



# Mas Combarèla - Press Review **2021**

**La Revue du Vin de France** (450 high-flying wines to see life differently - Nov. 2021)

- **Lueurs d'Espar 2018** 93/100 (=16,5/20)

*“After 15 years in marketing, Olivier Faucon converted to winemaking. In 2013 he began a viticulture-oenology course in Burgundy, but he finally fell in love with the Terrasses du Larzac where he settled and delivered a successful first 2016 vintage. In 2018, he produced a cuvée of only 600 bottles of Mourvèdre (Espar is its old local name) marked by limestone which welcomes the last rays of the sun, hence its name Lueurs d'Espar (lueurs=glimmers in French). **This wine seduces us** with its beautiful floral concentration, black fruits galore and a stability that will carry it for **at least a decade without batting an eyelid.**”*



**Decanter** (Premium Languedoc-Roussillon white wines : 30 to try - Elizabeth Gabay MW— Nov. 2021)

- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc 2020** 92/100 (=16/20)

*“Soft golden tones with warm, oaky aromas create a perfect autumnal wine. Ripe sun-kissed pears and crisp, nutty apples, a hint of quince cheese and rich peach compote give a lovely intense weight of ripe fruit, **full of charm and balanced by long, mouthwatering acidity.**”*  
*Drinking Window 2021 - 2031”*



**Le Journal du Dimanche** (Wines special - Nov. 2021)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants 2019**

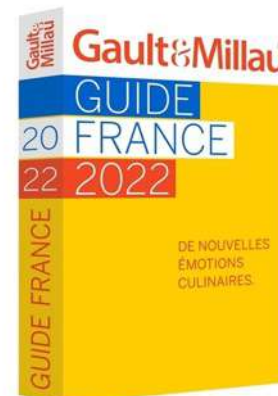
*“The name of this wine refers to the owners of the estate when they started in 2016. They are now a reference in the appellation. A Terrasses du Larzac with **fine tannins; gourmand and delicate**”*



**Gault & Millau 2022**

- **Ode Aux Ignorants 2018**

*“ ‘A cuvée that cannot be ignored’  
 Very successful cuvée from Olivier Faucon which offers a **powerful, distinguished and aromatic wine.** The nose is demonstrative: the fresh blackberry, the blackberry jam, the red pepper and the herbaceous side merge with delight. On the palate, the wine is **velvety, caressing and digestible at the same time.** The rare prime rib is waiting....”*



• Mas Combarèla

*“New approaches.*

*The AOP Terrasses du Larzac demonstrates its dynamism over and over again. At an event in Villeneuve, 31 winegrowers were given the chance to draw attention to themselves. The common denominator: they all only started making wine after the AOP was founded in 2014. The motivations and backgrounds couldn't be more different: from the younger generation, who continue the existing business or become self-employed with family-owned vineyards, to newcomers from Argentina, Germany, England, the Netherlands and Russia. After all, they make up 30% of the 102 estates in the appellation, which produce around 19,500 hectoliters of wine with 690 hectares of vines. 75% of them are organically certified or in the process of conversion.*

***Two winegrowers stood out at the presentation: Gonzalo Amigo, an Argentinian and ex-computer scientist with Domaine Terre de Feu, who is married to a woman from Hamburg, and Olivier Faucon, a former marketing expert, with Mas Combarèla.***”

**Neue Ansätze.** Die AOP Terrasses du

Larzac demonstriert immer wieder ihre Dynamik. Bei einem Event in Villeneuve gab man 31 Winzerinnen und Winzern die Chance, auf sich aufmerksam zu machen. Der gemeinsame Nenner: Alle begannen erst seit der Gründung der AOP 2014, Wein zu erzeugen. Die Motivationen und Backgrounds könnten nicht unterschiedlicher sein: Von der jungen Generation, die Bestehendes weiterführt oder sich mit Weingärten im Familienbesitz selbständig macht, bis hin zu Neuankömmlingen aus Argentinien, Deutschland, England, den Niederlanden und Russland. Immerhin stellen sie 30 Prozent der insgesamt 102 Betriebe der Appellation, die mit 690 Hektar Reben an die 19.500 Hektoliter Wein erzeugen. 75 Prozent der Betriebe sind biozertifiziert oder in Umstellung.

