

Clos del Rey

Côtes du Roussillon, France

Established in 2001 by Jacques Montagné, Clos del Rey is located in the heart of the appellation of Maury. Although Maury is best known for its sweet, port-like, wines, Clos del Rey only produces dry red wines. Clos del Rey boasts some stunningly beautiful vineyards. Located in a natural protected area of garrigue (a scrub brush of rosemary, bay laurel, and pines) at 300 meters in altitude, they are the highest vineyard site in Maury.

The vineyards are on a stony combination of limestone soil, ferric tailings, with areas of shist. The oldest vines in the Clos del Rey vineyard are an amazing 138 years old. A few years ago Julien Montagne joined his father at the winery.

Though Julien still works for a fine-wine distributor in the area, he is also in charge of the winemaking at Clos del Rey. His father Jacques does most of the work in the vineyards. Together, with their combined hard work and experience, they make some of the finest wines in the region. Even though they have extensive vineyard holdings in Maury, they only keep 6 hectares of vines for their personal production. The rest of the grapes are sold off in bulk.

If they chose to, they could make much more wine than they currently produce. However, years ago they made the decision that, rather than producing large quantities of wine, they would focus on producing small amounts of high quality wine. After having tasted many bottles, and after many visits to their winery, it is clear to me that that gamble has paid off wonderfully

