

Domaine Neferis | "Magnifique Blanc"

AOC Sidi Salem 1st Cru



Varietal: Chardonnay, Muscat of Alexandria

Region: Sidi Salem Tunisia

Winemaker: Samia Ben Ali

Vines Age: Around 20+ years

Farming: Sustainable

Soil: Limestone & Clay

The Story: Tunisia's history of making wine reaches back more than 2000 years so it is not surprising that there are several high-quality wineries operating there today. Domaine Neferis is a small estate winery in the AOC of Sid Salem. The property is about 30km inland from the Mediterranean Sea, which helps them in the pursuit of low-intervention winemaking. They use no herbicides or pesticides. They focus on Carignan, Syrah, Grenache, Chardonnay, and Muscat and produce some really lovely wines. The winery is also home to Tunisia's only female winemaker.

Vineyard: Located at the maritime border in a mountainous amphitheater in Cap Bon in the AOC of , the vineyards are partially terraced between 300 and 450masl and benefit from sea breezes. Vineyards are cultivated in the traditional Tunisian way. The limestone-clay soils add minerality to the flavors of the wine.

Vinification: Grapes were separately hand-harvested, gently-pressed and cold-fermented to retain freshness.

Ageing: Remains in tank until bottled as needed to retain freshness.

Everything else you want to know about this wine: White wine only accounts for 5% of Tunisia's production making Magnifique Blanc even more special. Most of the wineries in Tunisia are owned by the Central Union of the Wine Cooperatives and Domaine Neferis is one of the few privately owned wineries. They work to respect their tradition while using modern methods such as temperature controlled fermentations and solar panels. Cap Bon is the peninsula protruding into the Mediteranean where most of Tunisia's wineries, including Domaine Neferis, are located in Grombolia. It was started in 2000 and "Neferis" is the ancient name of the valley where Rome won Carthage 2,500 years ago.