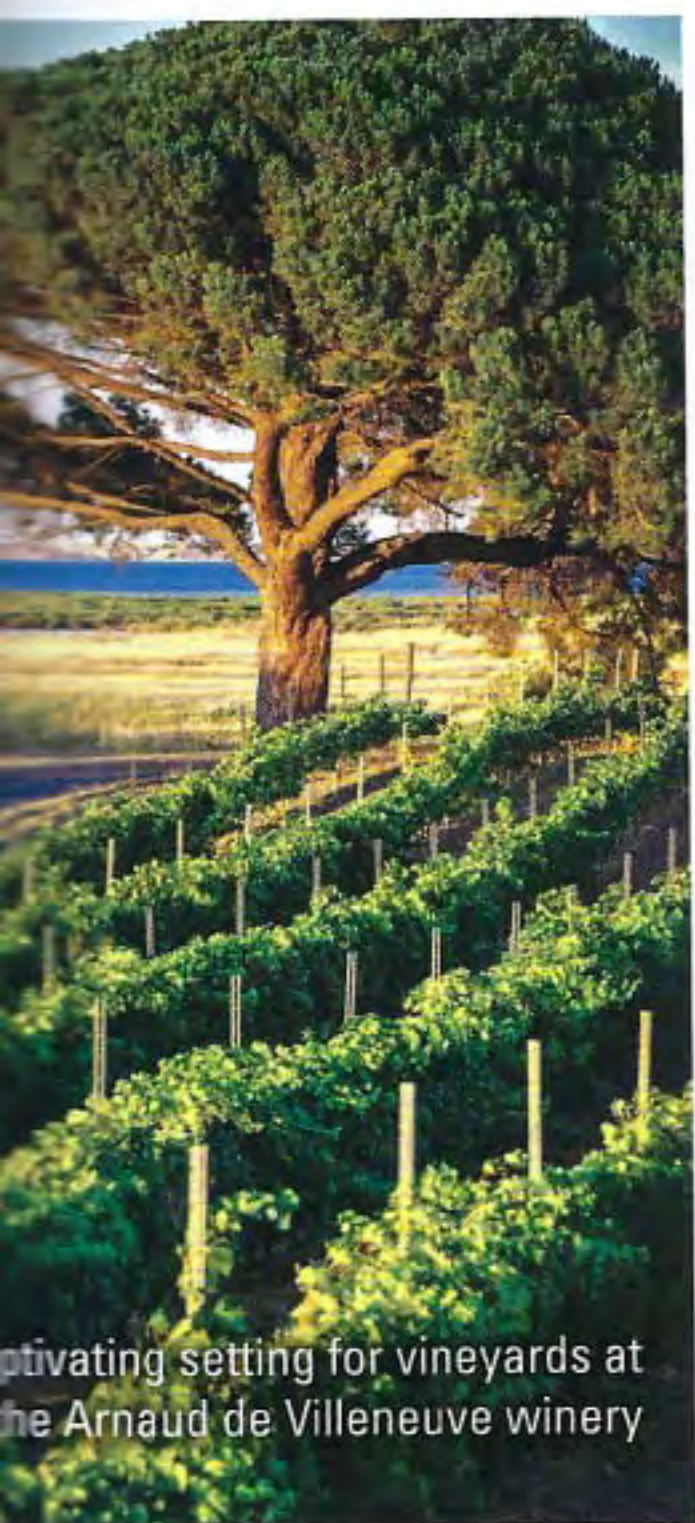




Eliane and Jean-Marc Lafage owners of the eponymous estate



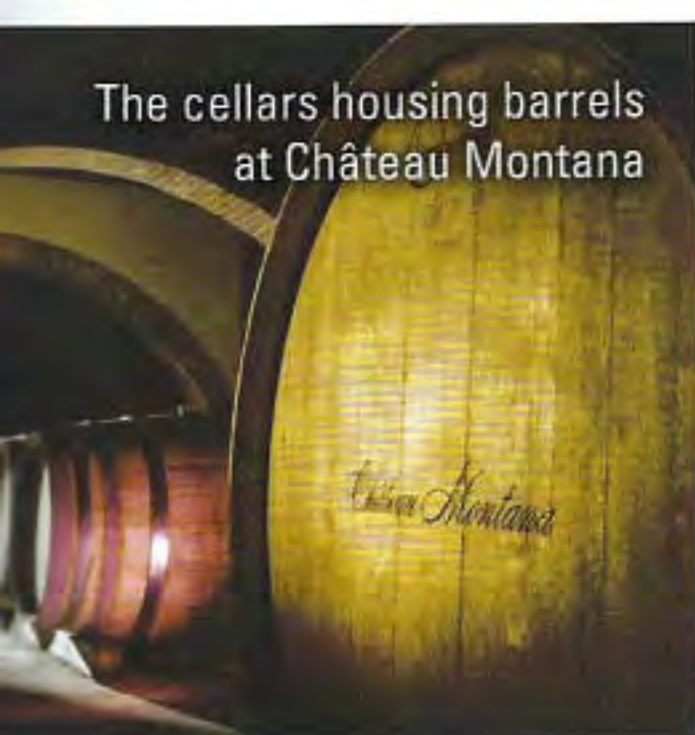
Invigorating setting for vineyards at the Arnaud de Villeneuve winery



