

# CLOS MOGADOR

## PRIORAT



René Barbier is a strong advocate of the belief that great winemaking starts in the vineyard. His vines are made to suffer in the extremely poor slaty soil and rough climate. There is no irrigation, so the roots are left to search for water, only found at a depth of 25 metres. No chemicals are used, wild herbs and plants grow between the vines. The result is a remarkably small yield of only 6 Hectolitres per hectare permitting an enormous concentration of flavours.

Clos Mogador is named after a novel written by René's great aunt called "Les Gens de Mogador" describing her family's life at the foot of Mont Ventoux. The story was subsequently televised and became famous in France. René's first vintage was 1989 - a wine that still shows considerable ageing potential. Since then, Clos Mogador has established its position as one of the most exciting and prestigious red wines from Spain, and in recognition René has recently been awarded the Order of Agricultural merit by the Spanish government.

If Angelo Gaja is the uncrowned Prince of Piedmont, Rene Barbier of Clos Mogador certainly deserves to be crowned as the Prince of Priorat as he has been able to bring the obscure region in the forefront of Spanish wines with a soul. Rene is the man responsible for the renaissance of Priorat, a native of Tarragona, who motivated and catalysed Alvaro Palacios and three other quality European wine makers to come to Priorat and produce wine in the late 80s, bringing a colossal change in the quality and style of wines which until then were known to be of poor quality and barely drinkable.

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The remote, rocky hills of the Priorat wine region are the birthplace of intense, minerally reds that many wine writers and collectors consider to be Spain's most elite wines. The distinctive slate-and-quartzite soil (llicorella) and an abundance of sunshine have earned the region a reputation as one of Spain's most innovative.

This rural region in southern Catalunya, is just two hours from cosmopolitan Barcelona. Vineyards are planted on steep terraces similar to those in the Douro valley. The land is demanding, but ideal for indigenous grapes like Garnacha, Cariñena as well as international varieties Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Vineyards are planted at altitudes from 100m to 700m above sea level.

Priorat's best wines are concentrated and full of character thanks to the very low yields produced by the region's harsh conditions. The intense manual labor required to make wine here means that Priorat wines are some of the most expensive in Spain. They are also among the best, expressive, fresh and less oaky than many traditional Spanish reds.



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

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