Bei der Präsentation hoben sich zwei Winzer ab: der mit einer Hamburgerin verheiratete Argentinier und Ex-Informatiker Gonzalo Amigo mit Domaine Terre de Feu sowie der frühere Marketing-Experte Olivier Faucon mit Mas Combarèla. Sehr überzeugend waren

**Guide Bettane + Desseauve 2022** (Oct. 2021)

• Mas Combarèla ★★★

*“Olivier Faucon never ceases to amaze us in three vintages. Magnificent reds, of rare intensity without any tannins sticking out, **saline finishes**. It is the **finesse of the grain** that impresses here and the aerial perception of the materials. We have been telling you since their first vintage, you have to quickly discover this 11 hectare estate because **getting up close to the greats in such a short time will not go unnoticed**. And the rosé is delicious, just as delicate as the reds.”*

• Ode Aux Ignorants 93/100 (=16,5/20)

*“The Ode Aux Ignorants refers to the owners of the estate who started with the 2016 vintage. Ignorant, they are no longer. Cuvée with very **fine tannins, as tasty as it is delicate**”*

• Lueurs d'Espar 95/100 (=17,5/20)

*“The dominance of Mourvèdre, an ancient name for which is ‘Espar’, gives a particular character to this cuvée. The **tannins are fine and the palate has additional complexity, persistence and length** compared to the otherwise excellent varietal cuvées.”*



**Terre de Vins** (Terrasses du Larzac gems - Oct. 2021)

• Ode Aux Ignorants

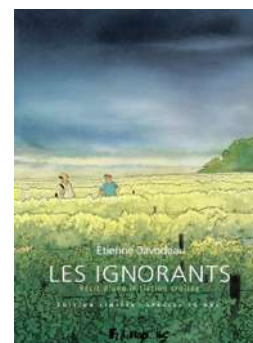
*“The comic strip ‘Les Ignorants’ (The Initiates) made him change his life, Olivier Faucon embarked on the adventure of wine after fifteen years of marketing. 2016 sees its installation and the construction of the cellar. Big year.*

*Among all the cuvées in this tasting (the last 30 domaines in Terrasses du Larzac), the two **Mas Combarèla's stood out as the richest, most ambitious and most complex**. High-altitude vines on dolomitic limestone, two-year aging in demi-muids of various ages and concrete eggs, the Syrah, Carignan and Grenache trio offers a dreamy texture, full, harmonious and tasty. **Great wines.**”*

*(suggestion: shoulder of lamb with rosemary)*

**Les Ignorants** (original French version of 'The Initiates' - Limited Edition. Special 10 years - oct. 2021)

"To date, we know of at least two or three readers who embarked on the career of winemaker after reading *The Ignorants*. One of them once sent us a case of his first cuvée which he called "Ode Aux Ignorants". And it was very good. For me, who imagined and produced this book, it is well worth the Medal of Arts and Literature!" - Etienne Davodeau (writer)



**World of Fine Wines** (UK - Andrew Jefford - Oct. 2021)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants 2018** 91/100 (=15,5/20)

"Dense, dark, saturated black-red, with purple glints. All very intense and brooding. Some oak shows on the nose, and there is also a weight of dense black fruit, too, in relatively inarticulate style. The oak's shoulder is what you see at this stage. Give it time, for there is obviously much to come here. A big, weighty, skulking prop forward of a wine, with **grandiose fruit and grandiose tannin, too**. Top marks for concentration, depth and quality, too, but it is potential quality at this stage; there needs to be a settling period. Is this a Mourvedre rich blend? Possibly; or just possibly exuberant extraction from very promising raw materials. I'd like to see the oak settle a bit more. Anyway it's one to stuff away, and it **may well merit a higher score in three or four years**"

**Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2022** (USA, UK...) (Sept. 2021)

**Terrasses du Larzac L'doc** ★ ★ ★ Great terroir. High AC on limestone with cold nights makes fresh, stylish reds. Attracts innovative growers who assemble small plots of vines; 50%+ organic/bio. Try: Cal Demoura, **Combarela**, Jonquières, LA PEIRA, Mas Conscience, MAS DE L'ECRITURE, MAS JULLIEN, Malavielle, Montcalmès, Pas de l'Escalette. Neighbouring AC L'DOC St-Saturnin: DOMS Archimbaud, Virgile Joly.



**Guide Hachette 2022** (Sept. 2021)

- **Des Si et Des Mi - Rouge 2019** ★ ★

"Behind a purple color rise from the glass precise and refined aromas of crushed black fruits, spices and garrigue. **Convivial roundness, fine tannins taken in the flesh, impeccable freshness**, free expression of an elegant and well-typed fruit which lingers very pleasantly in a relaxed finish: grace in this Languedoc vinified with tact and good taste."



