

Union Sacré | Merlot “La Passion de Legionnaire”

Santa Ynez Valley AVA



Varietal: 100% Merlot

Region: Central Coast, CA

Winemaker: Xavier Arnaudin

Vines Age: 18 years avg.

Production: 165 cases

Farming: Minimal Intervention

Soil: Sandy Loam & Marine
Sediment

The Story: Xavier Arnaudin is a name you will know, and I have to thank Andrew Jones from Field Recordings for introducing me. I told Andrew I wanted to find someone special in California. Someone who was making amazing wines that no one knew about and that I would love, and also a person that would be great to work with. He knew exactly the person I was looking for. As a young man Xavier trained to be a boxer in France and then began to train to work the vineyards and harvest in 1997 with Alain Voge. During this time, he also worked as a sommelier and earned his WSET Diploma. Once he had several harvests and his diploma under his belt, he completed his enology studies and moved to the US. Xavier brings an old- world approach to his vineyard management, cellar, and winemaking. He also brings a willingness to be different and the confidence to let his fruit and his wines speak for themselves. He is making very small amounts of very striking wines. Xavier was making wines, mostly, from Rhone/Burgundy grapes, both here and in France. Tiny Production!!

Vineyard: The single site of Starlane Vineyard located within the Happy Canyon AVA of Santa Barbara Country which is a warmer site with a broad range in elevation from 750-1,550 ft. asl with many micro-climates. The Merlot blocks are towards the lower end of the hillside within the valley in which the vineyard sits.

Vinification: 100% destemmed and cold soaked for 4 days with twice daily pumpovers. Fermented with indigenous yeast in tank until pressed at 4 brix into 7 new Cadus and Sylvan barrels until fermentation completed.

Ageing: 5 months in barrel with daily battonage.

Everything else you want to know about this wine: “While the mantle of history rests on the shoulders of generals and kings, it is lifted by the efforts of the anonymous faithful. Le Passion de Legionnaire places Merlot, the most significant confidant to Cabernet Sauvignon in center stage.”

Le Storie
Wines