

MAS DE GOURGONNIER Les Baux de Provence 'Clés du Paradis'

When people talk seriously about "natural" wines, Mas de Gourgonnier's organic wines are at the top of the list. Since the eighteenth century, the Cartier family has worked the land in Provence, providing the local abbey with freshly grown fruits, vegetables and grain. They also were one of the first certified organic estates in Provence in the early 1970s. Here you'll find a direct, unadulterated connection between the land and each bottle—flowering rosemary, wild sage and juniper plus the mountain freshness of regional "mistral" are all echoed in the estate's wines. This

is a vine-growing family that doesn't have to "sell" a natural philosophy, however; it's simply who they are, and who they've always been.

ORGANIC WINERY

WINERY: Mas de Gourgonnier

WINEMAKERS: Luc Cartier and daughter, Eve Cartier

ESTABLISHED: 1950

REGION: FRANCE • Provence • Mouriès **APPELLATION:** Les Baux de Provence AOC

BLEND: Grenache, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARDS: Vineyards are surrounded by pine trees and the natural scrub (garrigue) of the south. Soils are a mix of decomposed granite and limestone, very rocky and dry. The estate makes its own compost (from cow/sheep manure) and plows between vineyard rows; beneficial herbs are planted to control pests and moderate vine growth. 'Clés du Paradis' is a selection of the ripest and finest grapes of the vintage.

AGE OF VINES: 20 to 30 years

WINEMAKING: Hand-harvested. Partially destemmed; fermented on indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled tanks. Aged in 600L demi-muid for 12 months. Unfined and unfiltered.

TASTING IMPRESSIONS: Aromas of cooked plums and fresh black currants, cherry. Velvety tannins, mouth-filling, long

PAIRING SUGGESTIONS: Provencal beef stew with root vegetables; lentils with wild herbs; grilled meat

NOTES: 'Clés du Paradis,' in French, means keys to Paradise

