

# SYROCCO

## ZENATA, MOROCCO



Alain Graillot founded his Rhone domaine in 1985. Today his wines from Crozes-Hermitage and St. Joseph are among the most sought after in the world. In 2003, Alain stumbled upon some beautifully exposed vineyards at Domaine des Ouleb Thaleh winery while bicycling in the Zenata region of Morocco. Alain Graillot met the team of Thalvin at the domaine and decided to collaborate with the winery.

Domaine des Ouled Thaleb is the oldest operating winery in Morocco. It is located 20 miles northeast of Casablanca on the Northern coast. In 1923, the first vintages were planted and the winery was built. The Thalvin Winery was created in 1968 and now produces wine from some 400 hectares of vines.

Alain is in charge of making the wine, which he has crafted into a fruit-forward but definitively Old-World style (i.e. modestly extracted, balanced, aromatic). This new project called "Syrocco" well-utilizes Graillot's vast knowledge of Syrah and creates a world class wine from an unlikely place.

Syrocco is 100% Syrah grown primarily around the winery. The wine is crafted from young vines, using traditional farming methods to maintain the integrity of the variety. All vineyards are ploughed and weeded by hand, and no herbicide or fungicide treatments are used. The grapes are 100% de-stemmed and fermented in closed concrete vats. Daily pump-overs were done, and maceration was completed in 10 days. The wine was aged for half the time in tanks, and finished in 225L barrels from François Freres in Burgundy; half of the barrels were new, the other half were a year old. Total élevage lasted 15 months, and the wine was lightly filtered prior to bottling.

MOROCCO is located northwest corner of Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The capital is Rabat and has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and warm winters.

Morocco has a quality system, appellation d'origine garantie, that is based on the French system. Wine grapes are grown in seven regions of Morocco and within these seven regions there are fourteen Appellation d'Origine Garantie (A.O.G's) and one Appellation d'Origine Controlee (A.O.C.) quality wine.

Zenata is a coastal appellation located between Casablanca and Rabat.



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