



# THE FACES OF THE DOMAINE DE LA BÉGUDE



## The attentive nature whisperer

He dreamed of being an ornithologist, but in Vincent Bouyer's family, they've been winegrowers for generations in the Loire, more precisely near Muscadet. After getting his degree in oenology in Bordeaux, the young man from Nantes perfected his education with an engineering degree in biochemistry in Compiègne, followed by a Master's in biochemistry in London. His studies led him to visit vineyards all around France as well as to travel thousands of kilometres to find out how to make wine in other corners of the world. Here and there in Australia, alongside the best wine researchers, or in California.

Denis Dubourdieu, his former oenology professor in Bordeaux, called on him to make wine in Japan, specifically in the vineyards located on the slopes of the famous Mount Fuji where Koshu (the only indigenous grape varietal) grows. After that, Vincent headed to Spain, in the Rioja region, then a few years later moved closer to us in the Val de Loire and finally in the southern Rhône, in the heart of a small appellation in the Drôme. In 2022, Vincent couldn't resist the lure of the enchanting siren-mermaids of Bandol: "This amazing appellation isn't one you turn down, and given my family roots, I need a sea view, like Mourvèdre grapes," he joked. He had already visited La Béguide and spoke of his first steps at the job with his characteristic humility: "I don't intend to revolutionise the estate, the work already accomplished here is remarkable and the wines are high quality, but we obviously have lots of plans. It's really inspiring, especially with such a young and motivated team." One of the biggest challenges was to convert the Domaine de La Béguide to biodynamic viticulture, which was successfully achieved! Sensitive and discreet, the man never tires of observing nature in all its grandeur, and La Béguide never ceases to offer him quite a show. "It's surprising to see white oaks here, they make the garrigue shrubland more cheerful, not so stark."

As for the style of the wines, Vincent does not hide his love for the estate's rosés, their atypical side and their extraordinary fruitiness, and the reds that offer nice subtlety, a floral side. "There are also characteristic notes of wild sloe, the kind you nibble on right off the tree. The whites are surprising, they have great potential; Bandol is the northernmost of the southern appellations, the wines are elegant, with nice freshness. Everything is perfectible when you follow a plot-by-plot logic," he summed up.

