

CELLER DEL ROURE

VALENCIA 'SAFRÀ'

ORIGIN

Spain, Valencia, Moixent

WINE TYPE & VARIETIES

Still red, Mandó and Arcos

SOIL

Clay and sandy loam

AGE OF VINES

30-70 years old

VITICULTURE

Certified organic

VINIFICATION

Hand harvested, partially destemmed, natural yeast fermentation in tank, gentle maceration, followed by six months in 28HL subterranean amphorae

Celler del Roure lies in the hills south west of Valencia, in the village of Moixent. The production goes under DO Valencia but in fact they are located in the sub-region of Clariano. It all began in 1995 when Pablo “Paco” Calatayud, a local, started the project with his father after finishing his agronomy studies. Without any previous involvement in wine they set off to produce honest wines, and they were well received. Then, as was the norm for the time, they started out with the local grape variety Monastrell blended with Tempranillo and international varieties.

As the years went past and they gathered experience they felt that they were on the wrong path. It became Pablo’s mission and passion to find and revive indigenous grapes. One day he came across a local winegrower that was tending vines of Mandó for his own everyday wine. Pablo realized its uniqueness and that it held a sense of place to the region. At once Celler del Roure began to cut of Tempranillo and Merlot vines and graft Mandó on them. Mandó can best be explained by pointing out its similarities with Gamay grown in Beaujolais; vibrant fruit, wonderfully fresh with slightly more body and texture. Reds are the focus, but later the white variety Verdil has emerged as a great white variety to produce fresh terroir-driven whites in this hot climate. Today Celler del Roure has 50 hectares of organic certified (CAECV) vines.

The pursuit of terroir did not stop at the discovery of local grape varieties. In 2006 the family bought an ancient historic farm with ancient underground cellars. In these cellars almost 100 17th century clay amphorae embedded in the ground, used for winemaking all those hundreds of years ago. Many were broken but a surprisingly large number were in perfect condition. These are uncoated on the inside and the only matter separating the wine and the clay is a layer of crystalized tartaric acid. Celler del Roure explains that the amphorae transmit terroir and age their wines with similar effect as oak without imparting any flavor and are thus preferred. What was also found is stone lagars, open shallow stone fermenters, that are also incorporated in the winemaking.

Spanish for saffron, Safrà is a wine that shows the growing confidence of Pablo Calatayud in the ancient stone lagars and subterranean clay amphorae present at Celler del Roure. Safrà is a blend of Mandó, an indigenous grape of this part of Valencia, with a small amount of another indigenous variety, Arcos.



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