



A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

—

MONKS & WINEMAKERS



THE WINES OF CHARITY

*"When one has received such a legacy,
must not one work towards becoming
worthy of it?"*

Sully

As heirs of the first pontifical vineyard planted by Clement V in 1309, we, the monks and nuns of the Abbeys of Le Barroux, as well as the *Caritatis* wine growers, have seen the dawn of a *more excellent* way. United in courage, we have rebuilt the Pope's ancient vineyard so that, on our mountains, the vine and the wine it produces continue to be, as in ancient times, the great sign of Charity.

Located in a wild and breathtakingly beautiful natural park, shaped by creation and by the patient hands of Man, an unexpected terroir is revealing, after a considerable amount of work, vintages with the most luminous colours: a light is beginning to shine from our mountains...

With our wines we wish to share with you the treasures of rural and monastic souls. In the wine glass, the innocence of farmers who are in touch with life's truths and the rhythm of nature sings together with the innocent spirit of the monks, who ceaselessly contemplate the Beauty of God.

We desire our wines to be a journey to the peaks, from the visible to the Invisible.

The Monks of the Abbey of Le Barroux
& The *Caritatis* Winemakers

THE FIRST PAPAL VINEYARD



This is our share of a very rich legacy; these are the fruits of the past which we now harvest. But, brothers, the present is fading fast and we just need to plant trees, in turn: one day they will bear plenty of fruit for those hands already raised in the mists of time, where, before us the future is dawning. Let us go, we will never be rich enough, we who are passing, like those who are coming, to let anything be lost, where it only a fragrance, of this family estate.

Max-Philippe Delavouët

In 1309 Pope Clement V, having been forced to leave Rome, chose to abide in the papal territory of Comtat-Venaissin, in southeastern France (The Popes lived in Avignon for almost 70 years, in the fourteenth century, they were among the most powerful and leading European sovereigns in the Middle Ages). For his summer holiday residence, he chose the Benedictine Abbey of Notre-Dame du Groseau at the foot of Mont Ventoux. The Bishop of Vaison, accompanied by jubilant crowds, greeted him into his Beaumont Castle. The monks then gave him their monastery to be his summer residence. He loved the invigorating mountain air, and the nearby source of the Groseau river, which provided a quiet, refreshing place for prayer and meditation. The Pope was in love with this place, which he called his "Earthly Paradise". There he spent all his free time and his periods of convalescence. There he could receive his friends and sign many official documents.

As he did in 1299, in Pessac near Bordeaux, Clement V planted vines in Le Groseau. This was the first pontifical vineyard, whose wines adorned the Pope's tables in Avignon. The young vine shoot *Via Caritatis*, which sprouted from the ancient papal vine, echoes the principal mission of the Pope, to preside over charity – *præesse caritati*.



A THOUSAND YEAR-OLD MONASTIC LEGACY

Aloxe-corton, bonnes-mares, chablis, chassagne Montrachet, clos-de-tart, chambertin-clos-de-bèze, clos-vougeot, meursault, pommard, morey-saint-denis, musigny, romanée-conti, châteauneuf-du-pape, hermitage, gigondas, vacqueyras...



The monks built Europe, but they didn't do it on purpose. Theirs was a unique quest, an interior quest, a thirst for the absolute, a thirst for another world, one of truth and beauty. Before they became schools of learning and cross-roads of civilization, monasteries were like silent fingers pointing towards heaven, the constant and uncompromising reminder that there exists another world, of which this one is only an image which announces and foreshadows the other.

Dom Gerard, the founder of the Abbeys of Le Barroux



The history of good wines of Christian Europe is deeply connected with monastic life. Since the early Middle Ages communities paid homage to God through the splendour and finesse of their wines, as well as through their architecture, liturgical chanting and illuminated manuscripts. The numerous references to wine and the vine which punctuate the Bible are proof enough that a good wine is similar to a prayer in praise of God. It is in this spirit that the monks of the monastery of Citeaux made the Clos de Vougeot into a top-level laboratory for winegrowing – even though the terroir is not the best of the Cote d'Or. *Via Caritatis*, the name chosen for these vintages, with their frank and clear profile, reminds us of what the monks have been singing for more than a thousand years - *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est* - Where charity and love are present, God is also there.

