



Mas Combarèla - Press Review **2020**

Bettane + Desseauve Guide 2021 (December 2020)

• **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. **A third star in three vintages is not frequent but justified here.**”*



• **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc** 15.5/20

*“An atypical blend for the estate of all the white grape varieties planted: Grenache Blanc, Chenin, Carignan Blanc and Vermentino. Creamy and very fruity, **we like the dynamic length** with the touch of freshness brought by the Carignan Blanc.”*

• **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge** 15.5/20

*“Tasted before bottling, this 2019 looks very promising. We are **charmed by the tactile finesse of the wine** enhanced by notes of old rose, licorice and candied orange which complement the classic scents of the garrigue.”*

• **Le Clos Secret** 16.5/20

*“The sample tasted is an ode to Cinsault, a grape variety unfairly forgotten. With its aromas of old rose, garrigue and liquorice and its finest tannin, it is a **bottle of unparalleled drinkability.**”*

• **Les Vieux Mazets** 17/20

*“It is difficult to recognize the Carignan here as it expresses itself with volubility. Delicate, subtle, deliciously aromatic and fresh, this is **one of the most airy Carignan that we have had to taste for a long time.** Do not assume that it lacks personality, on the contrary.”*

• **Ode Aux Ignorants** 16.5/20

*“The literal meaning of ‘Ode Aux Ignorants’ makes perfect sense when we remember that these winegrowers started with the 2016 vintage. They did not take long to learn the tricks of the trade, as testifies this **cuvée with very fine tannins, as tasty as it is delicate.**”*

• **Lueurs d’Espar** 17.5/20

*“The dominant character of Mourvèdre, of which an old name is Espar, gives this wine a particular elegance. The tannins are fine and the palate has an **additional complexity, persistence and length** compared to the varietal cuvées, which are otherwise excellent.”*

Jancis Robinson (Tamlyn Currin, UK) (December 2020)



- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc - Caprice** 16++/20
“A little bit of oak on the nose at this early stage and hasn’t quite settled down into its own shape. Strong Grenache Blanc white-pear-and-lemon-zested-pastry presence, the Carignan Blanc tipping the wine into herbal bitterness. This needs at least a year, if not more. **Huge potential**, just too young to be opened right now (2022-2026).”
- **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge** 16.5/20
“Catherine-wheel explosion of fruit - this seems to be their purest-fruited ‘Des Si et Des Mi’ so far. Outrageously ripe black cherries and blackberries and plums (without a trace of jammy sweetness). **Just pure, pure fruit.**
A tiny bit of wild - as if there were a little rebel streak, a cherry that had gone and rolled in woody humus and truffles, then come home, shaken itself out, but still had a tell-tale twig and leaf struck in his hair.
Absolutely perfect balance of tannins (chamois leather), fruit, garrigue-and-rock dust, cistus-leaf-fragrant freshness and length. **A wine you want to spend all your evenings with** (2020-2024).”
- **Le Clos Secret** 17.5/20
“What is it about the fruit in these 2019 Mas Combarèlas ?! It is **absolutely extraordinary.** I have never tasted such **beautiful, jewel-bright, ruby cut** luminosity from this estate. I want to climb into the glass and absorb it through my skin.
The **tannins and the fruit are in such perfect harmony** that I can’t find where one ends and the other begins. They melt into each other. The fruit is like a flute solo in a misty wood, when you thought you were alone. It raises the hair on your arms.
And this, this **captures the fey spirit of Cinsault so perfectly** : rose-petals dipped in pomegranate molasses, baharat spices, dried citrus peel, yuzu syrup through espresso, freshly picked cremini mushrooms and cranberries and marigold petals and dried dill. Layers and layers, shifting and sifting and gauzy yet certain. Certainly the best Combarèla Cinsault yet, and **up with the best varietal Cinsaults in the Languedoc today** (2021-2025).”
- **Les Vieux Mazets** 16/20
“Sugar roasted plums, dried thyme, black olives pounded with stone and mace and cloves and sage. A cragged mouthful of **wise old tannins** that one moment feel rough, the next comforting. Tamarind-like acidity and spice and earth, with its orange-citrus freshness spiraling through the wine. There’s a gnarly grumble deep in the belly of **this wine that demands a good stew.** (2022-2025)”
- **Ode Aux Ignorants** 16.5/20
“Chocolatey, dense, coated in thick powder-and-syrup tannins with a lick of old tree bark and coarse-ground spices. The fruit is not quite as magical as the 2019s but the spice on this is formidable. **It takes the rich, dark, umami-laden fruit and soars with it** (2021-2028).”
- **Lueurs d’Espar** 17/20
“An **intensely savoury, concentration wine** with the complexity of artisan dark chocolate, roasted-bone-marrow stock, wild dry herbs and prunes. There’s a dark-stone spine through the vertical, dark iron ribs through the horizontal, and yet the tannins, imbued with a sense of impenetrability, are neither rigid nor dry. **Dramatic, nostrils flared, rippling with muscled life and power** (2022-2030).”

