

# LES PETITS GRAINS

## VIGNERONS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE

Languedoc, France



### Muscat St. Jean de Minervois

#### THE VINEYARD

St. Jean de Minervois is located just north of the much larger appellation of Minervois. The two are not the same. St. Jean Minervois is a small (700 acres) high altitude (900 ft) limestone plateau planted almost exclusively to “small berry Muscat”, the finest variety. The appellation is farmed by one group of cooperative wine growers and several individual growers. The vineyard benefits from its own “appellation controlee”. The Cave at which our Muscat is made is a long standing member of the Val d’Orbieu and has been involved in innovative and modern winemaking under the direction of Marc Dubernet for over 25 years.

#### HARVEST & AGEING

Muscat de St. Jean de Minervois is harvested when the grapes are super-ripe and then fermented in stainless steel tanks. The production of the wine is based on the ancient methods of fortification or “mutage”: simply the late harvested grapes are allowed to begin fermentation and then, suddenly, are frustrated in their wish to “go all the way” by the sweetness and sugar of the just fermenting grapes with the strength and “backbone” of the alcohol. The result is a delicious and delicate wine.

#### WINEMAKER'S NOTES

Muscat de St. Jean Minervois is one of the great sweet fortified wines of France. The wine is a rich golden yellow with an immediate and powerful nose, distinguished by a complex aroma suggesting apricots, quince, mandarin orange, honey and Muscat. On the palate, the wine is simply luscious.

Grape Varietal: 100% Muscat Blanc à Petit Grains