Jean-Robert Pitte



THE ENCHANTMENT OF BEAUTY

In mountainous terroir, at altitudes between 350 and 600 metres, *Via Caritatis* extends from the eastern crest of the Dentelles de Montmirail to the northwestern foothills of Mont Ventoux, “the Giant of Provence”, in an area which was designated by Unesco as a biosphere reserve. It dominates by its coolness and altitude, its close neighbours, the wondrous vineyards of the villages of Beaumes-de-Venise, Vacqueyras, Gigondas and Châteauneuf du Pape.

The wine growers are the guardians of the beauty of the region. Through hard work, our ancestors forged the enchanting countryside of Provence and made it into one of the most

beautiful gardens in the whole world : a land of sun and poetry, the Provence of small parcels of terroirs, surrounded by hills, and looking like the cells of a beehive, where since antiquity vineyards have been growing next to olive trees. This is the real Provence with its entrancing beauty, blessed by aromas and flavours. Here exist the mountains with their rough and captivating beauty; here blows the pure and cleansing air of the kingly Mistral wind; here is the land of dry stones and muddy storm torrents. The work of the winegrowers on these steep slopes is hard and dangerous: here more than elsewhere the winegrower cannot live without a soul redolent with courage, patience and resilience.

HAUTE COUTURE IN THE VINEYARD

The entire vineyard is geographically mountainous in nature. As with vineyards planted in the most extreme conditions, the terraces are densely planted, which results in highly demanding work: trellising, training, removing excess buds, removing suckers, thinning and trimming shoots, thinning out leaves, and vintage by hand. On their estate, the monks and nuns have raised their cultivation methods to the standards of the greatest vineyards, making it into an observatory of the techniques best suited to the terroir they share with the winegrowers.

More than a motto, *Garde et Service, Custody and Service* of Nature are the two main lines of our conscientious cultural approach, in order to make it possible for our vineyards, for Provençal agriculture and the heart of men to bear their fruit in due course – today and tomorrow.





A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

MONKS AND WINE GROWERS

“Countrymen have always worked with their entire body. In clearing stones, leveling fields, planting orchards and vineyards, and building the countryside, they built themselves. They became men who know of only one thing: courage. It is laborious work which they accomplish without boasting, and despite fatigue and catastrophe, they always move on looking ahead.”

Henri Pourrat

“A monk is the temple of the silent Spirit of God. His work consists of healing the world with his silence, which reflects and enhances the hidden silence in everything. The monk is the one, who alone and poor, yet rich with a love vast enough to embrace the world, feels within himself the silence of a benign God turning into a large smile.”

A monk

“It is only he who has sacrificed a part of himself for his estate, fighting to save it and suffering to embellish it, who comes to understand how precious an estate is. An estate is not just the sum of its profits... it is the sum of its gifts.”

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

We, the monks and wine growers, wanted to work together to build a domaine, build an estate. Indeed, it is through building that one grows, by working under the same yoke that one develops, by humbly sharing in a communal work and effacing oneself before it that one gains access to the truth of Existence.

This is sacred work because it is bigger than us, because it isn't ours. It amounts neither to the number of pickaxe blows nor even to measuring the quality of the wine produced. It is the creative work that acts through us, stems from the efforts of our ancestors, and nourished by their sacrifices, still needs today our help to bear fruit.

Via Caritatis is the way that enabled the small winegrowers of the mountains and the monks of Le Barroux to bring out together the best of their terroir, thus allowing the creative power of Charity to express itself in them, in order to enchant the world.

VOICE - ECHO - SONG

VOX

We the monks and winegrowers of the mountain have a common aim : to be men who listen.

In our land a mysterious voice enchants hearts with its serene melody and hidden charm, invigorating the soul and inspiring generosity, truthfulness, and kindness.

By taking advantage of the coolness of certain terroirs and the naturally fertile soil of our vineyard, we have “composed” our Vox wines, as a music that carries to your heart the echo of the Provençal mountain voice.

For these vintages we have chosen parcels of land where the freshness of our mountainous zone expresses itself more intensely, thus moderating within the wine itself the generous sunshine of Provence.



VOX BLANC

**Eternal youth
of our mountains**

In its youth, this wine is a walk in a spring garden, among the swirling scents of white flowers and citrus. In the autumn of its life, carried by a beautiful tension, its ample potential evolves towards notes of roasted almonds.

Soft pressing. Vinification at low temperature: slow fermentation to express the specific aromas of each grape variety. Aging on fine lees for 6 months.

Clairette, Roussanne, Grenache blanc.

Potential for laying-down: 5 years.