La Terre à boire - Wine Podcast #71 (December 2020)

• Podcast Mas Combarèla

“Olivier Faucon, a former Parisian executive, who has been making wine in Terrasses du Larzac since 2016, has succeeded in his bet: his wines are excellent and have met with great success. He tells us how his installation went while tasting his L'Ode aux Ignorants cuvée, a tribute to Etienne Davodeau's famous comic strip, which made him want to take the plunge”
40' interview: <https://podcast.ausha.co/la-terre-a-boire/tab-71-72-master-02>



Thierry Boyer (December 2020)

• Ode Aux Ignorants

“(…) dark, deep, generous color with a beautiful relief, beautiful tears streaming down the glass. The nose is rather menthol with notes of thyme and garrigue. The palate is full-bodied, generous, powerful. As for the tannins, nothing sticks out! We are on a wine with the elegance that we expect. I recommend a duck tournedos, or even a fairly robust cheese platter ” — VIDEO (in French) : [YouTube link](#)



La Revue du Vin de France (300 wines for food pairing - November 2020)

• Le Clos Secret

“This cinsault is soaked in red fruit juice. It exhibits a delicate spicy substance on a palate that tastes like a stick of liquorice. The contrast is happy between spices and cocoa. Small, agile and sappy tannins. Pairing idea: on Greek mushrooms. ”



Hervé Lalau & Marc Vanhellemont (France, Belgium) (Les 5 du Vin, November 2020)

• Ode Aux Ignorants

“If Languedoc had any Grand Crus, they would probably taste like this. And if this wine were music, it would be a symphony. Such a body and such an overall harmony! Once the notes of blackberry, coffee and cedar on the nose have passed, we enter a realm of comfort, a layer with a firm but deep base, silky tannins, with, on the finish, a little touch of menthol which refreshes all. Le coup de coeur. Our favorite.”

Guide Hachette 2021 (October 2020)

• Des Si et Des Mi - Rouge ★

“... The nose gradually releasing sweet aromas of ripe fruit and spices. Caressing touch, melting tannins, smoothness of the fruit, lively and tense finish: it is a very beautiful evocation of Languedoc signed by one of the rising winemaker of the region. ”



- **Ode Aux Ignorants** ★

“A tribute to the comic strip (‘The Initiates’, in French ‘Les Ignorants’) which inspired the vocation of Olivier Faucon, the cuvée underwent a long (24 months) and complex aging, in concrete egg and demi-muid. If the nose opens up timidly, with notes of red fruit, thyme and smoky wood, the palate impresses with its power, volume and frank sweetness that easily integrates the tannins taken in the flesh. A sensual and exuberant wine that will delight thrill seekers.”

