères' reference cuvées and a Languedoc fine wine by any measure. The style is much less extractive and much more aerial –refined and suave aromas that mingle earth, flowers, sweet black fruits and fine suede, while the flavours are taut and dramatic, almost explosive in their concentrated force. Drink 2013–2020

Decanter Panel Tasting, July 2013, My top three, Andrew Jefford "There are few more thoughtful or wide-horizoned winemakers hereabouts than Brigitte Chevalier, and her 2011 Felgaria is a magnificently complex, intricately crafted example of its terroir: a wine that is both perfumes and profound".

M du Magazine le Monde mars 2013: » L'éblouissant - Très très grand vin (bio aussi). D'une longueur éblouissante. Il est profond, élégant, équilibré. Les tanins y sont extraordinairement bien travaillés »

Le Rouge & le Blanc été 2019 « Nez mentholé et frais qui se développe sur le floral. Un vin énergique, tendu, savoureux, avec une belle longueur en bouche et une finale légèrement grillée. Vin d'avenir ».

Felgaria 2010

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #218) 90 "Surprisingly, I found the 2010 Faugères Felgaria to be more upfront, charming and straightforward than the 2009. It offers lots of sweet black raspberry, cassis, licorice and crushed flower-like notes to go with a medium-bodied, polished and elegant feel on the palate. This might gain a smidge more depth and richness with another year in the cellar, yet I still see no need to delay gratification here"

Jancis Robinson MW 17 "Healthy crimson with a very pale rim. Mourvèdre in a tutu on the nose. Sweet, charming, fully evolved start and such finesse! With a little saline chew on the end. Truly a wine of place more than a varietal expression. Perhaps at its peak now but going nowhere fast. Wafts over the palate for a good minute after being tasted."

The Morning Claret, Simon J Woolf "Domaine de Cébène Felgaria Faugères 2010 is the top cuvée, and with 50% Mourvèdre in the blend (the rest is Syrah and Grenache), you wouldn't expect "feminine" to be an appropriate descriptor. Yet that's the first thing in my tasting notes. The aroma is somewhat

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perfumed, the flavours still wild and savoury, but held beautifully in check, with freshness and poise. How does Brigitte achieve the lightness of touch in these wines? She has old vines, with low yields, farms organically and uses wild yeasts and minimal sulphur. All winemaking choices which seem to help wines speak of themselves and their origins. Fermentation is mostly in whole bunches, again an attempt to preserve fruit characters with as little intervention as possible”.

Felgaria 2009 Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #218) 93 “The 2009 Faugères Felgaria offers lots of black fruits, spring flowers, truffle and assorted meatiness to go with a medium to full-bodied, ripe, textured style on the palate. This is a beauty wine that does everything right, and while it doesn’t pull any punches on the ripeness scale, it’s always fresh, lively and balanced. It will have over a decade of longevity. One of my favorite producers in Faugères, Domaine de Cébène is run by the passionate and talented Brigitte Chevalier”

Jancis Robinson MW 17+ (RH) “Beautifully succulent fruit – really opening up and showing the full range of fruit and perfume that the younger vintages haven’t yet attained. Milk chocolate, violet and cassis fruit. Very lengthy finish – and plenty of development yet to come. (RH)

Decanter 2012, Andrew Jefford MW “Felgaria 2009 **** 17,5 Fresh, spicy fruit nose, brambly flavours and a tannic streak. Nicely balanced and characterful”

Le Point Guide des Vins 2012 « Nez fin, élégant, fruits rouges, sureau, myrtille, beaucoup de fraîcheur, note florale, pivoine, charnu, délicat, tanins serrés, long, minéral » 16.5

Le Rouge & le Blanc été 2019 « Nez évolué de petits fruits noirs, de prunes, de tabac blond, d’épices. Bouche veloutée, fraîche et équilibrée. Finale longue et énergique. »

Felgaria 2008 Jeb Dunnuck (TWA # 195) 89 “Rich yet fresh and invigoratingly tart-edged plum and cherry are palpably underlain with greater extract and finer tannins in the Cebene 2008 Faugeres Felgaria than I sensed in most of their other early releases, very much including the more sweetly ripe and superficially fuller 2009. Piquant cherry pit and crushed stone add counterpoint in a persistently stimulating finish. This should remain lovely for at least a couple more years. Veteran oenologue Brigitte Chevalier (about a few of whose many projects I have written in the past) established her own Domaine de Cebene in 2006”

Jancis Robinson MW 16.5 (TC) « Concentrated mulberry scent and a little bit fumey. But jewelled fruit. A tarry crust with slate-dust minerality and bold dark berry core. Very structured and defined. Liquorice. (TC) »

To drink recent vintages between 2020 – 2035

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LES BANCÈLS

Organic certified red Faugères AOP wine

The very identity of Cébène Terrasses of altitude vines, north facing, deeply rooted in the schist rock

