

DOMAINE DE NIZAS

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Languedoc, France



Nathalie Arnaud-Bernard

OWNER: The Goelet Family

FOUNDED: 1998 by John Goelet

WINEMAKER: Nathalie Arnaud-Bernard

SIZE: 100 planted acres

HARVEST: September-October

CLIMATE: Mediterranean with low rainfall and warm, dry summers

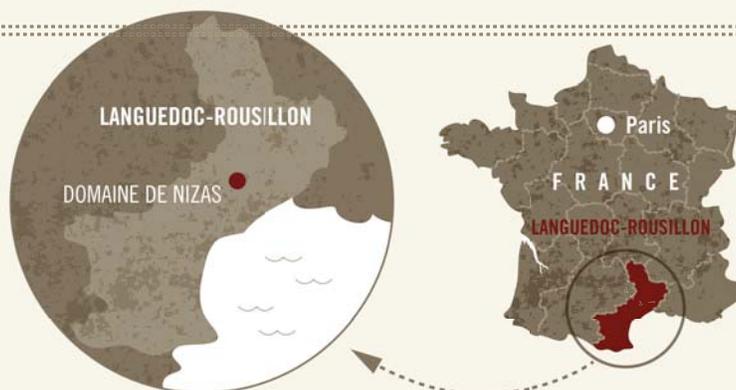
SOILS: Pebbles, basalt and limestone

VARIETIES PLANTED: Syrah, Mourvedre, Carignan, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon, Roussanne, Rolle, Viognier, and Sauvignon Blanc

WEBSITE: domaine-de-nizas.com



Domaine de Nizas estate



PROFILE: Located near the medieval village of Pézenas in the heart of the Languedoc region, Domaine de Nizas was established in 1998 by Franco-American agriculturist, John Goelet, a member of a distinguished family in Bordeaux. With Bernard Portet at his side, a fellow visionary in the world of wine rooted in respect for tradition, they shared a driving ambition to create great wines in exceptional terroirs. This led to the creation of Clos du Val in Napa Valley as well as Taltarni and Clover Hill in Australia.

Portet identified the terroir around Pézenas as one of extraordinary promise. Individual plots which represented three different soil types, or terroirs, were acquired to create Domaine de Nizas which would allow them to craft high-quality artisanal wines that express the spirit of the Mediterranean. Portet then worked with the local team on a major replanting to match the right grape varietals to the different terroirs. He remains involved as technical advisor.

VITICULTURE: Pézenas enjoys a Mediterranean climate with low rainfall and warm, dry summers. The sweeping vineyards benefit from cool North winds and “Tramontane” which blow over the mountains towards the sea and warm Mediterranean sunshine which, together, protect the vines and keep them vigorous.

With 100 acres of planted vines ranging from 60 year-old Carignan to more recently planted Syrah and Grenache, Domaine de Nizas’ terroir offers a unique mosaic of three soil types: pebbles, basalt and limestone. These soils are deep and provide excellent drainage while retaining freshness and humidity at deep root level, allowing grapes to ripen fully without stress to the vines.

Domaine de Nizas has been certified as a sustainable vineyard since 2007. The vines are worked manually and precisely for pruning, bud removal, lifting the wires, and if required, removing excess grapes. The winery maintains a long term view, conserving the soils by using ploughing and grass rather than herbicides.



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THE WINES

At the center of Domaine de Nizas' terroir is the unique mosaic of three soil types. Limestone Clay (Marne Calcaire) are white soils that make more powerful wines. When planted with Syrah, it creates wines with red fruit and violet characters. The Basalt soils are volcanic based, unique within the Languedoc region, and rare throughout the world. Syrah planted on basalt soils often results in wines with spice and licorice notes alongside a good tannic structure. River gravel (Villafranchien) is a blend of river pebbles and red clay. It is the soil type often found in the Chateaneuf du Pape area of the Southern Rhone Valley. It imparts chocolate and coffee aromas, finesse and structure, as well as generous acidity that allows the Syrahs to age.

DOMAINE DE
NIZAS

Les Terres Noires Blanc – Roussanne, Vermentino, Viognier
Pale gold color with green tints, aromas of citrus, white peach and wild fennel. Well-balanced, crisp and complex, it embodies the balance and elegance characteristic of Domaine de Nizas.

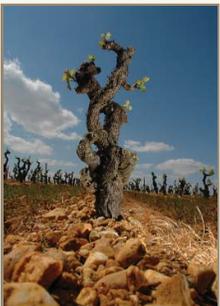
Les Pierres Blanches Rosé – Syrah, Grenache, Mourvèdre
An appealing pale rose color with violet hints. Intense aromas of red currant, aniseed and pear drop notes. Vibrant, crisp and dry with real finesse: a taste of Mediterranean sunshine!

Languedoc Rouge – Syrah, Mourvèdre, Grenache
Garnet color, intense aromas of blackcurrant, notes of spices and the "garrigue" (local wild herbs) with soft, ripe tannins and a long finish. Full-bodied, well-balanced and elegant.

Le Mazet Rouge – Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah
Intense bouquet of red fruit, spices and wood notes. Generous fruit characters are accompanied by good structure, silky tannins and a long pleasant finish.

WINEMAKING: Nathalie Arnaud-Bernard, a native of the Rhone Valley with extensive experience as a winemaker in Australia and France, has led production and winemaking at Domaine de Nizas since 2011. She creates handcrafted wines with a unique elegant style which expresses the essence of each terroir. The secret of winemaking – she says – is, "the quality of grapes, keeping just the right temperature during fermentation, and fanatical attention to every detail."

All fruit is harvested at optimum ripeness and with a good balance of sugar and acidity, allowed by the excellent soils, wide diurnal temperatures and precision pruning. Upon arrival at the winery, the grapes are de-stalked and gently put into tanks. Maceration is carefully controlled in order to naturally enhance the work that has already been done in the vineyard: A deep color, intense and pure aromas, full bodied and soft tannins. After 15 to 25 days on the skins, the grapes are pressed and the resulting wine is then graded according to the quality of the press. The wines are then transferred to oak barrels to complete the malolactic fermentation and for maturation until bottling.



Old vine thriving in Villafranchien



Le Mazet du Domaine de Nizas



Winemaker Nathalie Arnaud-Bernard with Bernard Portet



Beautiful Pézenas landscape showcased by Domaine de Nizas' Mourvedre vines