Hugh Johnson’s Pocket Wine Book 2021 (USA, UK...) (October 2020)

- **Mas Combarèla**

“Languedoc Rising Star”

Languedoc rising stars

Keen drinkers now scan L’DOC with rising expectations. We haven’t seen the half yet. NB: all founded since 2008, and looking gd: **Cabardès** Guilhem Barré; **Corbières** L’Espérou, Olivier Mavit; **Faugères** Grain Sauvage, Mas Lou, Les Serrals; **Fitou** Sarrat d’en Sol; **La Clape** La Combe de St Paul; **Limoux** Cathare, Monsieur S; **St-Chinian** La Lauzeta, Les Païssels, Lanye Barrac; **Pézenas** La Grange des Bouys, Ste Cécile du Parc; **Terrasses du Larzac** Clos Maïa, Les Chemins de Carabote, Mas **Combarèla**; **Pic St Loup** CH Fontanès, Mas Gourdou, Mas Peyrolle.

Decanter (Georgina Hindle, UK) (October 2020)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants** 90/100

“Fresh, ripe black berries and mocha touches on the nose. Tobacco, cedar and cherries join on the palate giving a nicely rounded spicy flavor and finish. Nicely gripping tannins add to the texture but slightly overpower the fresh fruit at this point. Needs a few more years ageing.”

David Cobbold (France, UK) (Les 5 du Vin, October 2020)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants** 16/20

“If the woodiness marks the nose a little, it is all about finesse and this gives a suave aspect to the aromas with touches of sweet spices that accompany the fruit. The very beautiful substance on the palate, intense and rich in flavours, is also well balanced by relatively powerful tannins. A nice impression of intensity emanates from this excellent wine, clearly made for ageing.”

VertdeVin Magazine (September 2020)

VertdeVin
MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR WINE & SPIRITS LOVERS

- **Des Si et Des Mi - Rouge** 91-92/100

*“The nose is elegant, racy and offers a fine intensity as well as a small concentration. It reveals notes of crushed cherry, pulpy raspberry, small notes of violet associated with small touches of pulpy/crushed cassis as well as fine hints of liquorice stick, fresh tobacco, fine hints of local copse, hazelnut, a hint of cardamom and a very discreet hint of vanilla. The palate is fruity, well-balanced, mineral and offers an acidulous frame, juiciness, a small tension, suavity, finesse as well as gourmandize and a melodious side. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/fleshy cherry, blackberry, small notes of juicy cassis associated with small touches of violet, blueberry as well as fine hints of cherry blossom, local copse, tobacco, discreet hints of caramelization, toasted and hazelnut. **Good length. Tannins are precise, well-built and finely chewy.”***

• **Ode Aux Ignorants** 92-93/100

*"The nose is racy, finely tight and offers a fine grain. This wine should be decanted. It reveals notes of pulpy cassis, cassis bud, small notes of raspberry leaf associated with touches of cherry, small wild fruits as well as fine hints of liquorice, olive tree, chocolate, very discreet hints of pepper and an imperceptible earthy hint. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers an acidulous frame, minerality, juiciness, gourmandize, a beautiful finely unctuous matter, precision, a good structure, a fine acidulous frame, a beautiful finesse of the grain, a small almost aerial side and richness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of creamy cassis, crushed blackberry, small notes of violet associated with touches of cherry, cherry seed, blueberry as well as fine hints of liquorice, tobacco, camphor, very discreet hints of local copse, an imperceptible hint of pepper (in the background) and earth/mushroom. Good length. Tannins are precise and slightly firm. **A dense, deep wine offering richness full of finesse/control.**"*

Jancis Robinson (Tamlyn Currin, UK) (August 2020)

• **Des Si et Des Mi Rosé** 15.5/20

"Very light green peaches on the nose. Dry, fresh, lean. Grapefruit and fresh bay leaf. Some of those grapefruit oils and pith lending a textured bitterness to the framework. Almost negroni-like – aperitivo wine?"

• **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc** 16+/20

"Linden blossom with snatches of honey on fresh bread in these aromatics. Intensely herbal on the palate. Dry, and like chewing on a mouthful of dried thyme and bay leaf and rosemary with a touch of lemon oil. Fierce and you can taste those vineyard pebbles and the wind howling through them."