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| Terroir | An exceptional situation: north-facing!, in the schist rocks, deeply rooted vines, on the upper hills of Faugères (300m above sea level) and close to higher mountains (1100 m). |
| Varietals | North-facing Syrah hill (called <i>bancèls</i>) and Grenache slopes, south-facing Mourvèdre. |
| Harvest | Handpicked in small crates in each parcel at different, strategic times. Arrival by gravity in the custom-built cellar, dug in the rocks. Small yields. |
| Vinification | Each section of a parcel is vinified separately. Indigenous yeast. No sulphite adding during the vinification. Soft pigeages. Controlled temperature. |
| Ageing | Ageing for 12 months. No oak. Alcohol : about 13.5%. |
| Tasting | Les Bancèls reveal the identity and purity of its exceptional terroir, without artifice. Very pure and specific schists aromas, graphite, licorice, cloves, garrigue spices. Then in the mouth an explosion of black fruit, many garrigue spices, delicate tobacco notes after aeration. Lively, powerful but elegant, fine yet coated, sensual tannins with a stunning minerality. The personality, vitality and persistence of this intense gastronomic wine could rank it among the references of great Languedoc wines. |
| Pairing | Enjoy with lamb shoulder, a finely peppered piece of beef, truffle risotto or aubergine caviar |
| Media | |
| Bancèls 2020 | <p>Terre de Vins, Initiatives durables en Occitanie, Willy Kiezer « Un lieu idéal pour Les Bancèls 2020 . Syrah, grenache et mourvèdre offrent un vin sur la minéralité, au nez comme en bouche, la présence du schiste y est impressionnante. Une belle précision qui rappelle le lieu. Les tanins mûrs sont délicatement extraits.».</p> <p>Nadine Franjus, les 5 du Vin : « Un nez de cerise et de framboise fraîches, en bouche le fruit est croquant toujours frais avec une minéralité fondante. Les tanins sont fins, très fins, tout en longueur. On apprécie la jeunesse de ce vin qui donne de la nervosité à la texture. C'est plutôt gourmand.».</p> <p>Jancis Robinson MW 17++ "Notably fragrant. Very fine and silky-textured. Beautifully balanced with no one ingredient dominating. Already very approachable. An attractive saltiness on the finish after all this refined sweet fruit with a hint of mulberries about it. Seriously refreshing wine – thanks to the schist? Refinement incarnate. 2022-2032</p> <p>James Suckling 91 "A crisp and expressive Faugères with white pepper, mulberries, sweet wild berries and grilled herbs. Medium body with bright acidity and tight, vertical tannins..... a pure and linear finish".</p> |

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Zeit Magazin, Gero von Randow "Prachtvolle Eleganz. Vorwiegend Syrah enthalten. Die Reben auf den hoch gelegenen Terrassen wurzeln tief. Wahrlich ein großer Wein".

Bancèls 2019 Jancis Robinson MW 17,5 "Deep, dark garnet. Firm and upright; I've smelt Hermitage that is less impressive than this. Licorice and leather and wonderfully polished tannins which are clearly lurking in the background ready to support this wine into a grand old age. Cooler on the finish than its Grenache-dominated stablemates. But long and composed. Really rather beautiful." 2022-2030

James Suckling 92 « A perfumed and layered red with racy berries, licorice, peach, earth, white pepper and some cassis, too. Medium body with fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Vibrant and succulent fruit, but supple texture. »

Rosemary George MW "Medium colour with ripe smoky, berry fruit on the nose and on the palate. Very rounded with youthful freshness and nicely balanced. The wine spends time on the lees, with a gentle infusion. Brigitte enthused about the purity of the schist of Faugères and its effect on the wine. 'Purity is our obsession', she observed"

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2023, la RVF 90 « les Bancèls, en 2019, plus joufflu, s'exprime sur les fruits rouges confits ».

La RVF fév 2022 Sophie de Salettes Les Dessous du Terroir – A déguster en priorité : Felgaria 2017, Les Bancèls 2019, A la Venvole 2020

Le Rouge & le Blanc été 2019 « Nez sur des arômes tertiaires, des notes de prunes, de mûres et de framboises, de réglisse et de laurier, d'épices douces. Toucher de bouche soyeux. De l'énergie et de l'amplitude. Acidité saline. Belle longueur. »

Zeit Magazin, Gero von Randow « Süßholz, rauchig, feinste Tanne, frisch mit angenehmem Bitterton »

Bancèls 2017 Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 (TC) Tasted 2020-05-23 "Wow, this smells glorious! Ripe, poaching-on-the-stove plums and damsons with a frisson of black pepper and dried thyme. And petrichor. Petrichor on the nose and the taste of cold rain on hot black rocks. Stunning minerality. It glitters in the mouth like mica embedded in coal. Such fine, refined, arching tannins. And then, on the end a little grace note of bitterness, kalamata olive with salted lemon peel, and it feels as if someone gently bit the back of your neck. GV (TC) 2020-2027

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2020, RVF 15 « La Cuvée identitaire, intense et racée. On trouve de l'onctuosité dans les tanins et belle finale épicée »

La RVF Millésime 2017 « Cette cuvée identitaire interpelle par sa délicatesse, son éclat et son expression d'épices douces. Un vin sans austérité qui pourra se livrer rapidement 15-16

La RVF avril 2021 Vins d'altitude 90/100 « Les Bancèls 2017 a aussi retenu l'attention ».

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James Suckling 92 « Enticing fruit character here, showing crushed blueberries, hints of stony minerals. Medium-bodied with intense, balanced fruit and mineral flavors coating the lightly firm tannins. Savory, almost saline finish”.

Rosemary George MW “Good colour. Lots of nuances of fruit on the the nose, with some appealing freshness on the palate; balanced with acidity as well as tannin. An underlying elegant richness. Drinking very well now, but would continue to develop in bottle.”

Bancèls 2016

Jancis Robinson MW

17,5 Tasted 2020-07-31 « Deep purplish crimson. Rather claret-like and savoury. Very approachable and round with polished tannins. Real life and energy. More concentrated than the 2015. » 2020-2036.