VOX ROSÉ

Laughing
in the Mistral wind
of Provence

A lively spring gushing forth from between the rocks, this mountain rosé will convey to you its childish joy with a burst of laughter.

Soft pressing. Vinification at low temperature. Aging on fine lees with stirring (bâtonnage) for 6 months.

Grenache, Syrah.

Potential for laying-down:
2 to 3 years.



VOX ROUGE

Ode to joy

A chant full of light and brotherhood with deep hints of red fruit. Ample, powerful, round and fleshy, it overflows with ripe fruit. Gushing forth in one sweep, its tannic structure unfolds and extends gleefully.

Classic vinification with 18 days maceration without stems. Aging in vats for 12 months.

Grenache, Syrah, Carignan.

Potential for laying-down:
5 years.



PEACE - TRANQUILITY - CALM - PROTECTION - KINDNESS

PAX

Pax, Peace... echoing the motto of the monks of Saint Benedict, and like the flow of the benevolent and protecting river that the mountain sends upon his winemaking sons.

It is this serene calmness of Nature and of profoundly rooted hearts, like our mountains and the almost century-old vines that are scattered there, that we wished to imbue into our Pax wines. The old vines on our rocky hillsides in their soil of deep clay, grapes slowly ripening under the generous sun of Provence, and patient growth are the three strings on which this symphony is played.



PAX ROUGE

Poetry from
the earth

Fullness, character, elegance, finesse, radiance, smooth tannins melted in a bouquet of spices, menthol and caramel fragrances... like a deep night descending with its heavy velvet cloak, enveloping all things under its starry fullness.

Classic vinification with 20 days maceration without stems. Aging in vats for 18 months.

Grenache, Syrah.

Potential for laying-down:
5 to 10 years.



LIGHT - BRILLIANCY - ÉCLAT - LIFE

LUX

The Benedictine monks, thirsting for the Light which deifies, and the Provençal wine growers basked since their childhood in the beams of a dazzling sun, we would like to take you to the summit, to share with you the joy of the moment when the light, unveiling itself, almost blinds us and reveals the secret of a *more excellent way*.

The thousand and one skills of *Ars Vinitoris* (the art of wine making), the unique character of our terraced vineyards in Le Barroux and Upper Beaumont, the search for the woods capable of subtly enhancing our best grapes... and above all, the love with which monks, nuns and wine growers work in harmony: this is the path which we have followed to lead you to where the blinding light finally enlightens: the true Light is Charity.



LUX BLANC

Patience in azure

Rich and delicate scents merging white flowers and candied exotic fruit. A salty minerality runs through the complex material with notes of roasted almonds. Its depth is the memory of the days when the patient roots worked through the bowels of earthen clay soil.

Clairettes are vinified and aged in vats. Roussannes in oak barrels.

Roussanne, Clairette.

Potential for laying-down: 10 years.





LUX ROSÉ

Blinding heavenly light

An azure tint, a rose glaze, a golden hue ... (Baudelaire). This wine's crystalline colour heralds its fine and pure delicacy. Contemplating the Divine Light every day, the monks perseveringly sought to chisel a rosé which reflected its brilliant purity.

Grape varieties, vinification and aging remain our secret.

Potential for laying-down:
5 years.



LUX ROUGE

Ineffable Charity

An outstanding wine that brings out the fullness of great days. Its delicate notes of brioche, noble fabrics and very ripe black fruits, are the mark of a distinguished wine. The silky weave of its ample material and its elegant tannins embellish it with power and suavity.

Classic vinification in vats with 25 day maceration without stems. Aging for 24 months, in oak barrels for 25% of the production.

Grenache, Syrah

Potential for laying-down:
more than 10 years.



THE SERVICE OF CHARITY

ABBAYES

We monks and nuns of Le Barroux dedicate our prayers and work to the winemakers who work with us.

Fruit of our patient and caring labour, the *Abbayes* wines want to sing and radiate Charity.

As the keystone of *Via Caritatis*, these rare and precious wines are exclusively available in wooden presentation boxes, surrounded by four Lux wines. Just like Christ, who placed Himself at the feet of his disciples in order to serve them out of Charity, the *Abbayes* wines strive to serve the other *Caritatis* wines.