Patrick Saurel, winegrower and owner of Château Montana



The Hugues family behind the farmhouse at Mas de la Devèze



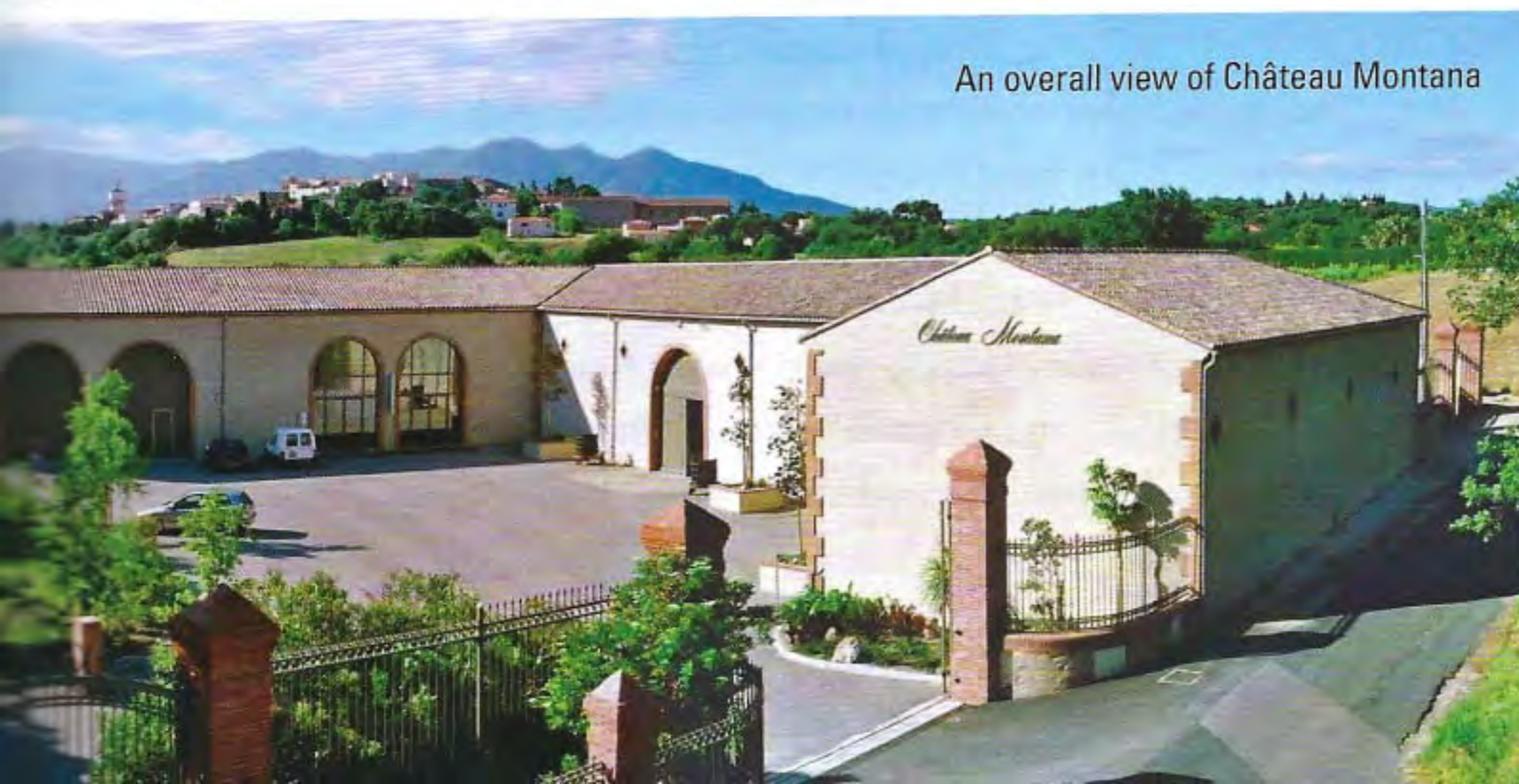
The cellars housing barrels at Château Montana



