



## 2004

**Vintage rating:** Red: 90, White: 88

This year marked a return to more normal conditions after the torrid heat of 2003. The long, cool summer was redeemed by late sunshine, which has given the wines splendid balance, ripe but not too ripe fruit, good phenolic development, just the right touch of acidity, and soft tannins. The later-harvested Grenache and Mourvèdre were particularly successful. Some growers, however, had difficulty with rot following rain just before the harvest, because the drying Tramontane wind failed to materialize. This is the only question mark over the best year since 2001. Production levels were noticeably up.

## Grapevine

• If you were concerned that Olivier Jullien had abandoned making white wine (his were some of the best white Languedocs), you may be comforted by the news that he has bought a new vineyard of 80-year-old white Carignan. Olivier has always been keen on swapping vineyards with his neighbors, so the latest move should come as no surprise. Carignan Blanc is on its way to becoming the cult white grape, being the foundation of the white wines at Conte de Floris, for example. Other

evangelists of this cépage include Robert and Kim Cripps at Domaine de Pujol, Julien Zemott at Le Pas de l'Escalette, and Steve and Martine Colombe, newcomers at Domaine Pic Aubeil down in Roussillon.

## GLOBAL REPORTS

### GREATEST WINE PRODUCERS

1. Domaine Gauby (Calce, Roussillon)
2. Roc d'Anglade  
(Vin de Pays du Gard)
3. René Rostang (Anglade,  
Coteaux du Languedoc)
4. Domaine Peyre-Rose (Pézenas)
5. Domaine Font Caude  
(Montpeyroux)
6. Domaine Ferrer-Ribière  
(Terrats, Roussillon)
7. Domain d'Aupilhac (Montpeyroux)
8. Clot de l'Oum (Roussillon)
9. Domaine Bertrand-Bergé (Fitou)
10. Le Conte des Floris (Pézenas)