17,5 Tasted 2018-08-18 « Wonderful lift on the haunting nose. Already hugely appealing. Just dances on the palate. Light hand on the tiller and then just the right amount of freshness and very light tannin. Tastes as though it had a little bit of rock soaked in it» 2018-2023

Guide Meilleurs Vins de France 2019, RVF 15 «Encore concentré, fruits mûrs, tanins épîcés»

Le Rouge & le blanc été 2019 « Les Bancèls 2016 : 15,5 /20

Jean-Marc Quarin 16.5 // 91 «Brigitte Chevalier a totalement civilisé les Faugères ! Ce vin est parfumé pour l'appellation puis fondant en bouche, avec de la présence, une tannicité bien équilibrée et une saveur délicatement réglissée. C'est long, très bon et à ce jour ma meilleure note donnée à cette cuvée » 2022-2040. »

Jeb Dunnuck 93 pts. « It's another seamless, beautiful wine from Brigitte”

De Grote « Bijzondere wijnmaakster. Ik proefde eerder de 2011 en 2015: donker fruit, zomerkersen, net aangelegd tannineweggetje in de zon richting laurierboompjes, ook rood fruit, mineraliteit en parmantige zuren. 2016: daar was niet veel van. Maar wat er is, is uitstekend. Met doornen en al, zich een weg banend door de lokale garrigue, wild wapperend met zijn zurené.

Rosemary George MW “It was a balanced year and not too hot. Good colour. A slightly leathery note on both nose and palate, balanced with some red fruit. Medium weight with a more rounded palate than the 2017”

Bancèls 2015

Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 “A little paler than 2014 but still a healthy crimson. Another rather light nose – like the 2014. Very transparent and fresh but with a richness of fruit underneath. Still quite a bit of tannin but saline, lively and distinctly aérienne. This would make a great wine to introduce the domaine's style.” 2021 - 2034

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2018, RVF 15

Le Rouge & le Blanc été 2019 13,5 / 20 (Noté de 10, note isolée à 15, note isolée)

DOMAINE DE
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Haut-Terroir de Schiste

« Nez assez fermé qui se développe ensuite sur les cerises noires, les mûres, la réglisse, les épices. Notes torrifiées. Bouche graphitée, puissante mais élégante, gourmande, avec une finale énergique. »

Jean-Marc Quarin Les Bancelles 2015, 15,75 // 89

Couleur sombre, intense, vive et jeune. Nez très aromatique, fin, épicé et assez complexe. En bouche, la saveur évoque de suite la cerise et la cardamome. Le vin évolue fondant, très fruité, à peine tannique, mais sans raideur, sur une bonne longueur. 2020-2030.

Bancelles 2014 Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 Mid crimson. Clean and fresh and very direct. Still lots of life to this and no single element dominates. A really serious wine with saline minerality and strong schist element. Racy and energetic. Drink Date 2018-2032

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2018, RVF 12

Les 5 du vin, Hervé Lalau « Des notes de cassis, de garrigue et de réglisse; une bouche très fraîche, avec des notes de lauzes après la pluie, de sous-bois, et pour couronner le tout, dans un ensemble très bien fondu, un retour du fruit croquant évoqué plus haut, mêlé d'épices douces, de cade et de notes salines. Le baiser n'en finit pas, la caresse buccale prend doucement le relai. Telle est la feuille de route de cette cuvée Les Bancelles 2014 « .

In Vino Veritas 2016 « Le nez exhale des arômes de cassis bien mûrs avec des notes de fine minéralité, pureté et précision impressionnent. Le dessin de la bouche est tout aussi précis, la matière associe douceur du fruit, fraîcheur minérale, sensualité des tannins et dynamisme. Bonne persistance avec un discret amer tannique et minéral. »

Jean-Marc Quarin Les Bancelles 2014 en magnum 15,75 // 89

Couleur sombre, vive et d'intensité moyenne. Nez fruité et un peu simple. Bouche suave, parfumée, réglissée et savoureuse, au corps normal et avec une nuance quasi crayeuse dans la persistance. Agréable. 2018-2028.

Bancelles 2013 Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #224) 90 « From all schists soils and raised in stainless steel, it's another moderately concentrated, fresh, pure and lively effort that has outstanding notes of violets, crushed flowers, cassis and the essence of blackberry fruit. It should keep nicely through 2022 »

Jancis Robinson MW 17+ "Organic viticulture; Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre, Carignan. Just as expressive as the 2012, a little more red fruited and with a fine note of wild herbs. The texture is a little thicker, more grainy, at the moment but the elegance is there in embryo. (JH)"

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #218) 90 « the 2013 Faugères les Bancelles has a cooler climate feel in its peppery herbs, underbrush, crushed rock and crunchy blackberry-like fruits. Medium-bodied, pure, elegant and with both freshness and moderate structure, it's a classy wine »

Ned Goodwin MW, Vinexpo 2011 "I discovered a wine that made me swoon: Domaine de Cebene's Faugeres 'les Bancelles'. Here, Brigitte Chevalier is crafting stunning wines from

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Haut-Terroir de Schiste

schistous terroir, light on their feet, aromatic and bundled with ripe yet stemmy complexity, for grip and grace”.

Jean-Marc Quarin Les Bancelles 2013 16,25 // 91 Coup de coeur

Couleur sombre, intense et belle. Nez très intense, fruité et réglissé. Moelleux à l'attaque, savoureux au développement, particulièrement fruité, ce vin parfumé et à peine tannique, sans lourdeur, évolue noble et long avec beaucoup de goût. Grande réussite. A boire et avant 2030.

Bancelles 2012 Jancis Robinson MW 17,5 (JH) “Lifted, fragrant red and black fruit with a hint of garrigue and liquorice. Silky but deep texture, extremely elegant, cool tasting. Refined length. Great restraint but still with generous fruit. (JH)”
“This is a fine wine by any measure with the richness of the ripe fruit counterbalanced by the energy of the terroir. Well done. GV “(JR)

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #218) 90 “The 2012 Faugères Les Bancelles is similar in style to the 2010, with a rounded, supple and sexy style that stays fresh and highly drinkable. Made from Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre (with a splash of Carignan), with each variety vinified separately in stainless steel tanks, it’s medium to full-bodied, has a full, rich mid-palate and lots of sweet fruit on both the nose and palate. As with the 2010, there’s an upfront feel here”

Bancelles 2011 Jancis Robinson MW 17 “A year of big yields, so people thought the vintage would taste diluted but they were wrong. The wines were pretty tannic in fact. Healthy crimson. Light nose initially but big and rich on the palate. Velvety. Very sweet and very charming now. Gorgeous palate. Perfectly showcases the balance of this bottling.”

