

Roussillon IN CHICAGO

On the third floor of Maple & Ash restaurant in Chicago, Eric Aracil sniffs and tastes glass after glass of wine. The Export Manager for Conseil Interprofessionel des Vins du Roussillon (The Roussillon Wine Board), resplendent in a grey suit, dark-blue shirt adorned with a striped tie and black shoes on this May morning, is asked a simple question: What sets Roussillon wines apart from the evergrowing crowd of choices?

“We have the knowhow of the viticulture and the biggest diversity of soil and subsoil in the world,” said Aracil of the region in France. “And we have very old vines, some more than 135 years old. Completely crazy.”

FEATURED HPS WINES

Domaine Cabirau Serge & Nicolas 2014, AOP Maury Sec

Hints of black pepper and plum. Slightly complex with smooth vanilla and caramel. – *Alex Basich*

Domaine de L'Edre, L'Edre 2013, AOP Côtes du Roussillon Villages

Dark and opaque. Eruptive nose, mature blended fruit. Balance on entry, great length and long finish. – *C. Lockhart*

VTV Le Cirque 2015 Grenache Gris, IGP Côtes Catalanes

Tightly wound, concentrated minerality and lime zest. Loads of soil character, firm zippy acidity. “So fresh and so clean,” just like the Outcast song. Anise finish. – *Belinda Chang*

VTV 2015 Peña Rouge, IGP Côtes Catalanes

Rich and powerful aromatics. The black fruits jump out of the glass and punch you in the nose. Plum and blueberry on the palate with surprising finesse. – *Kevin Bratt*

Domaine Vaquer, Cuvée Bernard 2014, AOP Côtes du Roussillon

Full power and balance on the notes. Depth of flavor tannins and balance. Full mouth and flavor. Long finish. I would pair this with short ribs. – *Charles Lockhart*