The vines at Mas de la Devèze



Training the Mourvèdre vines at Mas de la Devèze



An overall view of Château Montana



Prowein in Düsseldorf, Germany

MAS DE LA DEVÈZE: AN INCREDIBLE ARRAY OF VARIETALS AND VINEYARD SITES

This time-honoured estate epitomises the Pyrenees-Orientales in the foothills of the Corbières, not far from the famous Cathar castle of Quéribus. It is a feast for the eyes, ensconced amid the unspoilt and relatively arid terrain. The historic term 'devèzes' referred to the finest soils on a farm that were set aside for grazing. Then winegrowing emerged and the estate evolved with it. Former farmer Simon Hugues manages the property with his wife Nathalie who has always worked in the wine industry, in national and international sales. The couple have high standards and are determined to recreate an estate that lives

ROUSSILLON

– DESIGNATION –

up to its heritage – one that should never be forgotten – whilst aiming for the future with some major projects. “We fell in love with this beautiful part of the Corbières and the Agly Valley with its outstanding terroir”, reminisces Simon Hugues. “We bought Mas de la Devèze in 2012 as a home and a place to develop our wine business. As the owners of six hectares of vines near the farmhouse, we extended the property to 22 hectares by seeking out a broader range of vineyard sites and grape varieties”. Most of the vines are trained as bush vines, close to the ground, along with some young vineyards trained on wires. The same high standards were applied to expanding the estate, which was also driven by the need to tap into a varied range of varieties in order to produce balanced, harmonious wines. “We produce a single varietal Macabeu Côtes Catalanes which is fairly structured and vinified and matured in stainless steel tanks”, explains Nathalie Hugues. “The schist and clay-limestone soils leave a distinctive stamp on the wines and allow this iconic Roussillon grape variety to fully express itself”. The wines are novel, but also incredibly appealing, offering the perfect example of the kind of aromatic, distinctive wines the region has to offer. The rich history of Catalan wines has traditionally been dominated by dessert wines. Nowadays, however, it also showcases blended and, increasingly, single varietal dry wines delivering outstanding quality.

CONCLUSION

The successful journey of the Côtes Catalanes as they have risen to prominence over the past twenty years is akin to an inspiring story of human achievement and can be ascribed to the creative hard work of talented winegrowers. The reputation of the wines – which also happen to offer excellent value for money – is increasing both in France and in export markets. Made in compliance with strict rules, as single and dual varieties and blends, they show great structure and lovely palate-pleasing complexity with tannins that are firm yet delicate. These lovely wines are suited for early-drinking but can also be laid down for a few years. They fully encapsulate the diversity of the vineyard sites of Roussillon in all three colours. Offering the promise of some flavourful discoveries, they are the perfect alternative to better-known appellations for wine enthusiasts keen to broaden their horizons.



Harvesting grapes around Mas de la Devèze



Simon Hugues in a Grenache blanc vineyard at Mas de la Devèze