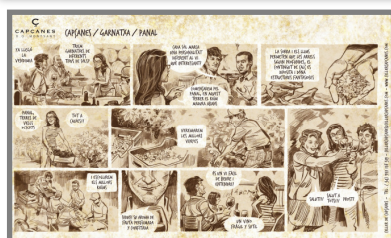
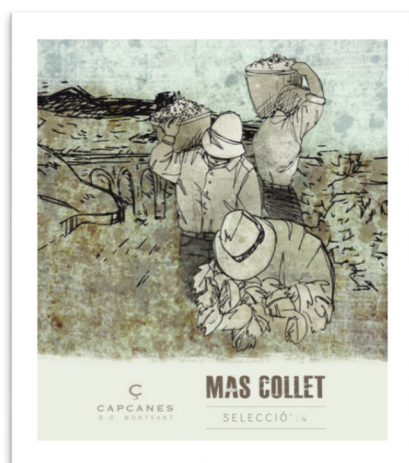


CELLER DE CAPÇANES

MONTSANT, SPAIN



Capçanes, under the guidance of a young dynamic German oenologist/manager, has developed from an old-fashioned agricultural cooperative into a leading player in the Spanish wine revolution. They make a wide range of wines of remarkable quality and often exceptional value.

Like in Priorat the dominant grape variety is the Grenache with small amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo, Syrah and Carignan. For the most part the vines are old and the yields very small. The 100% Grenache flagship cuvée, Cabrida, is particularly noteworthy, as is the rare and unique Flor de Primavera, which has taken Kosher wine to an altogether new quality level.

This cooperative bodega was founded in 1933 but it was only in the 1990's that a decision to commit to quality was taken. Under the guidance of two gifted wine-makers, Angel Teixido and Antoni Alcover (the owner of the Fra Fulco estate in Priorat), only a small proportion of the production at Capçanes is selected for the exciting range of delicious red wines. These are bottled at the bodega. Big investments have been made in modern wine making equipment as well as the purchase of more than 300 new French oak casks from the best coopers.

Capçanes is located on the edge of the Priorat appellation the climate is similar; the soil is somewhat different, but still excellent for wine production. The vineyards boast a vast majority of old vines, mainly Grenache and Carignan. Over the past few years enormous care and attention has gone into looking after the old vines and pruning them correctly. The result is a quality revolution in the area. The potential is only just beginning to be realised but there is no doubt that the Falset subzone of the Tarragona appellation will soon rank with far more prestigious areas elsewhere in Spain. The wines are truly interesting and exciting. With a combination of old vines, low yields, an excellent climate and terroir, Capçanes is already making delicious, juicy, complex red wines which, as Parker says, can compete favorably with a good Châteauneuf-du-Pape but still at very reasonable prices.

The vineyards lie in one of the subzones of the Tarragona appellation, La Comarca de Falset, which borders the Priorat area to the north. The altitude varies from 300 to 700 metres above sea level. The cellars are located in the small village of Capçanes near Falset. Here the climate is mediterranean with some continental influence. Dry, hot summers and cool winters. Capçanes is only about 15 Kilometres from the Mediterranean. Mountainous country, dark soils with a limestone base on a granite and slate subsoil. There are also outcrops of hard schist, similar to that found in Priorat.

Average age of the vines is generally 15 to 40 years. The Garnacha and Cariñena in 'Flor de Primavera' come from 50-70 year old vines, and the 'Cabrida' Garnacha is over 80 years old.

A total crop of 1 500 000 kg of grapes is harvested annually but only about one third is vinified, aged and bottled at Capçanes, the remainder being sold to other wineries. Yields are low with an average between 25 and 35 hl/ha.



"The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us."

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