**Tellement Soif - Wine Web TV** (Video Interview in French - May 2021)

**Video Interview @ WebTV TellementSoif.tv - Mas Combarèla**

<https://tellementsoif.tv/rencontres/mas-combarela-une-ode-aux-ignorants?>

**La Revue du Vin de France** (Rosés report - May 2021)

- **Des Si et des Mi** - Rosé 90/100 (=15/20)

*“Olivier Faucon is in his fifth vintage. Back from Asia, he embarked on a winemaker conversion, first in Burgundy then at Mas Cal Demoura, before creating Mas Combarèla. In his eyes, a good rosé can complement summer aperitifs, but also meals all year round, especially on exotic cuisine, a memory of his former life.*

*Its blended rosé 40% Grenache, 40% Cinsault and Mourvèdre, on clay-limestone soils, Languedoc Des Si et Des Mi 2020 takes its name from the local expression “faire des si et des mi”: this, some that... but we can also detect a delicate sonata, especially in the aromas which play the partition of citrus fruits, white fruits and rose. On the palate, it is an **elegant, tangy and elongated rosé, full of relief, with bite on the finish.**”*



**In Vino** (Radio interview in French- March 2021)

**Podcast interview radio "In Vino" - Mas Combarèla**

<https://podcast.ausha.co/in-vino/999e-emission-olivier-faucon-et-thomas-laydis>



• Mas Combarèla

*“Near the gorges of the Herault, on the mountains of the listed village of Saint Guilhem-le-desert, the winemaker Olivier Faucon for the Mas Combarèla with the cuvée « Des Si et Mi - white » 2018 in white grenache, perfectly adjusts the fruit and flower on the nose as in the mouth with tension.*

*The series of reds « Des Si des Mi » blend of Languedoc 2019, « Les Vieux Mazets » in Carignan, « Le Clos Secret » in Cinsault, all 2 in IGP St-Guilhem-Le-Désert and « Ode to the Ignorant » in Terraces du Larzac are full of gustatory fervor fusing with subtle spices, fresh fruit, where the elegance of the winemaker’s know-how with his terroir is no doubt.”*



## MILLÉSIME BIO 2021

### la beauté du vin au naturel

Pour sa 28<sup>ème</sup> édition, sur trois journées consécutives, le salon international des vins et spiritueux bio fut un moment des plus novateur et efficace. En effet, en raison du contexte sanitaire que nous connaissons bien, le défi était de taille ! Et il a été relevé avec brio par la mise en place d'une plateforme 100 % digitale aux dates initialement prévues du salon.

Grâce à cette adaptation, l'ensemble des professionnels de la filière (sommeliers, acheteurs, négociants et autres professionnels) ont pu s'inscrire sur la plateforme une quinzaine de jours à l'avance, auprès de plus de 350 exposants et avoir accès à tous leurs supports (fiches techniques, photos et vidéos). Le jour de l'ouverture, en surfant sur le salon virtuel, nous avons accès à plus de 1 000 stands (de nombreux exposants n'avaient pas rempli leurs fiches au préalable).

#### Millésime Bio 2021: the beauty of natural wine

|| For its 28<sup>th</sup> edition, over three consecutive days, the international exhibition of organic wines and spirits was a most innovative and efficient moment. Indeed, due to the health context that we are familiar with, the challenge was considerable! And it was brilliantly taken up by the implementation of a 100% digital platform on the dates initially scheduled for the fair.

Thanks to this adjustment, all the professionals in the sector (sommeliers, buyers, traders and other professionals) were able to register on the platform a fortnight in advance, with more than 350 exhibitors and have access to all their supports (technical sheets, photos and videos). On the opening day, while surfing the virtual fair, we had access to more than 1,000 stands (many exhibitors had not completed their forms beforehand).



