

Bonny Doon

Savor the lively and exuberant Bonny Doon Le Cigare Volant, a wine bursting with juicy elderberry flavors and a touch of spice that will transport your senses to the heart of California's Central Coast.

BONNY DOON VINEYARD



Le Cigare Volant 2023

California, USA

Region and Vineyards

The Bonny Doon Vineyard is located in the heart of California's Central Coast, an area renowned for its diverse microclimates and soil compositions, which contribute significantly to the unique character of the wines produced here. **The vineyard benefits from the cooling influences of the Pacific Ocean**, which moderates temperatures and extends the growing season, allowing the grapes to develop a perfect balance of ripeness and acidity.

The vineyards are planted primarily on **sandy loam soils with good drainage**, which is essential for the health of the vines and the quality of the grapes. This region's diverse terroir, combined with meticulous vineyard management, results in grapes that are rich in flavor and complexity. Bonny Doon has long been a pioneer in sustainable and biodynamic farming practices, ensuring that the vines thrive in harmony with their natural environment.

Winemaking

Le Cigare Volant is a blend of traditional Rhone grape varieties, including **Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, and Cinsault**. Each variety is harvested and vinified separately to preserve its unique characteristics before being expertly blended. The winemaking process begins with a careful selection of the best grapes, followed by a **gentle pressing** to extract the juice while minimizing the extraction of harsh tannins.

The wine undergoes **fermentation in stainless steel tanks** to retain the purity of the fruit flavors. After fermentation, the wine is aged in a combination of neutral French oak barrels and stainless steel tanks for about **12 months**, allowing it to develop complexity and integrate the flavors harmoniously. The oak aging imparts subtle nuances of spice and vanilla, enhancing the wine's overall profile without overpowering the primary fruit characteristics.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 42% Grenache, 31% Cinsault, 24% Syrah, 2% Petite Syrah, 1% Counoise

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with a vibrant hue.
- **Aroma:** Aromatic notes of juicy elderberries, ripe cherries, and blackberries, complemented by hints of licorice, lavender, and a touch of earthiness.
- **Palate:** On the palate, it offers a lush and velvety texture with flavors of dark fruits, a touch of peppery spice, and well-integrated tannins. The finish is long and elegant, leaving a lingering impression of fruit and subtle oak nuances.

Did you know?

Bonny Doon's Le Cigare Volant is named after a French term for "flying cigar," a whimsical reference to a 1954 decree by the village of Châteauneuf-du-Pape that prohibited flying saucers (or flying cigars) from landing in their vineyards. This playful nod reflects the innovative and unconventional spirit of Bonny Doon Vineyard and its founder, Randall Grahm.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast Lamb with Herbes de Provence:** The wine's robust structure and complex flavors pair beautifully with the savory and aromatic notes of herb-roasted lamb.
- **Grilled Sausages with Ratatouille:** The vibrant fruit and spice of the wine complement the rich and varied flavors of this classic Provençal dish.
- **Wild Mushroom Risotto:** The earthy undertones and silky texture of the wine enhance the umami flavors of a creamy mushroom risotto.
- **Duck Confit:** The wine's acidity and fruit profile cut through the richness of duck confit, creating a harmonious and delicious pairing.

92 WineEnthusiast

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2021)

*This classic, pioneering Rhône red continues inspiring the masses. The blend of 65% Grenache, 18% Syrah, 15% Cinsaut and 2% Petite Sirah starts with crisp red currant, crumple flower and cracked white pepper aromas. The palate is young, fresh and tense, offering raspberry jam dusted in lavender and delicate baking spices. *

93 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 93 Points (2020)

This Californian blend of red Rhône varieties includes almost a third Cinsault for the first time, co-fermented with the 24% Syrah. They're a perfect match for each other – the Cinsault fresh and fruity, and the Syrah more powerful, tannic and spicy. This is deeply flavoured, with plump dark cherry berry fruit, spice and tobacco hints. Generous and open, but with elegance – one of the most exciting reds on the Tesco shelves. The white is also delicious.

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Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 92 Points (2020)

A light-red hue in the glass, this blend of 42% Grenache, 31% Cinsault, 24% Syrah, 2% Petite Sirah and 1% Counoise starts with aromas of cherry, grenadine, mace, star anise and barrel toast. The palate shows that rugged chaparral spice that made this blend world-famous, alongside dark-raspberry, boysenberry, roasted fennel and anise flavors.Editors' Choice