• **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge** 16/20

"Smells like home-made black-cherry pie. Plenty of vigorous, muscly tannins wrapped around an abundance of dark fruit. Chewy herbal element streaked with liquorice."

• **Le Clos Secret** 16/20

"Dark-chocolate-covered cherries. Plush, rugged and concentrated with a clenched sinew of bitterness through the end. Cool acidity and dried herbs define the finish. Very dry tannins – make sure you have a plate of food beside your wine glass."

• **Les Vieux Mazets** 16.5/20

"Gutsy, Sunday-roast kind of wine. Roasted beef and dark spices and growling tannins. Roast mushrooms. Really dark and savoury, connected to the earth and tannic."

• **Ode Aux Ignorants** 17/20

"Bovril (beef extract) and damson jam on the nose. Massive concentration. Powerfully ripe dark fruit, reverberating with a strong heartbeat. It almost has the pulse of African drums on a warm night. The tannins are thick, but not clumsy, and taste as if they've been dipped in ground spices. A beautiful, wild stallion of a wine."





Mas Combarèla - Press Review **2019**

Terre de vins (230 wines for your festive tables - November 2019)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants**

"(...) a deep wine with deliciously melted tannins where the aromas of tapenade are adorned with scents of garrigue. Olivier Faucon once again signs a work of art. "

Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book 2020 (USA, UK...) (October 2019)

- **Mas Combarèla**

"Languedoc Rising Star"

Guide Bettane + Desseauve 2020 (September 2019)

- **Mas Combarèla** ★★

"Olivier Faucon signs an astonishing second vintage. Magnificent reds, of rare concentration without any tannins sticking out, saline finishes. It is the fineness of the grain that impresses here. Getting up close to the big guys in such a short time does not go unnoticed. Discover this domaine quickly."



- **Des Si et Des Mi Rosé** 14.5/20

"Partridge eye color. Rosé much more intense than the color would suggest. Complex, refined mouth. It showed a lovely fruitiness and a little tension on the finish. At ease on Mediterranean cuisine."

- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc** 16/20

"The freshness of the minty finish is delicious, invigorating."

- **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge** 17/20

"Tasted before bottling, this delicate 2018 is very promising. The style has evolved into more elegance. We are charmed by the note of candied orange which superimposes the classic scents of the garrigue. "

- **Le Clos Secret** 17/20
"This rare Cinsault at this level of quality shows that it is possible to bring this grape variety to the level of the very great wines of France. A mix of aromas of great purity, red and black fruits, thyme, rosemary, lavender, in a ripe, dense and airy mouth."
- **Les Vieux Mazets** 15.5/20
"We love the nose, really special, fresh and minty, offering magnificent fruit, nuances of truffle and pine needle Mouth expressing the same aromas, leaning on frank and tight tannins, endowed with a beautiful length and great freshness with a touch of bitterness. A real personality."
- **Ode Aux Ignorants** 16.5/20
"The density is surprising in this sample taken before bottling. The slightly gripping tannins should smoothen over the remaining months of aging. Our rating may still evolve."

Guide Hachette des Vins 2020 (September 2019)

- **Les Vieux Mazets ★**

"A first shy nose which gains in intensity with aeration on savory notes of fresh fruit. A smooth attack is followed by a dashing mid-palate, marked by full-bodied and crunchy tannins. The palate unfolds until the finish with much more expansive flavors than on the nose, warmly fruity (red fruits) and spicy."

- **Ode Aux Ignorants ★★**

"A complex aging combining barrels, demi-muids and concrete egg gave birth to this languid red almost gets our "coup de coeur". Harmonious and complex, the nose combines ripe fruit, toasted notes of oak and refreshing hints of eucalyptus. The beautiful maturity of the fruit reflects in an ample mouth, with melted tannins, which dispenses warm flavors of candied fruit and brandy. The aging has skated the texture, soft and fine, of this powerful but civilized red. After tasting it one remembers the harmony and the plenitude."



