



NOVELLUM

Chardonnay

Someone once made an unflattering comparison between Chardonnay and a part of one's anatomy best left unmentioned, saying, "everyone's got one, no one wants to hear about yours." Sadly Chardonnay is a victim of its own success and frequently a punch line despite being one of the most highly esteemed wines in its guise of Grand Cru Chablis or Montrachet. We are not claiming that Novellum is like these auspicious wines but we will argue that for its price you can hardly find better. For many years we worked with a cooperative in the Languedoc to make Novellum from a special site that in most years had some botrytis, giving the wine weight without resorting to oak.

Since that time we've moved the project to the Roussillon where Jean-Marc and Eliane Lafage have some Chardonnay planted near the Mediterranean that makes a remarkably complex and mineral version of the variety. In close proximity to the sea, these vineyards benefit from higher humidity and afternoon breezes that keep these sits up to 1°C cooler than a few miles further inland. There is no botrytis here so Jean-Marc resorts to a small percentage in barrel – usually less than 20%. The remainder of the wine is aged in tank on the lees of Viognier. It remains one of the best values in Chardonnay that you can find.

ORIGIN

France

APPELLATION

Vin de France

SOIL

Clay limestone, galets

AGE OF VINES

25

ELEVATION

15 meters

VARIETIES

Chardonnay

FARMING

Sustainable

FERMENTATION

Pressing, racking, yeasting and fermentation in tank, 5% malolactic fermentation

AGING

3 months in tank (70%) on the lees of Viognier and Burgundy 1-year-old barrels (30%)

ACCOLADES

91 – 2022 Novellum Chardonnay – James Suckling

90 – 2021 Novellum Chardonnay – Wine Advocate

94 – 2020 Novellum Chardonnay – Jeb Dunnuck



ERIC SOLOMON
SELECTIONS