

ROTEM AND MOUNIR SAOUMA

(Above) One of the eight vineyards across five villages of the appellation that Mounir has been able to acquire, allowing for 100% estate fruit.



Inopia Rouge 2019 Côtes-du-Rhône Villages, France

ESTATE

Burgundy meets the Rhône. An utter respect for tradition, and in some ways a total break. We've watched as Mounir and Rotem Saouma, of Burgundy producer Lucien Le Moine, slowly developed their estate and wines in the Rhône Valley, and the results today are too extraordinary and distinct to ignore.

WINE

The Saouma's purchased a desolate plot of land in Orange in 2011. A minimal intervention approach combined with the image of the original barren land inspired the name of the wine, INOPIA, which translates to "made from nothing" in Latin.

VINEYARD

Soils: Predominately poor clay soil (3 feet) with little river stones called "Grès" (24 feet deep) which provide both favorable humidity for the dry climate and plenty of mineral elements.

Farming: Seeing potential in the land, 11 grape varieties were planted in 2011 under high density (4,700 plants per hectare versus the normal 3,500) with the objective of quality low-yielding fruit. All vineyard work is done by hand.

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: Mostly Grenache Noir, along with a little Mourvèdre, Counoise, Syrah and Cinsault

Fermentation: Whole cluster maceration under cold temperatures for one week followed by fermentation without any pumping or punching down for 15 days. The wine, along with lees, is then pressed and transferred to French oak foudres (2,300 and 3,400 liters,) cement eggs (600 and 1,600 liters,) and 500 liter barrels.

Aging: 18 months without any racking. The wine is similarly bottled without any fining or filtration.

VINTAGE

2019 is another excellent vintage for the Rhône Valley, with exceptional potential quality in both the North and South. A dry spring was followed by a moderate summer featuring three distinct heat spikes; harvest occurred normally in mid-September. The grapes were ripe and concentrated with excellent natural acidity, and the wines are rich but balanced and expressive. Another superb vintage for the region.

92

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 

"You are greeted with aromas of black cherries, plums and black licorice. Medium-to full-bodied with silky tannins. Very clear red and black fruit with some earthy undertones. Layered, but approachable with lots of distinctive character which you do not typically find with a Cotes-du-Rhone village." - J.S., 9/2022

90

Wine Spectator

IMPORTED BY

VINTUS

WWW.VINTUS.COM