Rosemary George MW (UK) (July 2019)

- **Des Si et Des Mi - Rosé ★★★★★**

Light orange pink colour. Light fresh fruit on both nose and palate. Rounded and supple with fresh acidity and a creamy finish. Quite elegant. From one of the newer estates, and rising stars of the Terrasses du Larzac.

(Source : Taste Languedoc Blog - ★★★★★ = I will drink this with enormous pleasure - a coup de coeur).

Elizabeth Gabay MW (UK) (June 2019)

- **Des Si et Des Mi - Rosé : selected among her favourite wines**

Des Si et Des Mi – Rosé 2018

Mas Combarèla AOP Languedoc 45 % Grenache, 45% Cinsault, 10% Mourvèdre slowly fermented with ambient yeast was a delicious combination of creamy peach ripe fruit with hints of yeasty notes and fresh saline acidity.

(Source : <https://elizabethgabay.com>).

• **Le Clos Secret**

Blind tasted by the 77 teams participating in the France Tasting Championship, published in the Revue du Vin de France Magazine

“(...)

The pure Cinsault of Mas Combarèla, everybody agreed it was excellent, but nobody identified the grape variety. The winners thought it was a Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The former champions located it in the Terrasses du Larzac

(...)”

Championnat de France Tous prêts pour la finale

Étape rhodanienne pour une dernière phase qualificative sportive.



72 équipes se sont affrontées pour les dernières places qualificatives de la finale du 22 juin.

Yves Cuilleron accueillait à Chavanay la quatrième et dernière étape qualificative du championnat de France de dégustation. Une épreuve qui a réuni 72 équipes, lesquelles se sont disputées les six dernières places qualificatives pour la grande finale nationale du 22 juin qui se tiendra au Vieux Château Gaubert, dans l'appellation bordelaises des Graves.

Pour cette dernière étape, plusieurs vins ont fait la différence tel le muscat sec de la maison Albéra qui a perturbé Didier Sanchez et Walter Labouyrie, le plaçant en Sancerre, alors que Jacky Camus et Christian Colin ont, eux, ont bien reconnu le cépage. Autre piège, le superbe cabernet franc de chez Gayda, que toutes les équipes ont placé dans

la Loire. Quant au pur cinsault du Mas Combarèla, si tout le monde s'est accordé à le trouver excellent, personne n'a pensé à ce cépage. Ronny Zuffrano et Julien Medrinal, les vainqueurs, l'ont placé en Châteauneuf-du-Pape, les champions de France sortants, Boyet et Olive, en Terrasses du Larzac. Enfin

le duo belge champion du monde, Philippe Haid et Henri Rossignol, confirme qu'il va falloir compter avec la Belgique en finale. **Philippe de Cantencac**

Les vins dégustés :

champagne D 2008, Devaux • chablis 1^{er} cru Fourchaume 2016, Simonnet-Febvre • muscadet sévère-et-maine Mouzillon-Tillières 2010, Michel Luneau • riesling Grand cru Pfingsberg 2015, Valentin Zusslin • pouilly-fuissé Les Sentinelles 2016, Vignerons des Terres Secrètes • IGP Côtes catalanes muscat sec d'altitude 2015, maison Albéra • vin de pays d'Oc Figure Libre 2017, Gayda • menetou-salon 2018, Antoine Van Remoortere • IGP saint-guilhem-du-désert Le Clos Secret 2017, Mas Combarèla • corbières Primo Vino 2016, château Peyriac de Mer • saint-émilion Grand cru 2015, château Capet-Guillier • madiran Charles de Batz 2014, domaine Berthoumieue.

Le classement : 1^{ers} : Julien Medrinal/Ronny Zuffrano • 2^e : Philippe Haid/Henri Rossignol • 3^e : Jérémie Routhiau/Vincent Codbessin • 4^e : Christian Colin/Jacky Camus et Emmanuel Olive/Christophe Boyet.

