

Domaine de Barroubio

Saint-Jean De Minervois, France

The vineyards surrounding the Domaine de Barroubio look like a lunar landscape. Covered with broken-up, chalky (limestone) rocks on the spinal crest of a hill, the vineyards line a road that seams to lead to nowhere.

The domaine and the tiny hamlet of Barroubio have been in the Miquel family since the 15th century. The current generation, Raymond Miquel, took over the operation of the domaine from his mother. Today they own 25 hectares in the very small A.O.C Muscat St Jean de Minervois. They also have 9 hectares of Minervois (red), which has some plantings of vines that are over 110 years old.

Minervois, owes its name to Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, has been known for producing fine wine since the time when the Romans first settled here. AOC Saint-Jean de Minervois is located at the far northeastern corner of Minervois. It is one of the few appellations where one can see exactly where the appellation begins and ends with the naked eye.

The appellation consists of a very defined strip of bright white limestone where the Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains is the only grape variety permitted. Within the space of a few feet one cansee the soil change dramatically from white to red, which denotes the boundary of the appellation.