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #212) 91 “Also impressive, the 2011 Faugeres Les Bancelles checks in as a blend of Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre and Carignan that spent 11 months in stainless steel. Named after the schist soils of the appellation, it possesses a sweetly fruity, polished feel, with black raspberry, cassis, toast, spring flowers and creamy licorice giving way to a medium-bodied, hedonistic and impressively made profile on the palate.”

The Morning Claret, Simon J Woolf “comes from a parcel of vines growing at 300m altitude. Very ripe, with a hint of balsamic vinegar and a slightly vegetal nature.”

Jancis Robinson MW 16.5 “Soft ruby. Sweet and round, very juicy and quite burgundian. Quite different from most – sort of Stéphane Derenoncourt style. GV?”

Bancelles 2010 Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #218) 91 “It’s a seamless, fruit forward, sexy effort that gives up lots of leafy herbs, licorice, truffle and sweet black currant like fruit. It’s drinking nicely today, but should continue to evolve nicely”

La RVF spécial Mill 2010 - Grandes réussites. “Nez réservé et bouche dense. Ce bon jus entier et sain a de la mâche. C’est riche et ferme »

Jancis Robinson MW 17 “Magnum. Deep crimson with light evolution at the rim. Sweet, velvety

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| | <p>with a hint of cordite. Very voluptuous. Rich and a bit more ambitious than the Ex Arena 2009 but perhaps less charming. A bit more serious. Hint of mint. Very well integrated with just a hint of sweet rose petals. Still a little tannin in evidence even after 11 years!"</p> |
| Bancèls 2009 | <p>Schildknecht (TWA #195) 87 "Cherry preserves tinged with cinnamon spice and suffused with peat and crushed stone mark the Cebene 2009 Faugeres Les Bancels, which displays noticeable but reasonably fine tannins and a modestly persistent, sweet and spicy finish"</p> <p>La RVF Spécial Millésime 2009 – Grande Réussite « Un vin stylé, très équilibré, avec en finale des notes de graphite et de fruits noirs. Domaine à suivre ».</p> <p>Le Point Guide des Vins 2012 « Nez frais, fruits rouges, garrigue, onctueux, gourmand, juteux, tanins veloutés, persistant ». 14,5</p> <p>Jancis Robinson MW 17 "Mid garnet (much deeper than Ex Arena). A little tarmac and lots of evolution. Lots of sweet leather and real structure. Fresh fruit and rich. Long. Savoury. Lots to get your teeth into. Impressive for its age" (Tasted 2020-07-31)</p> |
| Bancèls 2008 | <p>Schildknecht (TWA #195) 88 "Ripe plum, black raspberry, and cherry tinged with tamarind and licorice mark the nose and juicy palate of Chevalier's 2008 Faugeres Les Bancels,"</p> <p>Weinwirtschaft Magazin "Gerade diese überraschen mit exzellenten Weinen mit Brigitte Chevalier. Die Premierenweine Les Bancèls 2008 von Nordlagen und Felgaria von Südlagen zeigen viel Würze, Frucht und große Finesse.</p> |
| To drink | 2022-2032 (vintages 2020 – 2021) |

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Haut-Terroir de Schiste

BELLE LURETTE

Organic certified red Faugères AOP wine

Very old Carignan vines on mountain rocky schist

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| Terroir | An exceptional situation: mostly north-facing, in the schist rocks, deeply rooted vines, on the upper hills of Faugères (300m above sea level). |
| Varietals | Mainly 80-year-old Carignan (15 hl/ha) on north-facing schist slopes surrounding the cellar, with some Mourvèdre and Grenache. |
| Harvest | Handpicked in small crates, in each parcel at different, strategic times. Arrival by gravity in the custom-built cellar, dug in the rocks, in the middle of the old Carignan vines. |
| Vinification | Each section of a parcel is vinified separately, partly in whole bunches. Indigenous yeast. No sulphite adding during the vinification. Soft pigeages. Temperature controlled. |
| Ageing | Aged for a few months. No oak. Alcohol : about 13%. |
| Tasting | A lively and elegant wine, astonishingly fresh and voluptuous, wrapped in silk. Very savoury nose with wild, intense, juicy red fruit notes of "roast venison". The very nicely coated and lifted tannins give Belle Lurette its personality. |
| Pairing | Grilled pork with sage, game, cassoulet with preserved duck, a medley of old-fashioned vegetables |
| Media | |
| Lurette 2020 | <p>Jancis Robinson MW 18 (TC) "The purity of this wine is stunning. Soaring fruit. Limpid, jewelled; liquid rubies. This might be the best vintage of Belle Lurette so far. Deep. An obsidian core of minerality. But gentle. A whisper of dust. Somehow, Brigitte Chevalier has managed to coax satin-sheathed tannins out of those gnarly old vines. Hauntingly beautiful. Shibui in a glass ». (TC) 2022-2030</p> <p>Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2023, RVF 92 « Belle Lurette offre un registre floral et fruité marqué par les vieilles vignes de Carignan. La bouche charnue laisse poindre des notes de fruits rouges et d'épices douces, avec des tanins veloutés »</p> <p>La RVF 18.12.2022 Caroline Furstoss Jérémy Cukierman Coup de coeur. Belle Lurette offre un registre floral et fruité, marqué par les vieilles vignes de carignan. La bouche charnue laisse poindre des notes de fruits rouges et d'épices douces, avec des tanins veloutés. 92</p> <p>James Suckling 92 « A nicely gamey and deep Carignan that delivers freshly crushed black and blue berries, dried herbs, black earth, meat and cloves. Medium to full body with fine, juicy tannins, leading to a fresh and flavorful finish".</p> <p>Alan March, Amarchinthevines "The 2020 is obviously a baby but drinking well now, though I'd keep it tucked away for a few years. I picked up more dark fruits than the 18 but that poise was evident again.</p> |

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And both bottles showed how good Carignan can be, the altitude (300m), sun and wind combining so well. As Brigitte said it is a terroir made for Carignan and also climate change proof (hopefully).

