

Xavier Vignon's newest creations

The man who brought us the Arcane series of wines, Anonyme and top-flight non-or, rather, multi-vintage Châteauneufs and, for those with longer memories, 'Début' has come up with new ranges of wines to excite our palates.

Red wines

'Natura in Fine' is the name of Xavier's wines to which no sulphurs are added. Sulphurs may be useful for preventing oxidation but they can dull the flavour of wine quite substantially (as well as give some people a headache). We believe they are going to become more and more popular (Brusset's 'Sans Sulfites Ajoutés' is already testament to this) even if they are inevitably – necessarily – slightly pricier than their sulphured counterparts. These are wines that drink well on release but can age for a few years if stored carefully.

Ventoux 2023 'Natura in Fine' @ £15/bottle

Organically farmed grapes (Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault) are transformed into a wine bursting with black-fruits and decent structure for ageing up to five years.

Vacqueyras 2023 'Natura in Fine' @ £21/bottle

A little more Grenache and Syrah than the Ventoux but, again, from organically farmed grapes, the Vacqueyras has more substance and can age up to ten years.

Barbare 'XL' Premier 2012 @ £20/bottle

US critic Jeb Dunnuck was as impressed by this organic Turkish wine as we were ("While outside this report, I was able to taste the 2012 Barbare XL Premier with winemaker Xavier Vignon and it's a wine that's **well worth seeking out**. A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre from clay soils along the Mediterranean Sea in Turkey, it boasts a stunning bouquet of blackberries, leather, spice box, cedar, and flowers. Complex and medium-bodied, with an elegant, seamless texture and fine tannins, it's **a remarkable wine**" 94/100). That rather says it all.

White wines

Châteauneuf-du-Pape 'INTRA' @ £60/bottle

The wine aged inside the barrels inside the Vinarium make this oxygen-starved Clairette-based cuvée where freshness and acidity are the hallmarks (alongside the fruit of course). Some toasty oak is apparent, but the wine is really all about the fruit, texture, acidity and age-ability. Fantastic stuff (but very limited availability).

Côtes du Rhône 'EXTRA' @ £22/bottle

A slightly different blend but still based on Clairette, Extra is the wine that keeps Intra safe from oxygen. A little oak on the nose accompanies a pleasantly fruity, lively palate with good citrusy acidity.

Special offer: buy one bottle of Intra with two bottles of Extra for **£100 including delivery**.