



JEAN-LOUIS GALLUCCI
Winemaker



CHÊNE BLEU

2012 ABÉLARD, AOC VENTOUX

ABOUT THE WINERY

Chene Bleu's UNESCO heritage-listed property is nestled among the diverse flora and fauna at one of the highest elevations in all of Southern Rhone, 2,000 feet above sea level. The remarkable 340-acre estate has functioned as a working vineyard since the Middle Ages. The high-altitude vineyards benefit from warm daytime sun and cool nights allowing a longer, gradual ripening season. Grapes are picked up to five weeks later than the surrounding valley floor. The resulting wines embody the aromas and flavor of southern Rhône, together with the finesse and elegance of northern Rhône and the aging potential of the region's finest AOCs.

ABOUT THE WINE

These yin and yang wines are named after Héloïse and Abélard "*the Romeo and Juliet of France*", known for their intellectual brilliance, passionate love affair, eloquent letters and the tragedy that cruelly separated them. Their affair spanned many decades during the Middle Ages until the end of their lives, making it a symbol of enduring romantic love.

The complex, brooding Grenache blend from older vines seems worthy of Abélard, who combined erudition with deep thinking and a near-fatal attraction.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- The family uphold a time-honored respect for certified Organic & Biodynamic philosophic farming, striving to preserve the land's biological ecosystem through sustainable winery practices.
- The winery has stepped outside the AOC system to make a family of wines that rise above preconceived expectations and the constraints of appellations.
- Vineyards are planted on the dynamic soil beds of Mount Ventoux, composed of ancient volcanic basalts, chalk, mineral-rich clay and fossilized marine life providing remarkable complexity to the wines.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Varietal Composition: 85% Grenache, 15% Syrah

Vine Age: Grenache 40+ years; Syrah 30+ years

Aging: 18 months in mix of old and new French oak, plus 12 months in concrete tanks

Alcohol: 14.0%



"A blend of 85% Grenache and 15% Syrah, the 2012 AOC Ventoux Abelard is nominally the more "masculine" of the two red cuvées. In fact, this vintage, the Abelard is softer and plusher, albeit slightly less complex. Smoky elements frame ripe black cherries on the nose, while the medium to full-bodied palate is ripe and supple, giving way to a velvety feel on the finish."

– Joe Czerwinski, September 2020



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