

# DOMAINE DE BILA-HAUT

## ROUSSILLON, FRANCE - DOMAINE DE BILA-HAUT

An historically late vintage with a “northern” expression of the terroir of Roussillon Here, this vintage with chaotic climate caused many difficulties and even forced us to innovate in our winemaker work. This 2013 vintage is therefore a good year in terms of both quality and quantity.

After a cold winter, difficult for pruning, the unusually cold and wet spring gave large water reserves, favoring maturation without blockages during summer and in contrast with the heat waves of the previous vintages. Many plowings of the soils were required not to be invaded by weeds which have rapidly depleted the precious reserves. Rainfalls reached two hundred liters per square meter for the month of April. The flooding of the Tech and Agly Valleys have not affected our vineyards located on the top of hills.

The very late development of the branches was accompanied by a very rapid growth and the obligation to act quickly for the green work: disbudding and grouping of the shoots of the year. Then the successive waves of north wind broke some unattached branches.

The historically late flowering has resulted in very low yields on Grenache, sensitive to “coulure”. The other varieties have well reacted and caps flowers have fallen rapidly preparing for a homogeneous maturity.

The scorching summer and completely dry on the Agly valley helped to slightly catch up with the late flowering and allowed us to easily manage, with the help of biodynamic preparation, diseases and botrytis. Water reserves proved to be sufficient for proper operation of the vines until the arrival of maturity. A small storm with twenty liters per square meter in early September was the only rain of the three months in summer and it has been beneficial in helping the vines in the last phase of maturation.

**Les Vignes de Bila-Haut White :** A great vintage for whites! The characteristics of this late vintage with cool nights gives us a bright white wine, with a lot of minerality, and a floral and captivating nose.

**Les Vignes de Bila-Haut Red :** Carignan, finer than usual, associated with a strong base of Syrah with very spicy notes of cinnamon, combine with structured and con-centrated Grenache and give a balanced wine.

**Occultum Lapidem :** The subtlety of the wines from schist punctuated by the elegant and spicy aromas of Syrah, and the high concentration of Grenache gives the wine a unique structure.

