

FRANCE

Top picks from Languedoc-Roussillon

The winners of Sud de France's Top 40 Icon Wines competition have been announced

Set up to find the best the Languedoc-Roussillon has to offer, the Top 40 Icon Wines competition reveals the region can be a supplier of top-quality, value-for-money wines, compared with France's more notorious appellations.

A panel of expert judges blind tasted their way through 143 wines from the region, all of which are already distributed in the UK, at the Maison de la Région Languedoc-Roussillon in London.

The only information they were given was the grape variety or appellation of each flight. The panel then retasted all the wines

which got through to the final stage and voted on which should be awarded Icon status.

Judge Chris Hardy from Majestic said: "We were looking for refined aromatics in the whites and rosés, and concentration of fruit combined with structured elegance in the reds, yet still retaining the classic Languedoc garrigue characteristics."

He added: "It was nice to see wines made from local varieties, such as Grenache Gris, Macabeu and Clairette, producing wines to rival fine Burgundies. The results reveal the Languedoc is blessed with a huge diversity of quality

THE JUDGES

Charles Metcalfe – chairman of the panel and wine writer

Mark Andrew – senior buyer, Roberson Wines

Isa Bal – head sommelier, the Fat Duck

Peter McCombie MW – consultant and wine writer

Chris Hardy – senior buyer, Majestic

Isabelle Legeron MW – consultant and journalist

Eric Narrio – owner, Les Caves de Pyrene

Anthony Rose – journalist

Andrew Shaw – senior buyer, Waitrose

wines. Fifteen years ago, quality was hit and miss but nowadays it is rare to find a disappointing wine in the UK, particularly if you stick to domaine wines produced by quality-conscious producers."

■ **The Top 40 Icon wines will be available to taste at a trade tasting on September 20 at the Maison de la Région Languedoc-Roussillon, as part of the Sud de France Festival (September 17-30).**

TOP 40 SUD DE FRANCE ICON WINES



Trophies	Producer	Wine	Vintage	UK distributor	Rrp
Best Red	Château La Dournie	Château La Dournie	2007	Majestic	£7.99
	Domaine Les Yeuses	Les Epices	2008	Majestic	£8.99
	Skalli	F de Skalli	2006	Wine Story	£19.95
	Clos du Gravillas	L'Innattendu	2007	Les Caves de Pyrene	£21.99
	Domaine Les Eminades	Cebenna	2006	Aubert & Mascoli	£15.00
	Hugh, Kevin & Robert	Le Grand Noir	2008	Roberson Wine	£8.95
	Frederic Pourthallie	Domaine de Montcalmes	2007	Les Caves de Pyrene	£23.99
	Domaine Alain Chabanon	L'esprit de Font Caude	2004	Dynamic Vines	£25.10
	Domaine Peyre Rose	Clos Syrah Léone	2002	Terroir Languedoc	
	Domaine Peyre Rose	Clos des Cistes	2002	Terroir Languedoc	
	Domaine Paul Mas	Mas des Mas	2009	Majestic	£9.99
	Château du Vieux Parc	La Sélection	2007	Great Western Wine	£11.25
	Jean-Michel Alquier	Les Bastides d'Alquier	2005	Richards Walford	£17.49
	Léon Barral	Jadis	2007	Les Caves de Pyrene	£23.49
	Les Clos Perdus	L'Extreme	2006	Dynamic Vines	£27.50
	Château Cesseroas	Château Cesseroas	2007	Waitrose	£12.99
	Mas du Soleilla	Les Bartelles	2007	Great Western Wine	£19.50
	Mas Bruguière	L'Arbouse	2008	Yapp Brothers	8.95
	Vignobles Jonquères d'Oriola	Château de Corneilla	2008	Roberson Wine	£9.95
	Domaine Le Roc des Anges	Segna de Cor	2008	Les Caves de Pyrene	£14.49
Domaine Madeloc	Collioure Magenca	2005	H2Vin	£17.75	
PH Wine	Cuvée Balthazar	2007	Waitrose	£9.99	
Domaine de Clovallon	les Pomarèdes	2008	Terroir Languedoc		
Domaine Paul Mas	Paul Mas Estate Syrah Viognier Nicole Vineyard	2009	Majestic	£8.99	
Domaine Paul Mas	Paul Mas Estate	2009	Stratford's Wine Agencies	£8.99	
Domaine Matassa	Matassa Blanc	2007	Les Caves de Pyrene	£34.49	
Vinci	Coyade	2006	Aubert & Mascoli	£25.00	
Domaine les Aurelles	Aurel	2005	Terroir Languedoc		
L'Ermitage du Pic Saint Loup	Cuvée Sainte Agnès Blanc	2008	Aldeby Wines		
Famille Guibert	Mas de Daumas Gassac Blanc	2009	Les Caves de Pyrene	£28.99	
Clos du Gravillas	Le Rendez Vous du Soleil	2006	Les Caves de Pyrene	£16.49	
Domaine Astruc	DA Chardonnay	2009	Stratford's Wine Agencies	£10.49	
Domaine Guillaume Cabrol	Picpoul de Pinet Prestige	2009	Majestic	£7.99	
Domaine Ledogar		2009	Dynamic Vines	£17.20	
Léon Barral	Vin de Pays de l'Herault Blanc	2008	Les Caves de Pyrene	£20.49	
Domaine de Peyreficade	Cuvée Ludovic Gaujal	2009	Yapp Brothers	8.75	
Domaine Paul Mas	Pépinière Vineyard	2009	Majestic	£8.99	
Domaine de la Rectorie	Vin de Liqueur Cuvée Elisabeth	1999	Richards Walford	£39.49	
Vignerons de Maury	Maury Solera 1928 Cask no 886	NV	Richards Walford	£17.99	
James Kinglake	Domaine Begude (rosé)	2009	Majestic	£7.49	
Best White					
Runner-up White					
Best Sweet					