



ROCK *Angel*

CÔTES DE PROVENCE 2021

GRAPES GROWN FROM THE MOST CHOICE LAND IN THE SURROUNDING REGION OF LA MOTTE EN PROVENCE, CONSISTING PRIMARILY OF GRENACHE AND ROLLE (VERMENTINO). HARVESTING AT SUNRISE TO NOON. THE GRAPES WHICH ARE USED TO MAKE ROCK ANGEL ARE SORTED OPTICALLY. DESTEMMING AND SLIGHT CRUSHING AT 7-8°C TO AVOID OXIDATION. FREE RUN JUICE AND FIRST SLIGHT PRESSING. NO MACERATION. BOTH FREE RUN JUICE AND PRESSED JUICE PARTIALLY VINIFIED IN DEMI-MUIDS (600L BARRELS) AND STAINLESS STEEL, BOTH TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED.

matthewjukes

The final wine in this collection is the finest all-rounder of all. Rock Angel manages to bring freshness and poise to the party while also involving depth, gravitas and considerable length. This balancing act is extremely difficult to achieve as most roses fall into either everyday, forgettable, glugger camp or the wannabe, luxury, foodie camp. So many wines gain bronze medal scores in my notes, making them, to all intents and purposes, vinonymous. I only look for wines of character and credibility, and 2021 Rock Angel is such a soaring success it is incredible. It embodies the Esclans no compromise ethos while stepping up the drama. It also manages to sit in the mid-twenties price zone, which is amazing given the winemaker élan involved here. It is strange how many rosé producers scrap for shelf space for their sub-twenty wines and then release super-cuvées in the fifties, completely forgetting that discerning drinkers want to spoil themselves without going nuts. This is precisely where Rock Angel hangs out, further underlining its aim to give the Whispering Angel crowd a wine to graduate to when the waiter brings your food to the table! Well done, Esclans. I don't doubt that this is your most refined Rock Angel to date, and having tasted it on many occasions this year already, it never disappoints.

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93PTS

A very pure and incisive nose, with refined mineral chalkiness to the fresh strawberry and grapefruit aromas. Again, pure is the word to describe the linear, dry palate, which delivers crisp yet textured acidity, together with elegant, freshly chopped raspberries and strawberries. A truly outstanding rosé here! Drink now.

JOANNA SIMON

92+PTS

The very pale Rock Angel — mainly Grenache and Rolle (aka Vermentino) and partly fermented in large (600-l) oak barrels — is tighter, more architectural, textural and vinous, nodding towards Chablis. The flavour profile stretches across savoury oyster brine, apricot and red berries, citrus and nuts. A good food wine, but deserves more time and will probably earn a higher score (hence the 92-plus).



90PTS

The latest release of this wine in the range from Esclans is a ripe, full rosé. It has the crispness but the red fruits are warm and rounded. That gives a fine rosé that is definitely made for food and will be ready from 2023. Roger Voss

PINK.WINE

Very closed on the nose, with only a hint of minerality and some dark berries. Gentle oakiness is more evident on the palate, especially after decanting. The palate is rich and opulent, with the oak rather than fruit providing most of the heavy lifting. Acidity is nicely balanced and very well integrated. A structural rather than fruity rosé. - Elizabeth Gabay MW



90+PTS

Bottled just a week prior to my April visit, the 2021 Cotes de Provence Rose Rock Angel was still showing well. Scents of toasty oak and vanilla accent tangerine and peach on the nose, giving this medium-bodied rosé an almost creamsicle-like aspect. Generous, silky and long, it might be even better later this year.

Joe Czerwinski