

OVERVIEW

Gigondas has become known over time as the poor-man's Châteauneuf, though favoring robust, powerful flavors over notions of elegance. At times this has meant that a Gigondas could be looked upon as something of a brute. Enter now Bertrand Stehelin. In a short time he has risen to the upper ranks of a new generation set to take Gigondas wines to new heights. While firmly rooted in the tradition of powerful, mouth-coating flavor impact, Bertrand is seeking to provide a savoir faire usually found in only the best from Châteauneuf du Pape.

Varieties: Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre.

Total Acreage: 14



INTRO TO WINE REGION

The small French town known as Gigondas dates back to Roman time when the village was known as Jocunditas. In Latin Jocunditas means great pleasure, it being a recreational site for soldiers of the northern cohort of the 2nd Legion. The party town of Jocunditas has now become the relatively sleepy town of today's Gigondas, located 35 km southeast of the Rhône River. Clearly the party now is in the bottle! With the creation of the INAO in 1935 which instituted appellation status for French vineyard areas, Gigondas was grouped in the lower tier of named villages of the Southern Rhône along with neighbors Vacqueyras, Rasteau, Cairanne and Seguret, so it bore the label, Cotes du Rhône Villages-Gigondas. While Gigondas had long been regarded as fine vineyard land, the town was primarily known for its fruit production, especially olives. In 1956, an exceptionally harsh winter led to the destruction of all but a handful of the groves and orchards surrounding the town. From then on Gigondas' residents were forced to rely on viticulture for their livelihoods. This concentrated effort resulted in a tremendous elevation in quality in the wines produced there. The end result was that in 1971 Gigondas was elevated and became only the third AOC of the Southern Rhône, joining Châteauneuf du Pape and Tavel, those having status dating to the beginnings of INAO regulations in 1936.

Bertrand Stehelin Gigondas

70% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 5% Mourvedre. Aged in cement tank.

ACCOLADES

"One of the village's up-and-coming young turks, Bertrand Stehelin has fashioned a superb example of Gigondas." **Robert Parker**



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