Lurette 2018 Jancis Robinson MW 17 (TC) „Deep, ripe plum fruit with a homeopathic dose of something that smells a little bretty – not in an unattractive way at all, though! Real purity of red fruit – strawberries, wild raspberries, bullace plums – tightly interwoven with gnarled, woody tannins and woody spices. A touch of salvia-leaf freshness lifting the finish. The craggy poetry of old Carignan in a bottle... (TC) 2021-2028

Zeit Magazin, Gero von Randow „kraftvoll, komplex, subtil“

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2021, RVF 92 « Lumineux, gracile et aromatique, Belle Lurette est déjà excellent ! »

James Suckling 91 « Nice intensity to this old-vine carignan, Full and well poised with nicely integrated tannins and persistent, fresh fruit.”

Alan March, Amarchinthevines “Belle Lurette is the showcase for the Carignan grape, and my word, this was a treat. The 2018 is as good a wine as I have tasted in a long time. This is the perfect example of how the vines and wines have improved in her care, Belle Lurette has blossomed into a real star. The 2018 was poised, elegant, direct yet rich and powerful with persistent fruit and freshness. Stunning. Brigitte’s wines would be very high on my list of recommendations for people asking for the best Languedoc and Faugères wines. That Belle Lurette 18 will stay in my memory for a long time to come, reflecting its name”

Lurette 2016 Jancis Robinson MW 17 (TC) « Very savoury nose that has all the deep, wild, intense, caramelised notes of roast venison in a blackberry and mushroom jus. Baritone with dark sweetness wrapped in silk-and-sacking tannins. A tiny bit dry, but that will disappear with food. Lifted by a breath of sage and lavender that blows long and right through the wine to the finish. You can feel the schist in the bones of this wine. Elegant, as the Cébène wines always are. (TC)

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2019, RVF 15 «Tanins caressants, expression fine du carignan »

De Grote “heeft gesteld ‘vin du nord’ te maken in het zuiden. Op haar ‘grand terroir de schiste’ doet zij dat in dit geval met oude carignanstokken. En haar noord-zuidwisseltruc resulteerde in een carignan pur sang. Bovendien: ravissante zuren.

Decanter, James Lawther MW - Going Green - 91 « Old-vine Carignan with a little Grenache and Mourvèdre. Fine rather than powerful. Dark fruit, herbal notes. Tangy freshness with refined texture and a saline finish. Drink 2019-2024 “

Lurette 2015 Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 (TC) Tasted 2022-09-02 « Peppery, and beginning to turn malty-savoury and caramelised on the nose. The fruit, though, is still sweet and juicy, pure, with wild-plum freshness and that chiffon-like translucency that is the signature of Belle Lurette. The tannins have diffused into the fruit, giving the fruit itself a sense of worn-smooth-craggy texture and a spicy warmth. Garrigue fans out and fills the finish. Still fresh and with plenty of life ahead of it. (TC) 2019-2025
17 (JR) Tasted 2017-07-31 “Light crimson. Sweet and fresh on the nose (from 300 m elevation on schist terraces). Round tannins, marked acidity and a successful outcome. Long. Transparent and

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refreshing, Remarkably juicy for a Carignan. Bravo! »

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2018, RVF 14,5 « le remarquable Belle Lurette issu de vieux carignans»

Lurette 2014

Jancis Robinson MW 16.5 (TC) "Smells like the mouth-watering meatiness of those crispy dark bits on roast beef and shiitake mushrooms cooking in a pan. Cooked damsons, dried redcurrants and lots of thyme. Cold black tea and dried hibiscus petals. The tang of sumac spice. The tannins are slender but drying, giving the wine a graceful, sinewy structure. More evident evolution and senescence on this vintage than on the 2015 and the " (TC) 2016-2022

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #224) 89 « Elegant, graceful, medium-bodied and lightly textured, it offers lots of savory cherry fruits, spice-box, dried flowers and subtle herbes de Provence-like aromas and flavors”

Gault & Millau automne 2017 Yohann Castaing "Nez pas encore totalement épanoui malgré un ressenti particulièrement impressionnant pas sa pureté, son dynamisme. Grain très fin, de beaux amers, de la minéralité (tension) et de belles notes de fruits noirs et d'épices. Un très beau carignan qui vieillira parfaitement ». 16.5

In Vino Veritas 2016 «Ah, la grâce du carignan de vieilles vignes de 80 ans sur schiste, quelle personnalité d'une douceur et d'une volupté languedocienne très éloignée des vins massifs et alcooleux des années 95/2000. Un nez délicieux de raisins mûrs, de groseilles, de cerises précède une bouche aux tannins veloutés et juteux, un toucher chatoyant, de la vivacité, de la minéralité, un fruit acidulé. Ces vieilles vignes, usées, sculptées ont été plantées depuis ... belle lurette.

Michel Smith, les 5 du Vin « remarquable et très élégant Faugères Belle Lurette 2014 bien inspiré par les vieilles vignes de carignan sur schiste ».

