



## **Domaine Salel et Renaud**

Region: Rhône

Village: Ardèche Cévennes

Appellation: 13 hectares

Growers: Elise Renaud et Benoit Salel

Website: <https://www.domainesalelrenaud.com/>

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In 1599, Oliver de Serre listed the main grape varieties of the Kingdom, including Chatus and Picardan....

Since 2007 Elise Renaud and Benoit Salel have been doing patient work as ampelographic archivists to find and replant old varieties which were once grown in the Ardèche Cévennes.

Like many of the more rural areas of France, the indigenous and ancient grape varieties of the southern Ardèche fell into oblivion. Along with the more familiar varieties that are found in appellations throughout the Rhône region, Elise and Benoit have patiently cultivated varieties such as Chatus, Dureza, Raisaine, and Picardan.

For them, these indigenous grape varieties are the soul and identity of the Cévennes Ardéchoises.

As Elise and Benoit have said, "There is nothing to invent, the future is simply what has been forgotten."

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## Testaire, Coteaux de l'Ardèche – IGP Ardèche

Made from 100% Raisaine. This grape variety originates from the Joyeuse - Largentière sector of the Cévennes Ardéchoise, and to their knowledge, Elise and Benoit are the only ones making wine from this grape. Before 2017, a local cooperative planted an experimental plot of Raisaine to assess its potential but quickly abandoned the work. Elise and Benoit took over the cultivation of the vines in 2017, and on December 8, 2018 Raisaine was officially listed in the catalog of cultivable grape varieties in France. " We are a little 'stubborn' ("testaire") and when we believe in something, we go through with it, even if we are alone." The harvest is manual with sorting done in the vineyard. The vinification is in vats, followed by aging on the lees. The results are a thirst-quenching white wine with fresh notes and invigorating aromatic palate.



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## Syramuse, Coteaux de l'Ardèche – IGP Ardèche

Made from 100% Chatus, young vines. Chatus is a grape variety originating from the Cévennes Ardéchoises. Before phylloxera, Chatus was cultivated in Ardèche but also in Drôme and Isère. In the Drôme, it was called "Corbel" or "Syramuse" and it was grown on the slopes of Hermitage. Since then, it has completely disappeared from Hermitage. Genetically, Chatus is part of the Serine family which includes Syrah, Viognier, Roussanne, Dureza, Mondeuse, Marsanne et al. The harvest is manual with sorting done in the vineyard. The vinification and maceration last for 15 days with daily pumping over. This cuvée expresses the fruity and gourmet qualities of Chatus.



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## Eterna, Vin de France

100% Dureza. A variety originating from the North of Ardèche, which was also grown in Southern Ardèche before phylloxera. This red grape variety is one of the two parents of Syrah (along with Mondeuse Blanche.) There is 1ha of Dureza cultivated in France. Recently, a growing number of wine producers in the Rhône Valley have taken an interest in this grape variety. The harvest is manual with sorting done in the vineyard. The vinification and maceration last for 20 days with daily pumping over. The wine is matured in vats. Eterna means Eternal in Occitan. Elise and Benoit are drawing attention to the fact that vines are timeless and eternal for those who know how to preserve them. "It is a tribute to our elders, our parents, our children and generations to come. A heritage to safeguard and preserve. We believe that the future is simply what has been forgotten..." Eterna is a powerful red wine on the nose, delicate and elegant on the palate.