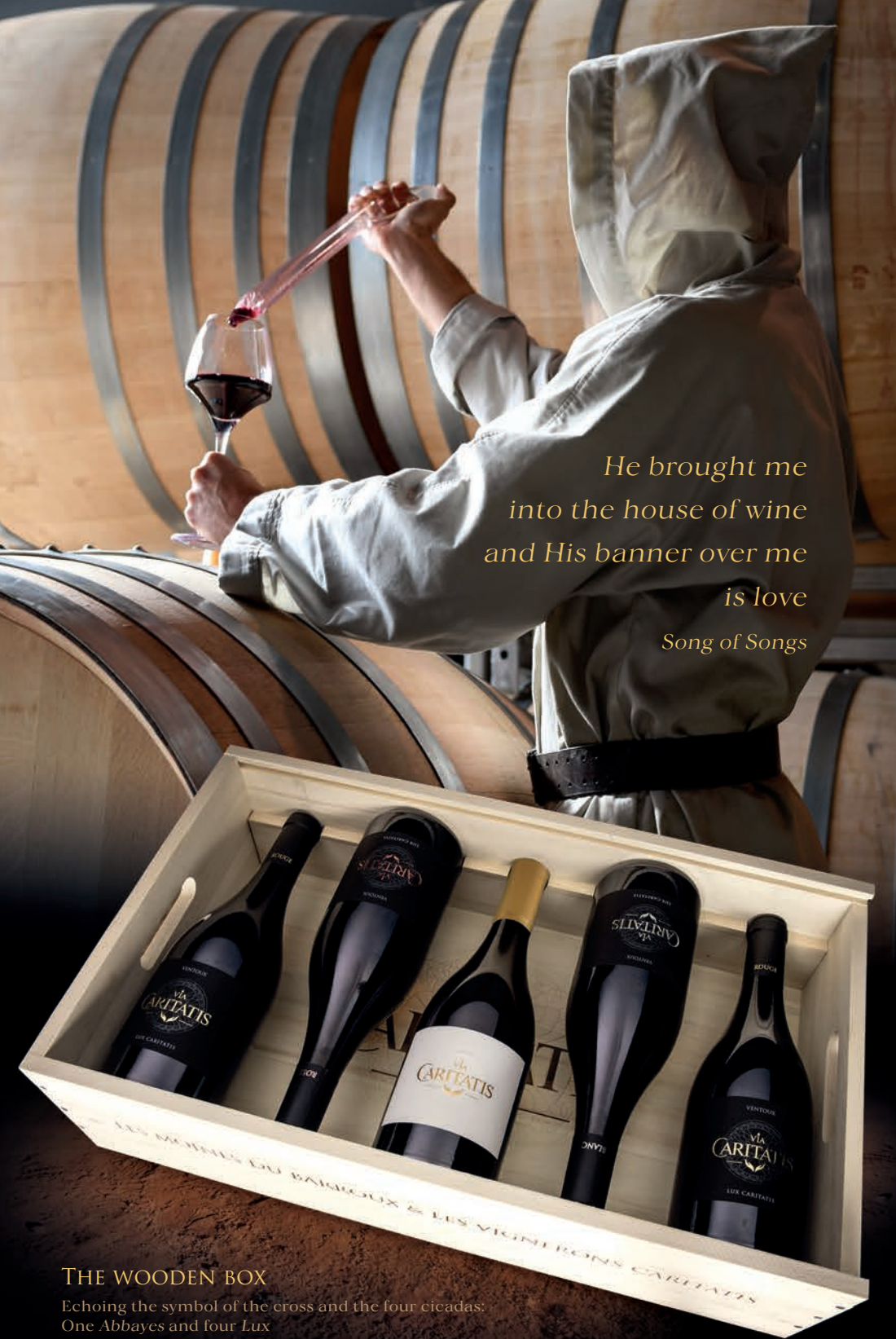
A JEWEL-CASE TO EXPLAIN THE SPIRIT OF *CARITATIS*

On the sliding top of the wooden box is engraved the symbolism of *Via Caritatis*.

- The rosette brings together the cross of the monks and the four cicadas of the *Caritatis* winegrowers.
- The hands symbolize the work and the prayer of the monks and the winemakers. The open hands offer, in addition to their wines, the *more excellent* way of Charity.
- The line crossing the hands symbolizes the border between heaven and earth, meaning that true Charity penetrates heaven.
- At the top the flame evokes the fire of Charity and the dew of the heavenly blessing.

Saint Paul's hymn to Charity is engraved on the inside of the cover.