Lurette 2013

Jancis Robinson MW 17.5 (TC) Tasted 2022-09-02 "Sappier and rounder; sweeter, even fresher fruit than the 2014. Still very alive. Menthol and spice. Folds and folds and folds of flavour. Tea leaves and rooibos, and an incredible mountain-herbs freshness. The tannins have deliquesced into the soul of the wine, becoming fine pencil sketches on the fragile tissues of fruit. Just so delicious and finely structured and such a long, long reach. This seems to have gained more and more finesse with age. (TC) 2016-2024

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #218) 93+ "Belle Lurette sport an inky purple color to go with textbook Carignan plum, new leather, distilled herbs and licorice aromatics. Medium to full-bodied, with terrific purity, integrated acidity and ultra-fine tannin, it's a great Faugères to enjoy”

Decanter 2017, Simon Woolf "Belle Lurette is a good example of how whole-bunch fermentation with some carbonic maceration can produce a lighter ,more accessible style... Brigitte Chevalier uses the technique to help achieve a more delicate, 'feminine' style. She's a cautious advocate: 'It provides a way to improve the aromatic complexity of the wines. The aromatic intensity is also increased – so much so that we should worry. Whole-bunch can't produce miracles. It can even tend towards the banal by giving uniform aromatics to wine, and reducing the terroir expression.'

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Michel Smith, Les 5 du Vin "Brigitte Chevalier a tenu parole, elle qui avait promis de me faire goûter une série de millésimes de sa cuvée « Belle Lurette » qui accorde au Carignan d'altitude (exposé nord, excusez du peu...) la place qu'il mérite et qu'il avait probablement naguère dans les assemblages. Dans cette cuvée de Faugères, la part du Carignan tourne autour de 85 %. Si je commence par ce 2013, c'est parce qu'il m'a le plus étonné par sa construction autour d'une acidité fort présente et assez éclatante qui confère à ce vin une structure énorme. Les autres millésimes – à partir de 2011 – font preuve d'une étonnante régularité, parfois marqués par un joli soyeux, souvent dans la profondeur et la persistance, et toujours avec l'efficacité conférée par cette structure acide particulière au Carignan, sorte d'épine dorsale habillée par des tannins qui jouent dans le registre du cuir comme en 2014, 2015 et 2016 avec cependant une pointe de dureté dans ce dernier millésime lequel, en revanche, fait preuve d'un supplément de puissance, tandis que l'on a une séduisante finesse et une prometteuse prise de bouche avec le 2020 actuellement en vente. Jusqu'aux trois premiers millésimes de la cuvée entamée en 2011, les vins commencent à se boire.

Le Rouge & le Blanc Carignan « Notes acidulées florales et délicates. Bouche structurée, dans le prolongement du nez avec un joli jus tendu et facile à boire. De l'allonge. Un vin raffiné, d'une belle classe » 15

Lurette 2012 Jancis Robinson MW 16++ (RH) Blackcurrant, liquorice, leather. Incredibly savoury again – this seems a signature of the estate. Not heavy in body, but the fruit is almost impenetrable – needs ageing. (RH) 2018-2028

Jeb Dunnuck (TWA #212) 92 "it offers a floral, perfumed profile with notions of kirsch, raspberry, scrub brush and crushed flowers all emerging from the glass. Medium-bodied and layered on the palate, with a seamless, sexy texture and notable balance, it's a rock star effort. I was blown away by these efforts from oenologist Brigitte Chevalier. Creating this domaine in 2006, she has a bevy of old vines located in the cooler, higher elevation and more northern portion of the appellation. She fashions ripe, yet polished and beautifully balanced wines that savvy readers need to seek out!

Lurette 2011 Jancis Robinson MW 18 (TC) Tasted 2022-07-12 « Gorgeous. Is this really an 11-year-old Languedoc wine? It smells of bresaola. One sip and my mouth fills, literally fills, with fine white pepper. The fruit is sweet and remarkably fresh for its age – earlier today I was wandering through our heat-hazed orchard, dry golden-brown hay grass up to my waist, and found some blackcurrants left on the bush that we'd neglected to pick... I idly popped a few of those blackcurrants in my mouth. Hours later, I taste this wine and it tastes just like those blackcurrants. I keep coming back to it. This exquisitely beautiful wine has become exquisitely refined. A heart-breaker, in fact. This is a wine writing poetry in purple-blue ink into the corners of non time and non space where beauty trawls ever-finer tannins into a vault above your head and you know that these old vines are, one way or another, writing their memoirs. (TC) 2015-2035

The Morning Claret, Simon J Woolf "Belle Lurette Faugères 2011 is Brigitte's equally subtle and delicious redux on Carignan. The fruit is intense, spicy and complex, but beautifully balanced. The vines are 70 years old."

To drink | The previous vintages show a very interesting aromatic evolution and ageing abilities.

DOMAINE DE
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Haut-Terroir de Schiste

