

DOMAINE DU DRAGON Côtes de Provence Rosé 'Grande Cuvée' 2019

High up in the hills of southern France, above the Côte d'Azur and the crowds at Cannes, you'll find the cool, terraced vineyards of Domaine du Dragon. While much of Provence is a patchwork of different terroirs, this corner near the town of Draguignan is unique in that it is almost exclusively limestone, more commonly found in places like Burgundy. Cooling winds whip through the forested valleys to moderate the southern sun, so grapes are not only perfectly ripe but also balanced. This symbiosis of soil and sun results in richly flavored, elegant wines.

WINERY: Domaine du Dragon **WINEMAKER:** Aurelien Fournier

ESTABLISHED: 1990s

REGION: FRANCE • Provence • Draguignan **APPELLATION:** Côtes de Provence AOC

BLEND: 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Grenache, 20% Mourvédre, 19%

Syrah and 13% Cinsault.

VINEYARDS: Much of the estate's vineyard terraces were replanted in the 1990s to improve clonal selection, vine density and the mix of grape varieties. Soils are rich in gravel and limestone—part of the Triassac plateau of the Haut Pays—unusually mineral terroir for the region.

AGE OF VINES: 20 years, on average

WINEMAKING: Hand-harvested. Fruit is pressed directly (rosé de pressurage) and fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. Malolactic fermentation is allowed. Aged in tank.

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Delicate pink color. Strawberries and light pepper. Textured and fruity, with flavors of red plums, lemon zest, raspberries.

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Sweet/spicy Asian cuisines; barbecue

