

Thursday 26 October Invitation to Trade & Press

2023 Sud de France Top 100 Wines of Occitanie - with additional tasting of other choice wines from the winning producers.

10.30 to 5pm at The View at The Royal College of Surgeons of England,
38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE (Holborn tube).

Registration is open now. www.suddefrancetop100.co.uk/discoveryshow



The 2023 Top 100 from Sud de France

Discovering best wines from Languedoc, Roussillon & South-West

The 11th edition 2023 *Sud de France Top 100* trade tasting will be presented on Thursday 26 October in London and showcases the quality of current winemaking in Occitanie. The *Top 100* has grown into an unmissable standalone event in recent years, having evolved from a stand within the London Wine Fair. The line-up reveals winners from across this vast and diverse region, and the clear increase in the number of producers entering this year reflects positive confidence within the region. Notably too, there is a rise in wines of £20 and over: 37% compared to 23% in 2022. A surge in winning wines from co-operatives highlights the steady rise in quality in that sector: 22% in 2023 compared to 15% in 2022. Trade judges at the blind tasting this past July included senior buyers from Co-op, Jeroboams, Majestic Wine, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Waitrose, and specialist retailers Ellis, Jeroboams, Tanners and Wine Society. New for this year, they recognised many strong contenders for the top trophies and added a second tier of 'wines of distinction'. The 26 October tasting will present a line-up of the wines and will be complemented by visiting producers hosting tables with their extra choices to reflect the breadth of their production.

Registration to attend www.suddefrancetop100.co.uk/discoveryshow

Note to editors: No embargo

Trophies within the Top 100

UK distribution / stockists

Guide RRP 75cl

Top 100 Sparkling: Sieur d'Arques Blason Rouge, AOP Crémant de Limoux NV

Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Mauzac

Les Producteurs et Vignerons de France £16-£19.99

Top 100 Best Red: Mas Conscience La Conscience, AOP Terrasses du Larzac 2020

Syrah, Grenache noir, Cinsault, Mourvèdre

Seeking distribution

Over £25

Top 100 Best White: Flores – Les Vignerons de Florensac, Picpoul Selection, AOP Picpoul de Pinet 2020

Piquepoul Blanc

Seeking distribution

£16-£19.99

Notably this is from the new Picpoul category Patience. Aged on the lees but with no oak

Top 100 Best Rosé: Fontareche Piquepoul Noir Rosé, IGP Aude 2022

Piquepoul noir

Seeking distribution

£13-£15.99

Top 100 Best Fortified: Domaine Haut-Marin – Domaine de Menard, Grand Pavois, IGP Côtes de Gascogne 2021

Petit Manseng, Gros Manseng

Seeking distribution

£10-£12.99

Full results will be revealed in October on www.suddefrancetop100.co.uk

Twitter & Instagram @Suddefranceuk #LeTop100

Judging

Chairman of the judges Tim Atkin MW led 18 top writers and principal trade buyers in blind tasting through 413 entries from 131 producers [on 7 July, London]. The judging panel changes each year to include senior buyers from high street retailers, wholesalers and on-trade, alongside MWs and top writers who track the latest wine trends in Occitanie. Above all, their expertise enables them to assess the Occitanie wines in context of world wines. Judging criteria focuses on wines which express individual terroir and offer memorable drinking enjoyment.

The principal aim of the *Top 100*

The initiative assists the UK trade to discover, learn, and source wines from producers of all styles and scales. Occitanie wines continue to soar in UK popularity. The character of the wines are informed by distinctive and diverse terroirs. Consistent good value has won loyalty from the trade through to consumers. The increasing number of prestige wines, as well as organic and sustainable production, shows producers embracing experimentation and new challenges ever more confidently. The Languedoc and the Roussillon vineyards, part of the Rhône Valley and the South-West comprise the largest production region in the world. The *Top 100* supports both established and new producers, and it attracts the UK trade with some 67 percent of new wines awaiting discovery and seeking UK distribution.

Isabelle Kanaan, Executive Director for the Bureau de la Région Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée in London, adds, “The annual *Sud de France Top 100* tasting has become an unmissable event. It is the result of a meticulous judging process involving top buyers and writers. Their expert insights into Occitanie winemaking within an international context, as well as knowledge and hands-on experience in working with the UK trade, make the *Top 100* very valid and current. We are delighted to welcome an increased number of producers entering and who value the introduction to the UK market which this initiative achieves. It aims to be comprehensive, and virtually all AOPs and IGP are represented. Anyone who works in the wine trade – from buyers to sommeliers - can therefore rely on the fact that the *Top 100* is all about identifying quality right across the region.”

For press information, photography, interviews, and selected samples for editorial review from July (if you are unable to join our 21 June Top 100 tasting) please contact:

Su-Lin Ong, PR UK +44 (0)20 8747 4843

UK +44 (0)7973 519176

sulinong@slo-london.co.uk



2023 Sud de France Top 100

Judging the best wines from Languedoc-Roussillon / South-West

2023 brings the 11th edition of the *Sud de France Top 100* competition. It assesses and names the new 100 best wines from Occitanie and assists to introduce them to the UK market. It covers Languedoc, Roussillon & South-West of France across to the Rhône Valley and is the largest wine region in the world.