À LA VENVOLE

Organic certified red Faugères AOP wine

The elegant opening to Cébène Faugères range of wine

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| Terroir | An exceptional situation: mostly north-facing, in the schist rocks, deeply rooted vines, on the upper hills of Faugères (300m above sea level). |
| Encépagement | From the vines around the cellar at the top of the hill, called La Jasse: Grenache, a bit of Syrah, and Carignan, young and old. |
| Vendange | Handpicked in small crates, in each parcel at different, strategic times. Arrival by gravity in the custom-built cellar, dug in the rocks, surrounded by all the vines. |
| Vinification | Each section of a parcel is vinified separately. Indigenous yeast. No sulphite adding during the vinification. Very little extraction and soft pigeages. Controlled temperature. |
| Ageing | Aged for a few months. No oak. Alcohol : about 13%. |
| Tasting | A la Venvole is designed to showcase the elegance of Faugères but meant for earlier drinking. Aromas of very pure red and black fruits, then floral notes, juicy and winey. Spices, garrigue, old rose, schist. The ample, fine and coating tannins compose a light, present but airy substance, where nothing dominates. « <i>Beautifully juicy, unavoidably swallowable.</i> » Jancis Robinson, MW. |
| Pairing | Skewers of lamb, squids and marinated red peppers, fresh homemade pasta, stuffed vegetables. |
| Media | |
| Venvole 2021 | Jancis Robinson MW 16 "t's still a very well-made wine" James Suckling 89 « A pleasant nose full of tangy Mediterranean herbs, earthy dirt, red berries and plums, with terra cotta and peppery spices. Medium-bodied with soft tannins. Fruity, velvety and supple." Zeit Magazin, Gero von Randow „delikat, zurückhaltend“ |
| Venvole 2020 | Jancis Robinson MW 17 « Brigitte Chevalier describes this as un vin de bistronomie. Bright, pale crimson. Chock-full of sweet, youthful fruit. Beautifully juicy, unavoidably swallowable. Tannins are hardly there until the very end, but the schist of Faugères is. You'd want to drink this with food but you'd have difficulty resisting getting to the bottom of the bottle. » 2021-2025 Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2023, la RVF 90 « A la Venvole présente des tanins bien intégrés avec friandise, sur des notes de santal et un côté umami en bouche » La RVF fév 2022 Sophie de Salettes Les Dessous du Terroir – A déguster en priorité : Felgaria 2017, Les Bancèls 2019, A la Venvole 2020 |

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Haut-Terroir de Schiste

Rosemary George MW "This too is designed for easy drinking, a Faugères de bistro, as Brigitte put it. Medium weight, with some lovely spicy red fruit, balanced with fresh acidity and tannin and a touch of stony minerality. Nicely balanced. Not a trace of wood in the winemaking

Alain March, Amarchinthevines ", the wine is meant to be drunk young and as a simpler style. I really enjoyed this, yes it is easy to drink young but it has real quality and depth, a lovely blend of grapes and style."

Venvole 2019

Jancis Robinson MW

17 (TC) « Yum. This smells like scrumptious homemade strawberry jam. And yum! It tastes juicy, packed with mouth-watering, red-berried fruit plus an umami-sweet undertow of biltong/bresaola and the prettiest top notes of rose petals. The tannins are as packed with supple muscle as the palate is packed with fruit. Black-pepper-spiked finish. This delivers a level of deliciousness that makes you want to laugh out loud with pleasure. (TC) 2021-2024

16.5 (JR) Very immediate. Very rich and clean and straight to business. Fine tannins and still slightly chewy. Saline finish. Like licking schist. Less extraction than the other cuvées but it's still long and exhibits crunchy fruit.

Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2021, la RVF 90 « Bouche suave et élancée »

James Suckling 88 « Rich aromas of crushed blackberries and blackcurrants with hints of forest floor and vanilla. Full and round with non-aggressive tannins. Medium finish”

A boire | 2 to 4 years

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Haut-Terroir de Schiste

EX ARENA

Red organic certified IGP Pays d'Oc wine

A unique geology in Languedoc (outside Faugères) and a balancing act. For bistrot-style dining

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| Terroir | Grown not on schist but on Villafranchian soil (a 30-metre-deep bed of sea sediment and alluvial deposits of stone, pebbles, red sand and gravel – hence the name Ex Arena which means 'out of the sand'). 20 km outside of Faugères AOP. |
| Varietals | 40-year-old vines Grenache (85%) and Mourvèdre. Tiny yields. |
| Harvest | Quite early harvest, at the point of equilibrium of the maturity of the grapes, to capture in time freshness and fruitiness. Handpicked in small crates, in each parcel at this specific, strategic time. |
| Vinification | Arrival by gravity in the custom-built cellar in Faugères, dug in the rocks. Each section of a parcel is vinified separately. Indigenous yeast. No sulphite adding during the vinification. Very delicate extraction and only a few pigeages. 3 to 4 weeks maceration. Controlled temperature. |
| Ageing | Aged for a few months. No oak. Alcohol level : about 13.5%. |
| Tasting | Our Grenache (Mourvèdre) vines plunge their roots into the very deep sandy soil (arena). With its ultra-fine touch on the palate, this extremely seductive and easy to digest bistronomie wine is a balancing act, made with all delicacy. Raspberry red color, relatively pale. Frank aromas of red fruits, sweet spices. Complex, aromatic Mourvèdre notes at the end, with an ultra-fine touch on the palate, a seriously long and elegant finish. |
| A table | Ex Arena can be paired with a wide range of Mediterranean dishes, lamb stew, chicken tajine, even strawberries or a chocolate cake - or enjoyed on its own. Its ultra-fine tannins match perfectly well with delicate fish food. |
| Media | |
| Ex Arena 2021 | Jancis Robinson MW 17 " Flirtatious, lifted nose with some strong savoury elements as well as the raspberry fruit of delicately made Grenache. A close relative of any fine contemporary Grenache/Garnacha. Beautiful balance. This just hums along and is already gorgeously approachable with a skein of very fine tannins lurking underneath to convince you that you needn't worry about keeping it a few years either. But not so much tannin that you couldn't consider drinking this without food. Such poise! And great persistence. A wine to soothe a sore throat." 2022-2027 James Suckling 90 "A juicy and transparent red with aromas of sour cherries, wild, strawberries, pomegranate and Mediterranean herbs. Medium-bodied with bright acidity. Tight, vivid and juicy in the finish". Zeit Magazin, Gero von Randow "Der Einstiegswein der Domaine wächst auf Sandboden. Geerntet wurde er kurz vor der Vollreife, weshalb er frisch daherkommt. Dieser schöne Rotwein ist rauchig, fruchtig, nussig, man schmeckt die Sorte Grenache durch". |