20 - LA RVF N° 633 - JUILLET / AOÛT 2019

Special Vintage 2018, selection of the best primeurs 2018, all blind tasted :

• **Mas Combarèla**

“The new comers.

Three estates that go up in the Terrasses du Larzac: (...)

If there is one appellation that is exploding at the moment, it is the Terrasses du Larzac: the estates creations are multiplying and the wines are of a good standard! (...) Olivier Faucon created Mas Combarèla in 2016, and its potential is confirmed in 2018 (...).

• **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge 2018** 14,5-15/20

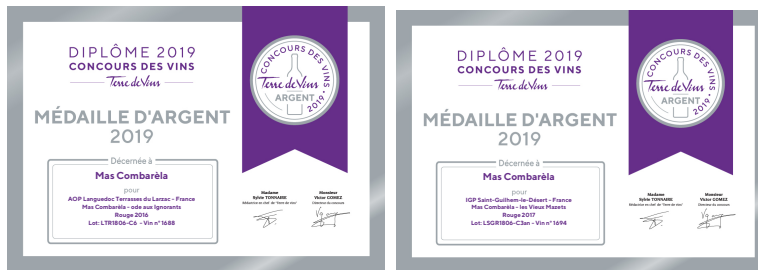
“Already very open and attractive, we find cherry and raspberry, with a spicy character. Slender palate, tannins present but without grip. In organic conversion. ”

• **Ode Aux Ignorants 2018** 14-15/20

“Intense and deep, without too much power, it is already charming. In organic conversion. ”

Terre de Vins (May 2019 - "Terre de Vins" Wine competition)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants** Médaille d'Argent
- **Les Vieux Mazets** Médaille d'Argent



Revue du Vin de France (April 2019)

- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc** 14/20

Selected among the Top100 Languedoc Author White Wines :

"This Grenache Blanc on clay-limestone soil offers a long and balanced mouth"

V&TA Magazine - Belgium (Vins & Terroirs Authentiques N°90 - Spring 2019)

- **Des Si et Des Mi Blanc** 15/20

"Surprising color of great intensity, from old gold to ochre. The bouquet gradually opens on flattering notes of fruit pastry (pear tart), vanilla and lime blossom. Very engaging! Opulence, richness and vinosity meet in this wine with strong personality, which offers generous flavors of dried fruits (almond, hazelnut), embellished with very pleasant bitters. The slightly aniseed finish has a good amplitude and an appreciable persistence. A wine built for gastronomic food pairings".

- **Des Si et Des Mi Rouge** 15.5/20

"Pretty deep garnet ruby color with purplish nuances. The red and black jammy berries combine in a beautiful harmony with spicy scents of scrubland. The tasters appreciate the fine structure and the tight grain of this gourmet and tasty wine, to which a generous fruitiness and the graceful profile of the tannins confer the right balance. Precise and juicy finish, still able to soften its contours, for a wine very well built".

- **Ode Aux Ignorants** 15.5/20

"Superb deep garnet ruby color with almost purple hue. First floral nose (violet) and fruity (blackberry, blueberry), then the whole expands its olfactive register with mineral notes (earth, ink, peat, truffle) and spices. A bouquet that invites you to taste. The mouth-filling, full-bodied and fleshy, shows the ambition and structure of a wine carried by a refreshing acid spine and dominated in the middle of the mouth by its spicy flavors (thyme, bay leaf, garrigue). Long virile and structured finish, testifying for a beautiful evolution".

Wine Enthusiast - USA (March 2019)

- **Ode Aux Ignorants** 89/100

At first sniff, this is a pleasantly funky wine that displays aromas of damp forest floor, garden fertilizer and crushed rocks over tones of pomegranate and wild strawberry. The palate is intense in both structure and flavor. There is bracing refreshment and the fruit is vividly pure. Offering excellent drinkability, the lightly chewy tannins help extend the fruit flavors on the finish.