He brought me
into the house of wine
and His banner over me
is love
Song of Songs

THE WOODEN BOX

Echoing the symbol of the cross and the four cicadas:
One Abbayes and four Lux

ABBAYES BLANC

Silentium Tibi Laus



ABBAYES ROUGE

Ubi Caritas et Amor

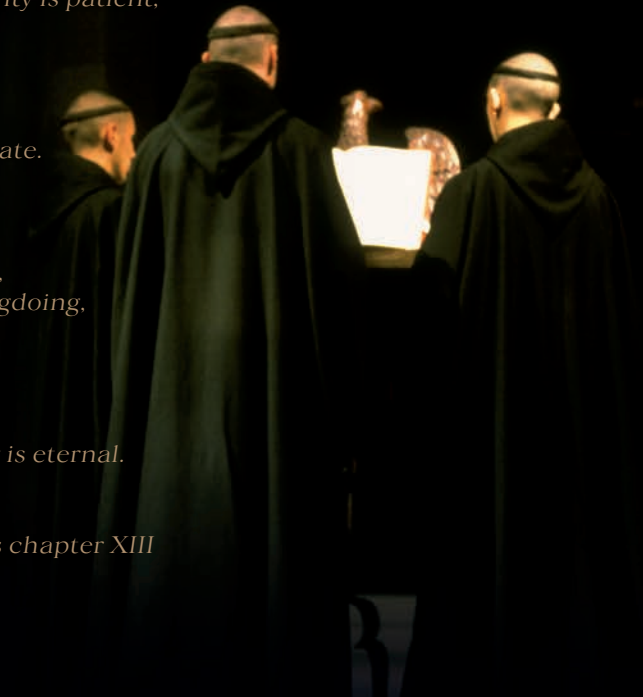


HYMN TO CHARITY

Strive for the greatest gifts.
And I wish to show you a more excellent way !

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels
but do not have Charity,
I am but as sounding brass
And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries
and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains
but do not have Charity,
I am nothing.
And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,
and if I give my body to be burned,
but do not have Charity,
it profits me nothing. Charity is patient,
Charity is kind.
It is not jealous,
is not boastful,
not arrogant,
it does nothing inappropriate.
Charity does not seek
its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered,
does not brood over injury,
does not rejoice over wrongdoing,
but rejoices with the truth.
Charity forgives all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things. Charity is eternal.

St Paul of Tarsus
1st letter to the Corinthians chapter XIII



REBUILDING THE COUNTRY

“ A province is a land given to man to make terroirs out of them. With the plough, the tool and the machine, in taking things as they are and making them into what they should be, he learned to humanize everything, including himself. From these terroirs linked to each other, he built a province where certain ways of feeling are solidly developed, and similarly from these provinces linked to each other he will rebuild the entire country.

Henri Pourrat



THE SACRED CUP

Composed by Frederic Mistral to the tune of an old Provençal Christmas song from Saboly, *The Sacred Cup* is sung standing, in contemplation. There is not a man from the Land of Oc [Southern France] who does not feel, as he listens to it, a deep sense of belonging to the Empire of the Sun.

**Coupo santo e versanto,
Vuejo à plen bord,
Vuejo abord lis estrambord
Et l'enavans di fort !**

**Holy and overflowing cup,
Fill to the brim,
Pour abundantly the enthusiasm
And energy of the strong!**

**Prouvençau, veici la coupo
Que nous vèn di Catalan :
A-de-rèng beguen en troupo
Lou vin pur de noste plant !**

**Provençals, here is the cup
Which comes to us from the Catalans.
Let's drink together, one after the other
The pure wine of our vintage.**

**Vuejo-nous lis esperanço
E li raive dòu jouvènt,
Dòu passat la remembranço
E la fe dins l'an que vèn.**

**Pour us the hopes
And dreams of youth,
The memory of the past
And faith in the coming year.**

**Vuejo-nous la conneissènço
Dòu Verai emai dòu Bèu,
E lis auti jouissènço
Que se trufon dòu toumbèu.**

**Fill us with the knowledge
Of Truth and of Beauty,
And the high joys
Which laugh at the tomb.**

**Vuejo-nous la Pouèsio
Pèr canta tout ço que viéu,
Car es elo l'ambrousio
Que tremudo l'ome en Dièu.**

**Pour us the poetry
So we can sing of all that lives.
For it is the ambrosia
Which transforms man into God.**



THE MONKS OF LE BARROUX AND THE CARITATIS WINE GROWERS

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TOO MUCH ALCOHOL IS DANGEROUS FOR YOUR HEALTH