For over a decade now, the *Top 100* has been known as an authoritative platform of progress and trends. It gives an informed current overview of Occitanie – as judged by a panel of UK buyers and writers. The initiative by AD'OCC [L'Agence de Développement de la Région Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée] and the Conseil Interprofessionnel des Vins du Languedoc (CIVL) revitalises awareness, education, appreciation, and enhances distribution support as an essential connection between producers and the UK trade. The campaign also features consumer promotions and sampling to keep pace with availability. How they express individual terroir, reliable quality and value are considered across the full spectrum of price points.

There are top trophies for Best Sparkling, Red, White, Rosé, dessert wine, and also new this year - wines of distinction. There is no ranking from 100 to 1. Only producers may register to enter wines and they receive feedback from the judging event, which puts them in the limelight and encourages them to enter new wines which are yet to be tasted and distributed in the UK.

After the tasting on 7 July 2023 and awards selection, the campaign continues to assist the trade distribution and retail availability of the *Top 100* wines in the UK. It supports the wine trade in choosing from the 116 appellations and terroirs with their palette of 81 international and indigenous grape varieties.

The full Top 100 will be online from date xx October 2023 www.suddefrancetop100.co.uk

The Top 100 tasting event takes place on 26 October in London.

2023

- 413 wines from 131 producers were blind tasted by six panels of judges. The shortlisted wines were then tasted again by a different panel. (An increase compared to 403 wines from 97 producers in 2022).
- 61 producers are represented in this year's *Top 100*.

Winners in the 2023 Top 100

73% red, 23% white (including 1% sparkling), 4% rosé. The region's production is 60% red.

34 different AOP & IGP (23 AOPs, 11 IGPs)

32 different grape varieties

76% blends, 24% single varietal

98% still, 1% sparkling, 1% dessert

33% have organic or sustainable certification

Most represented: AOP Languedoc, AOP Côtes du Roussillon, AOP Faugères, AOP Saint-Chinian, IGP Pays d'Oc, AOP Terrasses du Larzac, AOP Corbières.

Average retail price is £19-20.

Under £12.99: 21%

£13-£19.99: 42%

£20 and over: 37%

67% are new to the UK and do not yet have UK distribution via a wholesaler or retailer.

62% of the winning producers are Independent producers or private cellars (the rest: cooperatives 22% (notably up from 15% in 2022) and negociants 16%.

50% are totally unoaked while 68% are unoaked or slightly oaked.

Top 3 winning producers: Paul Mas (6 wines in the Top 100). Château Estanilles, Laurent Miquel, Mas Bécha (each has 4 in the Top 100)

The 2023 judges

Chairman: Tim Atkin MW

Writers, presenters & authors:

Andrew Catchpole, Harper's
David Williams
Douglas Blyde
Helen McGinn
Natalie Earl, Decanter
Rosemary George MW
Tamlyn Currin

Wine trade buyers:

Ben Cahill, Co-op
Charlotte Lemoine, Tesco
Joseph Arthur, Marks & Spencer
Maggie McPherson, Jeroboams Marcel
Orford-Williams, Wine Society
Matthew Fowkes, Majestic Wine
Matthieu Longuère MS, Le Cordon
Bleu
Megan Clarke, Ellis of Richmond

Poppy de Courcy Wheeler,
Waitrose
Steve Crosland, Tanners Wines
Victoria Sharples

Occitanie is the world's largest wine producing region, with 270,000 hectares of vineyards. It covers 79 AOP and 37 IGP over Languedoc, Rhône, Roussillon and Sud Ouest, of which 46,100 hectares are cultured organically. This represents some 38% of the total organic cultivation of France.

Map of regions <https://www.suddefrancetop100.co.uk/map-of-our-regions/>

81 grape varieties

Alicante Bouschet, Bourboulenc, Cabernet franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignan blanc, Carignan noir, Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Cinsault, Clairette, Colombard, Côt/Malbec, Grenache blanc, Grenache gris, Grenache noir, Lladoner pelut, Maccabeu, Malvoisie, Marsanne, Marselan, Mauzac, Merlot, Morrastel, Mourvèdre, Muscat à petits grains, Petit Manseng, Petit Verdot, Pinot Noir, Piquepoul blanc, Rolle, Roussanne, Sauvignon blanc, Syrah, Terret blanc, Viognier....

Bureau de la Région Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée

T. +44 (0)20 3398 9597

Isabelle Kanaan, Executive Director

isabelle.kanaan@occitanie-london.com

Sébastien du Boullay, UK Promotions Manager – Food & Wine

sebastien.duboullay@occitanie-london.com

Website: www.suddefrancetop100.co.uk

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Twitter & Instagram: @Suddefranceuk #LeTop100

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