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- Ex Arena 2020 | Jancis Robinson MW 17+ Wine of the Week – “Transparent ruby. Gamey nose that’s quite savoury and serious. Then delightfully, flirtatiously sweet on the palate yet structured and with excellent acidity. Brigitte Chevalier’s wines just get better and better. This one has a seriously long finish, and is obviously made with such delicacy. Very fine tannins on the end. Probably best kept until next year but it would certainly not be painful to drink it now with food” 2022-2028
- Alan March, Amarchinthevines “Generous, open and plummy fruits this wine is ready to drink now or keep for a few years.”
- Ex Arena 2019 | Jancis Robinson MW 17 (TC) VGV Very Very Good Value “Absolutely gorgeous. It tastes like red velvet feels. Explosively pure red fruit. Thrumming with spices and fragrant with dried herbs and dust – all straight from the fruit without a dab of oak. Tasting this is like listening to Maria Callas sing. Instant goosebumps. It makes your heart soar.” 2020-2024
- James Suckling 91 « Aromas of aronia berries and musky spice follow through to a medium-bodied palate with fine, lightly firm tannins and a hint of orangey citrus to the fruit and oak flavors, keeping it fresh. Tight and controlled with good intensity.”
- Guide des Meilleurs Vins de France 2021, RVF 89 » de la gourmandise et du fruit, une expression fine et subtile du Grenache »
- Ex Arena 2017 | Jancis Robinson MW 16.5 (RH) « Black cherry, a touch of charred fruit on the palate, ripe and hearty but with a sense of restraint too. Lovely herby finish. (RH) » 2020-2024
- Guide Meilleurs Vins de France 2020, RVF 14.5 « une cuvée pleine et gourmande à base de grenache, aux tains onctueux : un plaisir immédiat »
- Ex Arena 2016 | Jancis Robinson MW 17+ “Pale raspberry red. Light and floral. Rich nose with structure and a light animal note but real appeal. This should evolve very well. Very charming and digestible. Notably long.” 2020-2033
- Ex Arena 2015 | Jancis Robinson MW 16.5+ (TC) “Incredible acidity, wave upon wave with electric tension and fine, equally tense, tannins. Less sweet fruit than the 2013 – a little sharper, more angular, with less length. Bitter yet fragrant freshness of orange peel. Some chewy cinnamon bark on the finish”. (TC)
- Guide Meilleurs Vins de France 2019, RVF 14 « Grenache solaire qui ne manque pas de gourmandise »
- Jean-Marc Quarin Ex Arena 2015, 16 // 90 Coup de coeur
Couleur sombre et intense. Très beau nez aromatique sentant la cerise et le grenache. La bouche se distingue par un très bel équilibre, un toucher fin, du corps et une longue finale subtile dans son grain et ses arômes. Beau. Peut se goûter et avant 2030.
- Ex Arena 2013 | Jancis Robinson MW 16,5 (TC) « Transparent crimson. Gorgeous, lifted, pure plum aromas. Tangy, zesty, plums and damsons on the palate, some leafiness and mintiness on the palate and through to the finish. Very fine tannins, almost gossamer fine, but lots of them. Fresh and unusually crisp for Grenache. Spicy tobacco finish”. (TC)
- Jancis Robinson MW 16 (JH) “super-smooth tannins, with more grainy texture on the finish adding

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length and interest on the palate. Fresh and lively" (JH)

Guide Bettane + Desseauve 2016 « C'est Ex Arena qui récolte la palme de la gourmandise immédiate cette année » 14,5/20

Michel Smith, les 5 du Vin « un savoureux et sensuel grenache Ex Arena 2013 tout en fraîcheur et salinité issu de vignes plantées sur un sol du Villafranchien.

Jean-Marc Quarin Ex Arena 2013, 16 // 90 Coup de coeur

Couleur sombre et intense. Nez fin, fruité, mûr, subtil, floral et pur. Bouche juteuse dès l'attaque, se développant élancée, avec du goût et une qualité de toucher noble. Le vin fond au palais gracieux, délicieux, avec une pointe captivante d'épices et de fruits. C'est incrachable. Bravo. A boire et avant 2025

Ex Arena 2012 Jancis Robinson MW 16.5 (RH) «Vibrant black fruit with plenty of black pepper spice. Fine tannins, incredible savoury finish with a bitterness that lingers. Very dense. (RH) »

Jean-Marc Quarin Ex Arena 2012 15,75 // 89

Couleur sombre, d'intensité moyenne et légèrement évoluée. Très beau nez original et intense sentant bon la violette et la cerise. Bouche délicieuse, fondante, savoureuse, au toucher fin, au corps moyen, mais sans angle. Du plaisir de suite et avant 2025.

Ex Arena 2011 Jancis Robinson MW
16,5 (JH) "Round, ripe and fresh. Lots more lift and personality than the average southern Rhône. Something quite stony on the palate. Very complete wine. GV" (JH)
16 (RH) " Majority Grenache from old sea sediment terroir. Whole bunch fermented. Lovely plump fruit, smooth and softened, but a little metallic. Then an incredible length with beautiful fragrance on the finish – unexpectedly interesting – very much a wine of two halves" (RH) 2014-2022

The Morning Claret, Simon J Woolf « Delicate, mineral red fruit with a rather ethereal structure. Yes, the words Mourvèdre and delicate did just appear in close proximity."

Ex Arena 2009 Jancis Robinson MW 17 "Magnum. Pale ruby with even a hint of orange. Charming and sweet and even tastes a little like rose petals. Lively finish with some real freshness on the end. Still very lively indeed even though this was made as a bistro wine for early drinking!" 2012-2024

Ex Arena 2007 Jancis Robinson MW 16.5 (TC) "Lots of extract, thick and chewy. Almost liqueur-like – cassis with an earthy undertow. Big, bold structure. Rich and voluptuous. Turkish coffee. Well made but approach with caution. (TC)"

To drink It can be drunk now or aged for up to 8 years.