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LAROQUE CABERNET FRANC 2020 IGP Cité de Carcassonne

— Background —

Laroque is made from vineyards planted in the ancient region of Carcassonne that produce an extraordinary and unique wine made from 100% Cabernet Franc. Laroque (from the latin *roqua*) derives its name from the Menhirs (a single standing stone that dates back to the middle of the Bronze Age like Stonehenge) which are found around Carcassonne. The city of Carcassonne is famous all over the world for its medieval city and the Canal du Midi, both classed as World Heritage sites by UNESCO. Situated between the Pyrenees to the south and the Black Mountains to the north, Carcassonne enjoys a privileged climatic position where the excesses of the Mediterranean climate are tempered by the softness of the Atlantic. This results in sunny, hot, dry days, but very cool nights. This extraordinary harmony in nature creates wines that are fresh, fruity, elegant, rich and balanced. Laroque Cabernet Franc is an easy-drinking wine that combines the structure, minerality, and dusty rose characteristics of Cabernet Franc with the lively, fruitiness of wines from the south of France.

— Viticulture —

- 100% Cabernet Franc
- Clay and limestone soils.
- Terroir of Carcassonne is characterized by hillside vineyards with double climatic influences and two alternating winds;
- Average age of vines is 25 years.
- Density of 4500 to 5000 vines/hectare.
- Environmentally friendly viticulture.
- Royat cordon system of pruning.
- High canopies for better quality grapes and yield management.
- Mechanical working of the soils with debudding to limit production.

— Winemaking —

- After harvest, grapes are destemmed and then pressed gently in a pneumatic press.
- Cold settling (allowing the wines to settle before racking and fermentation).
- Fermentation in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks between 15 and 18° C for 21 days.
- Fermentation with fresh oak to enhance aromas and to give structure to the wine.
- Sur lies aging for 5 months.
- Wines are fined and filtered prior to bottling.

— Tasting notes —

A crimson robe, the nose of subtle raspberry, rhubarb, spicy and tobacco aromas. In the mouth the elegant and silky tannins bring a very feminine touch to this wine. Laroque Cabernet Franc is a special wine that defies competition. It is unique in its combination of concentration of fruit, attractive aromatics and body. Serve it with tagines, oriental dishes, pastas, poultry, barbecue, red meat and cheese plates.