## Terre de Vins (210 Languedoc Organic Wines - January 2021)

- **Des Si et des Mi - Rouge** 15/20 (=90/100)  
*“A new comer in the Terrasses du Larzac who knows how to get noticed. Here is a Languedoc that comes with its sunny nose, a caressing mouth with melted tannins, a finish on freshness. Olivier Faucon signs a **direct and endearing wine**. Suggestion: Roast duck breast stuffed with foie gras .”*



## La Revue du Vin de France (Our coup de cœur in Languedoc Roussillon to discover at Millésime Bio - January 2021)

- **Des Si et des Mi - Rouge** 92/100 (=16/20)  
*“The hint of blond tobacco dominating the first nose is puzzling, it takes air for the wine to settle on its tonic fruit. The volume is dense, the wine very tight on a deep and sensitive heart. The wine is refined until it becomes of a **melting subtlety** in which the liquorice shines through.”*

## Le Point (January 2021) - “Cap au sud avec Millésime Bio”

Cap au sud avec Millésime bio - Le Point

<https://www.lepoint.fr/vin/cap-au-sud-avec-millesime-bio-30-01-...>

aujourd'hui en culture biologique, par 75 % des producteurs. Un tel dynamisme attire de nouveaux vigneron, une trentaine depuis 2014.

### Mue biologique

Ils pratiquent un retour aux sols vivants, élèvent cinsault et carignan si décriés autrefois, sur de vieilles vignes, n'hésitant pas à les proposer en monocépages (Ze Cinsault au Pas de l'Escalette, Piccolo au Clos rouge, **Les Vieux Mazets au mas Combarèla**). Outre les cépages du Languedoc, ils explorent de leur œil neuf leur terroir, distinguant dans leurs cuvées sols (Alerte rouge au Clos rouge, Les Clapas au Pas de l'Escalette), lieux-dits (domaine du Clos du Serres) et micro-environnement. **La clairière d'Olivier Faucon, au mas Combarèla délivre une cuvée exceptionnelle, Le clos secret**. Les vigneron pratiquent la sélection massale (greffage des meilleurs ceps, au lieu de cloner, pour replanter), la culture biologique, biodynamique, proposant parfois une cuvée sans sulfites ajoutés (Plan B du Clos du Serres). Les dynamiques personnelles s'inscrivent dans la démarche collective du syndicat, que mène aujourd'hui Sébastien Fillon. Il souhaite explorer encore toutes les potentialités des terroirs. Terret-bourret, carignan blanc et gris donnent matière à l'idée déjà en germe, d'une AOC en blanc.

**Le Dauphiné** (AOC terrasses du larzac, generosity of Languedoc, freshness of Larzac - Jan. 2021)

"...you will taste a cuvée where the majority Syrah frames a **complex and juicy wine** like this "Ode to the ignorant" offered by Olivier Faucon at Mas Combarèla ."

**Midi Libre** (Janvier 2021) - "They left everything for a piece of vines"

### Midi Libre

► À Saint-Jean-de-Fos, Olivier passe du faire savoir au savoir-faire



Olivier Faucon. / P. E.

La Sofres, JCDecaux, un groupe chinois d'électroménager : sa carrière était toute tracée. Pourtant, après 15 ans dans le marketing et la communication, Olivier Faucon a tout plaqué. Pas pour fuir mais pour avancer, explorer. "J'ai bien aimé ce que j'ai fait mais j'ai eu envie d'aventure. Au lieu de porter le produit des autres, j'ai voulu porter le mien."

Alors, ce petit-fils d'agriculteur s'est lancé le défi de la terre. Il a franchi les étapes une à une. "Je suis retourné à l'école car à la base, je suis plutôt intellectuel, pas manuel." Prise de décision en 2012, BTS à la "Viti" de Beaune en 2013, apprentissage à Pommard puis avec Vincent Goumard, au mas Cal Demoura, puis c'est le coup de cœur pour ces onze hectares de vignes entre Saint-Jean-de-Fos et Montpeyroux, où il découvre "un esprit Nouveau monde dans l'Ancien monde". Il s'y installe en 2016. Puis construit tout en 2018.

Ainsi naît le mas Combarèla, si bien entouré avec ses prestigieux voisins des terrasses-du-larzac, les Chabanon, Aupilhac, mas Conscience, Jullien et de l'Écriture. L'exigence de la qualité et le travail en bio sont prioritaires. Le décollage est immédiat et spectaculaire. Les 6 vins (4 rouges dont 2 monocépages carignan et cinsault, 1 blanc, 1 rosé) ont tous droit aux bonnes notes du guide Hachette, de Bettane + Desseauve ou de la Revue du vin de France.

Pendant ce temps, Laure, sa compagne, a gardé son métier dans le... marketing à Paris et suit, à la fois de loin et de près, le décollage de son néo-vigneron. "Nous sommes un couple moderne. C'est elle qui fait bouillir la marmite et qui rassure le banquier", sourit Olivier, 47 ans, qui saura mieux que quiconque faire savoir que son Ode aux ignorants est déjà empreinte de savoir-faire.

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