

FAMILLE

BIELER

ÉLEVÉ EN BOTAS DE SHERRY SOUS FLOR

AIX EN PROVENCE

INSPIRATION

An utterly unique expression of rosé that we've been working towards for 30 years, though never realizing that this was the destination. There is no shortage of Provence rosé made in the traditional ephemeral style that delicately balances light red fruit, stone fruit with summer flowers, herbes de Provence and fresh acidity. Indeed we make cuvée Sabine in the hills above Aix en Provence that we think epitomizes the high form of what that can be. But I wanted more, especially from a texture point of view. In addition to that texture I wanted more complexity and depth but without sacrificing freshness and drinkability.

This led me to experimentation of aging the rosé under flor yeast, or as some say, sous voile. The slightly oxidative profile was fascinating and I wanted yet more. This led me to the Mecca of flor aging, Jerez, Spain. There I was able to arrange for just-emptied and uncleaned 500 litre fino sherry barrels from Manzanilla to be shipped directly to Aix. I immediately refilled these barrels with my 2025 Coteaux d'Aix en Provence rosé and voilà – just like that, the flor immediately built back. The way that this aging under flor in those 45-year-old barrels evolved the flavors, aromas and textures was thrilling.

THE WINE

The grapes are harvested at night from among the highest elevation vineyards in Provence off the ridge of the Mont Ste Victoire. The fermentation is done traditionally, at cool temperatures using native yeasts. Soon after fermentation was complete the rosé was transferred to these 45-year-old Manzanilla sherry barrels. The flor quickly developed on the surface of the wine, building a protective layer, and it sat there for 5 months before it was bottled with just light filtration and the most minimal amount of sulphur to ensure bottle consistency.

CÉPAGES: 51% GRENACHE · 32% SYRAH · 12% CINSULT · 5% CABERNET · 13% ALC. BY VOL.

Any questions? Just send an email and I'll get right back to ya. cb@bielerfamily.net

