

Renegade Wines

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Focus on Bandol

Bandol may be the greatest appellation in Provence and from the map above it sure is tiny compared to Provence in general.

The Bandol AOC appellation was awarded in 1941 and became synonymous with the Mourvèdre variety, which is the main and key component (min. 50 %) of local red wines but no serious producer has ever kept to the strict minimum, and nowadays most use between 70% and 90%.

And don't forget about Bandol Roses! They are serious contenders every vintage, with many becoming better, more complex, inviting, after a year or two of cellar time.

We've spotlighted two Roses and two Reds for this newsletter.

Enjoy!

2021 Moulin de la Roque Bandol Les Hauts du Vallon Rosé \$24

We begin with a fresh, lively Rose that's a great introduction to the Roses of Bandol. This one is more of a light to medium bodied gem with seductive notes of red berries, tangerine peel, watermelon, citrus notes, glowing minerality all wrapped in a nice frame of acidity.



2021 Château de Pibarnon Bandol Rosé \$46

There are two wineries in Bandol that we consider the echelon of quality. Pibarnon is one of these.

This Rose is a blend of 65% Mourvèdre + 35% Cinsault from the appellations' highest vineyards. There's a lot going on here, which was brought to our attention after an hour in the decanter (decanting Rose? Crazy, right?). Red berry, floral, and herbal notes, blood orange, honeysuckle, cherry, whiffs of smoke, earth, and minerality. The Rose keeps opening up minute by minute; a fascinating wine to discover.



2019 Château de Pibarnon Bandol 'Les Restanques de Pibarnon' \$54

Our first of two reds. These are once again the highest elevation vineyards in Bandol, the blend being 70% Mourvèdre with 30% Grenache. Les Restanques, the local name for the hillside terraces

on which the vineyards are planted, is a selection of slightly younger vines that are 100% destemmed. A full-bodied red with red and black fruit, moderate tannins, beautiful pepper spice, and a nice, long finish.

Crack a bottle with lamb roasted with garlic and rosemary and you will be in heaven.



2019 Domaine Tempier Bandol \$72

We mentioned there are two producers in Bandol that are considered the greatest. Tempier is the second winery in that category.

An enticing blend of 75% Mourvèdre, 14% Grenache, 9%

Cinsault, and 2% Carignan. Dark, almost inky thanks to the Mourvèdre, with tremendous complexity. Graphite, earth, dark fruit, balanced acidity, then red berry fruit with Mediterranean herbs along with cocoa notes (one review included 'charred ox bone'. This we did not discover in our bottle). Give this a few hours to open up. It's a tremendous wine from a near-perfect vintage.

Also available from the Bandol region:

Two single vineyard expressions from Tempier:

2019 Domaine Tempier Bandol La Tourtine \$98

&

2019 Domaine Tempier Bandol La Migoua \$98

Call 805.568.1961 or email us to reserve your wines.

We appreciate your support!

Renegade Wines

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